

# The Bellringer

Christ Episcopal Church  
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81  
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081  
(860) 267-0287



May 2024

A welcoming community committed to worship, mission and Christian formation in today's world



Dear Friends in Christ,

The following is a letter from our bishops, issued March 5<sup>th</sup>, regarding the war in Gaza. I encourage you to read their message in the knowledge that the statistics have only grown worse in the month and a half since it was written. We promise in our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being, despite the grievous actions human beings visit upon each other. Please pray for all involved and weep for the innocents murdered, injured, missing, and starving.

Dear Companions in Christ,

Our hearts continue to break as the current conflict in Gaza approaches nearly 150 days, with 1,200 Israelis killed and many held hostage and mistreated. Over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed and, in some areas, thousands are living in famine-like conditions. Last Thursday, a deadly attack on Palestinians as they gathered to receive humanitarian aid left over 100 dead and over 750 more wounded, [according to a statement by the Episcopal Public Policy Network](#).

The continuing violence and rising death toll leaves many of us unsure of what to say, or what to do. We cry with the Psalmist of Psalm 13, "How long, O Lord, how long?"

As Episcopalians, our Baptismal Covenant calls upon us to pray with fervor, and to act to protect the most vulnerable among us. We are called to witness, and to share, God's redeeming and reconciling love in this world.

So let us continue to pray, without ceasing, for peace in the land where our Lord once walked. And let us do what we can to create peace in the world, including our own country, neighborhoods, and homes.

[We join the Presiding Bishop's call for a ceasefire](#), for the release of all hostages, and for humanitarian aid to be allowed to reach all those displaced and deprived of food and water. There has also been an increase in anti-Semitic and anti-Palestinian acts across Connecticut and our nation. We condemn any and all violence and/or hate speech targeting our Palestinian and Jewish siblings. We encourage you to reach out to your friends and neighbors: build bridges, offer kindness, listen and learn from one another, and live locally into God's dream for peace and justice in our world.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

We continue to condemn the atrocities against Israelis on October 7, the hostage taking by Hamas, and all violence that has been committed against non-combatants in Gaza and the West Bank. There are differing perspectives regarding how the armed conflict ought to be resolved. We must not be silenced by different points of view, but rather speak and act with a careful, listening ear to those with whom we disagree. We have vowed, as Christians, “to respect the dignity of every human being.” This vow made at Baptism can be our guide, our lens, and our call to prayer and action at a time such as this.

May God’s love, made manifest in the Prince of Peace, fill the hearts and minds of all, bring an end to violence, and move us all towards the peace of God that passes all understanding. And as we journey together in this Season of Lent, let us recommit ourselves in word and action to being a people of the hope and peace revealed in the resurrection of our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan  
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Resources:

We commend to you [this statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem](#) as well as [this resource page](#) from The Episcopal Church’s Office of Public Affairs, along with its Office of Government Relations.

We also invite you [to watch this conversation](#) between The Most Reverend Hosam Elias Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Primate of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. You will need to scroll down on the page to find it.

*Diana*†

HAPPY  
*Mother's*  
DAY





TO  
OUR  
ELDERS

Children are young human images of the Creator. We see it during every Sunday School class. Made in the image of God the Creator, we witness their capacity to be endlessly creative as they learn about God's love.

Twice this year our Sunday School children have created cards for our neighbors up the street at Cobalt Lodge. One of those times we partnered with our adult church members who also made wonderful cards. The children's Easter cards were drawn, colored, painted and even decorated with jewels. In the process, they talked about visiting grandparents or neighbors who lived at residential treatment homes. We talked about loneliness and what Jesus might do to make the loneliness better. As followers of Jesus, the children joined together to make Easter cards to bring a message of caring and love from God and from the people of Christ Church. The responses of the residents were reported to be joyful and thankful. The cards were taped to mirrors and doors and were to be seen standing on dressers and night tables. I hope that this ministry of cheer can be a regular thing we do and a loving reminder of God's love. It's a grand lesson on what fun it is to bring joy to others.

