

March 2021

Parish News



News & Events at Christ Church



*The Rev. Daniel Cenci
Rector*

Why is there a prayer desk in the middle of the aisle?

If you have joined Christ Church sometime in the last 40 years, perhaps you have noticed that there is a “new” piece of furniture in the center aisle of our nave. This piece of furniture is known as the litany desk, and the truth is, that it is not new at all. The litany desk that now sits in the center of our church, was given to Christ Church about 100 years ago in memory of Gertrude B. Greenleaf. It likely replaced an even older wooden desk that would have sat in the same location. When I arrived at Christ Church the litany desk was in terrible disrepair and was stashed away in a corner of the rector’s office. But it is a wonderful piece of our church’s history and it has a powerful theological story to tell.

The litany desk is also known as the prayer desk, the faldstool or the prie-dieu. It is the piece of furniture on which the officiant kneels during the recitation of litanies. A litany is an ancient form of prayer that dates to pre-Christian Jewish traditions. The earliest records of Christian litanies can be found in some of the first known liturgies of the early church. The purpose of a litany is to be a detailed prayer that focuses on multiple aspects of Christian life.

Litanies are typically prayed in a call and response format, in which the officiant issues the call, and the congregation responds in unison. Litanies can either be sung or said and are an important part of traditional Christian worship.

The Great Litany is the most well-known litany in the Anglican tradition, and it is my practice to use the Great Litany in worship on the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of Lent. The Great Litany is quite penitential in nature and it is an appropriate way to begin the penitential seasons. The reason the Great Litany is called “great,” is not only because of its length, but also because of the wide variety of prayers that it incorporates. The Great Litany is the oldest part of the Book of Common Prayer, having been written in 1544 by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer during the reign of King Henry VIII. Archbishop Cranmer used the Sarum litanies of Martin Luther and the litanies of St. John Chrysostom as his primary resources, and once completed, the Great Litany became the first liturgy to be published for public use in the English language. (The rest of the Book of Common Prayer would not be completed until 1549.)

Throughout most of Anglican history the Great Litany was used much more frequently than it is today. Earlier versions of the Book of Common Prayer prescribe it for use after Morning Prayer on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, and before the Liturgy of the Word when Holy Communion is to be offered.

Beginning with the Injunctions of King Edward VI in 1547, and later reinforced by the injunctions of Elizabeth the I in 1559, it was required that the Litany be read from a prayer desk in the center aisle of the church’s Nave. There are several theological reasons for this. First, it has long been the custom of Christians to pray together toward the east. The scriptures suggest that Jesus will return with the rising sun and it therefore makes sense that Christians would face east when praying to our Lord. (Like most Anglican Churches, Christ Church is an east facing church.) The job of the officiant in the service, is to both lead and pray with the congregation. The litany desk was therefore placed “in the midst of the people,” facing the east. The reason that it was placed in the Nave and not the chancel is to show that the priest is no higher than the people that he (or she) is called to serve.

The second theological reason for placing the litany desk in the front of the nave is because this is the same location in which caskets are placed during the burial liturgy. Remember, the Great Litany is a penitential prayer. It reminds us of our sinfulness, our mortality and of God’s grace in raising us from the dead through Jesus Christ. Placing the litany desk in the same location as a casket also reminds us that the church militant (on earth) is tied to the church triumphant (in heaven.) through prayer. The living and the dead are both part of the communion of saints and it is through prayer that we are reminded of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.

Unfortunately, since the liturgical revisions of the late 1970’s and early 1980’s, the use of the Great Litany and the litany desk has fallen out of practice in many Episcopal Churches. This is likely how the litany desk ended up being stored in the rector’s office at Christ Church. But it is my hope that by returning our beautiful litany desk to its original location, we will call to mind this important part of our liturgical heritage and continue the practice of reciting the ancient prayers of our tradition for generations to come.

Lenten Blessings,
Rev. Cenci

VESTRY

February Vestry Minutes:

Attending: Daniel Cenci
Phil Hornthal, Senior Warden
Wes Lupo, Junior Warden
Speight Bunn
Bettie Lyons
Anna Smith
Mary Gillam

Absent: Joe Peel
Mickey Golden
Michelle Flach
Devon Morrison
Sue Scurria
Grafton Beaman
Todd White, Clerk

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Reverend Cenci at 6:02pm.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from January's Vestry Retreat as sent to all members and approved.

Senior Warden Report was presented from the 2021 Vestry Retreat. Phil encouraged the congregation not to let any issues build and fester, but to contact Reverend Cenci and/or the Vestry with their complaints so they can be dealt with.

Junior Warden Report: The lights (2 of 6) have been refurbished and hung in Parish Hall. Other issues are the plexiglass on several of the windows needing to be replaced as the existing ones have yellowed with age. New leaks are being dealt with over the club room and rental space in the Poin-dexter salon.

Treasurer's Report: Report was read and approved.

Robinson Charity Fund Report was read and approved.

Clerk's Report: Minutes were emailed to all members the evening of the Vestry retreat meeting but will also be brought to the meetings in the future.

Parish Life: Sue mentioned the meal train for Jenny Jackson. Hopefully we will soon be able to have outdoor "coffee hour" and Devon requested we use disposable vessels and tools to alleviate having to wash and reuse.