With love and laughter from Sunday School,

Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard† and Emily Vick



# Mother's Day Diaper Drive

May 12, 2024 is Mother's Day and the Missions Team wants to once again honor all mothers with a Covenant to Care Diaper Drive. Please consider honoring your own mother or other mothers in your life by donating some packages of diapers.

Diapers are incredibly expensive for such a necessary item - costing approximately \$.25-\$.50 **each**, depending on the size and brand. The children under the care of our Social Worker, Kelsey Brewer, are mainly toddlers in sizes 3-5. Children this age typically go through 6 diapers a day so they cost approximately \$2-3/day or \$14-21 a week!

When parents are struggling to make ends meet, they often resort to changing their child less often than necessary which results in a whole host of other problems, including diaper rash.

If you agree that no child should have to remain in a wet or soiled diaper any longer than necessary, then please help us in our Diaper Drive! We had a great Drive last year and with your help, we can repeat our success this year!

The diapers needed, according to Kelsey, are **sizes 3 and 4 in regular diapers** and **sizes 4 and 5 in Pull-Ups** (for those transitioning out of diapers) and a few **size 2 diapers**. Please drop off your donation **in the Parish Hall** or call Mary Boretz (860-267-0365) or Sue Pugatch (860- 267- 2887) to make other arrangements. We would like all diaper donations dropped off by **Sunday, May 12**.

AUTUMN LEAVES<sup>®</sup>  
**FAIR** **Volunteers**  
**needed**

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP**






Sadly, all the individuals who took charge of the Autumn Leaves Fair in the past are unable to participate this year. We need someone to step forward and assume this enormous responsibility. We also need volunteers to assist in organizing and manning the fair. You may think it is a bit early since the fair isn't held until the first Saturday in November, however, as any of the past participants can tell you it is never too early to start planning.

If you are inclined to step into the large shoes of past participants please let Reverend Diana know. Please be assured that many individuals from the past will be happy to share their knowledge and expertise with you. In a perfect world 10 volunteers would be wonderful but all volunteers will be appreciated.

**If no one assumes these duties, sadly, there will be no fair.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING**  
**THIS IS ONE OF OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISERS OF THE YEAR**



 —————   
 **THE TREASURER'S REPORT**   
—————  —————

**As of March 2024**

Pledges for March were \$12,089.34, over budget by \$4,857.59. Year to date pledges stand at \$26,584.34 over budget by \$4,889.09.

March income was \$14,645.34 over budget by \$6,434.43. Year to date income is \$29,897.34 over budget by \$5,264.61.

March expenses were \$12,733.56 over budget by \$3,532.66. Year to date expenses are \$38,780.13 over budget by \$7,297.43.

*Barry Edmonds*, Treasurer

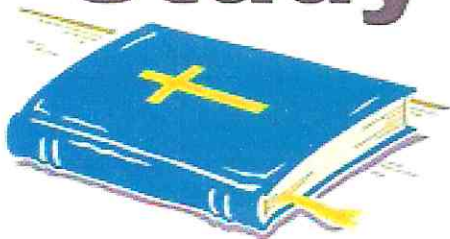
WEAR RED FOR  
**Pentecost**

**PENTACOST SUNDAY**  
**MAY 19, 2024**



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**Bible**  
**Study**

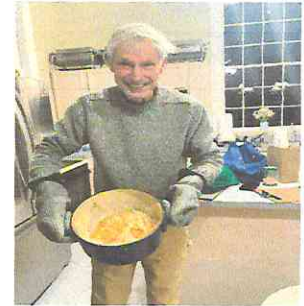


Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. This will be led by Rev. Bobette.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bobette at [bobette@kahn.com](mailto:bobette@kahn.com). She will send you back some instructions on the readings and the zoom information.



# DEMONSTRATION ON BREAD MAKING RESULTS



How do you blend flour types? When would honey or molasses be added? What size of a Dutch oven should I use?

These questions and more were addressed when Christ Church provided a bread-making demonstration on a rainy evening on April 2nd in the parish hall. Ten attendees, which included seven Christ Church parishioners and three from the local community, took part in the 90-minute session where Jerry Graham showed how to make a boule (*the French word for round*) of bread.

The group size made it possible to hold an informal and friendly gathering. Everyone stood around the parish hall kitchen island to obtain a close-up look at the bread-making process. Jerry handed out a recipe, showing utensils and ingredients to use along with the steps involved, that he referred to throughout the demonstration. At the end, a ticket drawing was done to determine the lucky winner of the fresh baked bread.



The East Bake Sale was a rousing success resulting in the following:

Cash sales on Saturday	\$ 852.00
Cash sales on Sunday	\$ 53.00
Total sales	\$ 905.00
Donations received	\$ 800.00
Total received from bake sale	\$1,705.00

It appears that this will become an annual fundraiser for us.



# A SLICE OF FAMILY HISTORY

Submitted by Cindy Shuster Strickett

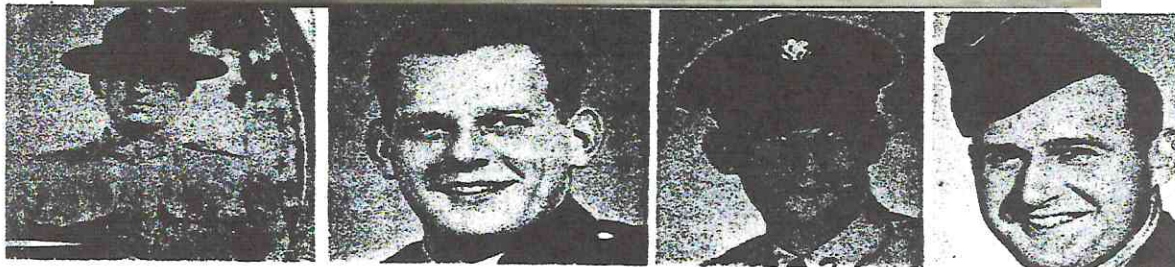
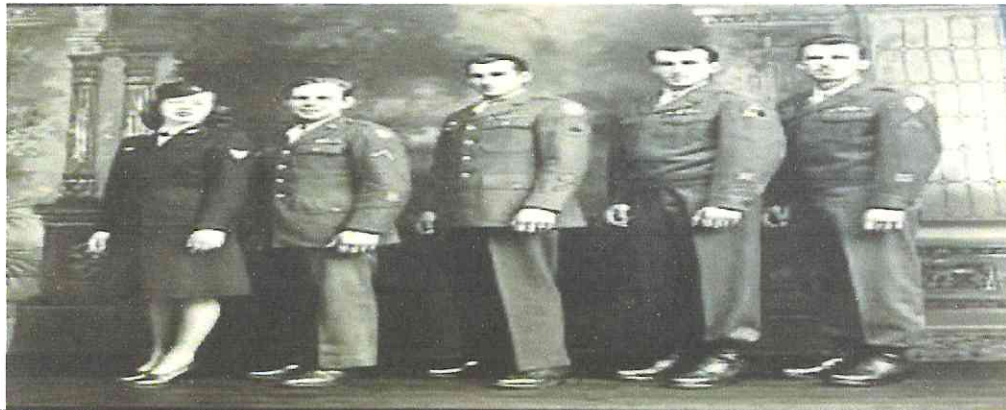
## The Suburban News

The Suburban News

Shelton, Conn.

Thursday, August 6, 1964

### "Pride Is A Passion"



Members of the Shuster family who served in the Armed Forces are: (standing l. to r.) Martha, Anthony, Bruno, Walter, and Zigmund; (bottom l. to r.) John, Edward, George, and Gerald.

Fifty-one years ago a young man filled with the vitality of youth and the expectation of equality, arrived at America's shores to begin a new life. He had heard of America's doctrine that "all men are equal" and he, after viewing parades for the dukes of his homeland, thought that all men would be so honored in the great country across the sea. So, on July 4, 1913, John Shuster arrived in Pennsylvania and, as he had anticipated, his parade, fireworks, and celebration were there to greet him.

Well, since that time Mr. Shuster has learned that he shared some of his celebration with the millions of other Americans who annually have such displays.

And Mr. Shuster learned, too, that equal rights earn equal responsibilities. The Shuster family has most certainly done its part fulfilling its responsibility through the efforts of so many of its members who served in our country's armed forces.

Mr. Schuster served in World War I, entering the army after having been in this country only 4 years.

After the war, he and his wife Rose, reared eleven children, eight of which have already served in the armed forces: Walter (now a tool maker at AVCO), Bruno (with the Derby Coal and Oil Co., Anthony (in Chicago), Zigmund (plumber with Ralph Mann and Son), and Martha (now married to C. Pivovarski and she drives a school bus), all served during World War II. Since that time, George (now a carpenter), Edward (mechanic), and Gerald (plumber) have all served in the army. Other children in the family include Anna (Jaroszewski), a housewife, Leon who is entering his sophomore year at the University of Connecticut and, Rosemarie who will enter her freshman year at UConn.

On Saturday, August 8, the German Day of Peace, is celebrated. In the honor of this German family which has so generously contributed to the preservation of peace in the United States, a special salute is given.

Mr. Shuster does deserve his parade and we think that by now he has felt his due reward. Pride is a passion that fulfills itself.

**Battle of the Bulge - Medic's Display can be viewed at the East Hampton Library in the Lobby during the month of May, 2024.**



## **10 SIGNS YOU'RE DOIN WELL IN LIFE:**

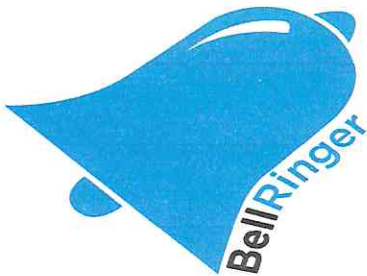
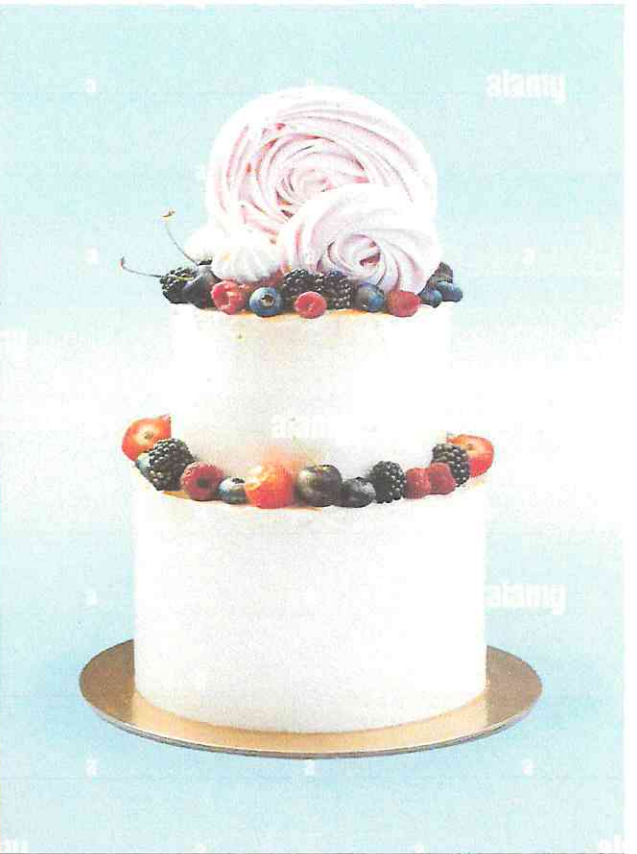
1. You have a roof over your head.
2. You ate today.
3. You have a good heart.
4. You wish good for others.
5. You have clean water.
6. Someone cares for you.
7. You forgive others.
8. You have clothes to wear.
9. You smile.
10. You're breathing.

**Be Thankful For The Little Things**



<b>Robert (Bud) Curry</b>	<b>05/10</b>
<b>Mary Boretz</b>	<b>05/11</b>
<b>Veronica Pietruska</b>	<b>05/12</b>
<b>Gavin Lynch</b>	<b>05/17</b>
<b>Kenna Wanat</b>	<b>05/18</b>
<b>Andrew Briere</b>	<b>05/25</b>
<b>James Van Cott</b>	<b>05/28</b>
<b>Michael Lynch</b>	<b>05/31</b>

<b>Linda &amp; Dick Napoletano</b>	<b>05/11</b>
<b>Karen &amp; Rick Wanat</b>	<b>05/13</b>
<b>Cindy &amp; Paul Strickett</b>	<b>05/24</b>



**The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the June 2024 issue of the Bellringer is May 15, 2024. Send all submissions to:**

***DEADLINE***

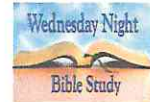
**[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)**

# Calendar of Events

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
10:00 am. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
**Baptism of Anderson Glenn Kubichek**  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



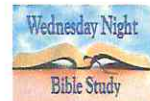
**Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – Bible Study**  
6:00 pm. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be on Zoom.com)



**Sunday, May 12, 2024 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
10:00 am. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
**Mother's Day**  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



**Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – Bible Study**  
6:00 pm. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be on Zoom.com)



**Sunday, May 19, 2024 – Pentecost Sunday**  
10:00 am. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



**Sunday, May 19, 2024 – Services At Cobalt Lodge**  
11:30 am. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
All Are Welcome to Attend



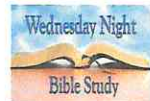
**Tuesday, May 21, 2024 - Vestry Meeting**  
6:00 pm. - Parish Hall - In Person  
All are Welcome to Attend



**Sunday, May 26, 2024 – The First Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
10:00 am. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



**Wednesday, May 24, 2024 – Bible Study**  
6:00 pm. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be on Zoom.com)



# Prayers of the People



## **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

## **In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

St. Peter's, Milford; Trinity, Milton; St. Peter's Grace, Monroe; Hospital chaplains; Stephen Ministers; pastoral care groups; ministries of healing; nurses; wellness programs; recovery ministries

### **Parish Prayers are requested for:**

Daniel Hastings, Julie; Brian Correll; Shirley Kostelny; Bernadette Moss; Jimi Kaeser; Jan Filteau; Mary Lou; Stephen Crohan; Father Darryl Burke; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Geoffrey Armitage; Ann Crogan; Judy Zanni; Howard Grant; Elaine; Linda Dubay; the St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities; Rev Joan Phelps; Andy; Leilani Thornburg; Keith Reed

### **We pray for:**

For all suffering from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.

For the hungry and the homeless.

For all who mourn, bearing in mind the continuing deaths by gun violence.

**We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.**

### **And for Ukraine**

Lord, We thank you that in every situation, every dark moment, you are active and working among us. Even when things seem at their bleakest, we trust in your sovereignty and strength. In John's gospel, you said, "in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We embrace the fact that this world and the troubles we face in it have been overcome, and rest in the knowledge that you have the power to move in any and every situation. As we watch war unfold in Ukraine, we ask for your grace and peace to rule in the hearts and minds of all involved. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Please Note: If you know of someone that needs prayers and you would like them added to our prayer list, please contact Joal Lentz in the church office by email at [ccmhadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmhadmin@gmail.com) with your request. Each request will be placed on the prayer list for a period of 30 days. If at the end of 30 days you wish to have the individual remain on the prayer list, you will have to initiate a new request.***



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66 Middle Haddam Road  
PO Box 81  
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cemhadmin@gmail.com*

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFO:**

**Officers:**  
Donna Dube Hryb, Sr. Warden  
Clive Connor, Jr. Warden  
Bary Edmonds, Treasurer  
Bruce A. Dubay, Parish Clerk

**Church Office Hours:**  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Church Website:**  
[christchurchmiddalhaddam.com](http://christchurchmiddalhaddam.com)

**Church e-mail:**  
[cemhadmin@gmail.com](mailto:cemhadmin@gmail.com)

**Sexton:**  
Brian Donaldson

**Vestry:**  
Patti Stannard  
Jerry Graham  
Linda Napolitano  
Scott Konior

**Organist:**  
Ted Williams, Guest Organist

**Parish Administrator:**  
Joal Lentz

**Bellringer Editor:**  
Bruce A. Dubay

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[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)