Worship: Grafton reported the committee met today and the upcoming month is very busy with the Ash Wednesday and Lenten services as well as the regular services. Phil asked for an acolyte list from Kim Willis and Reverend Cenci discussed all lists of different groups (altar guild, acolytes, lay readers, ushers, etc) be coordinated to ensure there are no overlaps and these schedules be posted in the Sacristy, back of the Nave and in the bulletins. Phil asked that there be a list of special services planned to be posted as well so it will be easier to plan for the need of extra acolytes, crucifers, thurifers, etc.

Communications: Reverend Cenci reported for Michelle that she is gathering a committee who will be responsible for manning the video recordings in the balcony for live streaming. New microphones will be ordered to pick up the sound better.

Outreach: Bettie reported that Hunter Michael has requested \$500 from Christ Episcopal Church to be used for homeless stays in local hotels during the coldest winter times. Bettie hoped other churches would follow suit and asked for approval of the \$500 toward this endeavor which Vestry granted. More snack bags have been prepared and given out

to those who requested since SOULS only gives food for supper. Food boxes for families were also discussed.
Stewardship & Planned Giving: No report
Youth and Children: Anna will be working with Jessica Cenci to help with the new program for Sunday School lessons about Moses. One of the Sunday School rooms was decorated by the Cencis for this. Youth night for Valentines Day was a big success with 20 children and some parents present. More of these may be planned even as a "parents' night out".

Growth & Evangelism: Mary has invited neighboring children to participate in church activities and will continue the meal train for Jenny Jackson. A team for the potato Festival is in the works, as well as a booth or table with information about CEC and the spaces for rent and other church events. The Coast Guard Welcoming Day at the base will be a great place to offer our services and encourage more Coast Guard families to come to Christ Episcopal Church.

Rector's Report was read and discussed by Reverend Cenci.

Old Business: No recent report on the possible mural on **Todd's building. We are still looking for a partnership** with St. Luke's in Currituck.

New Business: It was suggested and approved that the Club Room be named in honor of Flora Robinson (The Flora Robinson Memorial Club Room) The ECW has offered to pay for the plaque to be placed under a portrait of Flora Robinson in the Club Room (suggested by Gary Cooper). Discussion of the lot behind the parking lot as well as other property which could be further acquisitions was held. Investigations on that will continue. (Grafton/Wes)

Reverend Cenci offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm

Respectfully submitted,

Todd White



2021 Lenten Services
Wednesday at Noon

March 10—Rev. Benny Oakes (First United Methodist)

March 17—Rev. Javan Leach (Mt. Lebanon AME)

March 24—Rev. Matt Harrell (Forerunner)



The Rt. Rev.
Bishop Bane

A Bishop's Meanderings...

Sometimes I kind of feel sorry for Peter and James and John and the other disciples hanging around Jesus. I bet they spent a lot of time looking at each other and saying, "Huh.....! Did you guys see that? Did you hear what he just said?" They were together with Jesus every day for a long time. They all knew each other well and

knew what to expect of one another, but every time they thought they had Jesus figured out, they found themselves confused and surprised. Not much has changed. When we adults turn to God, we pretty much use the same understanding that we have held on to for twenty or thirty years. We have the same expectations, reach the same conclusions, and generally feel somewhat bored by it all. It is the old "God-in-the-box" syndrome, and it is probably the biggest barrier there is to having a living relationship with God that actually makes a difference in our daily lives. At some point in our lives, if we are churchgoers, we arrived at our understanding of God, probably in Sunday School. Every now and then, when we need comfort or guidance, we take the "God box" off of the shelf and open it up. Since nothing much has changed since the last time we got it down, we will get the same answer we always do. There may be some comfort due to the familiarity, but God will look the same, sound the same, behave the same, and give us the same answer as last time. It is kind of a dead relationship, but the good news is that we will not be surprised or challenged or have to change anything.....God forbid!

Think about it. Who is God to you as you read this right now? When did you come to that understanding? Is it yours or did someone hand it to you? Has it changed much over time? For people of faith, when you pray, do you always use the same words? Do you ever just sit in silence and listen.....? In our relationships with other people, they change in many ways over time or those relationships simply wither and die. Why would we think it is any different in our relationship with the One who dreamed us up in the first place?

Don't get me wrong. The Bible is clear that God does not change, but it is also true that we will never, ever know all there is to know about God. The problem is that many of us have taken the one little piece of God we have had for a very long time and put it in a little box labeled "God" thereby insuring that our faith life will be predictable and comfortable, but not really affect our lives in any significant way. So, why do we do this? The answer is simple and easy to recognize. We resist change. We are challenged whenever life forces us to do things differently. Life is so much more manageable when there are few surprises and we can continue as usual.

There is a simple test. After an encounter with God, however you would describe or understand it, is there a growing awareness in your life that something needs

changed? If not, then you have been dealing with that box on the shelf. We do believe that God loves us unconditionally just as we are right now, without question or hesitation. It is out of that love that God calls each one of us to a deeper, wider, more authentic, and more honest life. I've always said that if we are not bothered or challenged in some way every time we hear something Jesus said in the Gospels, we have not been listening. Although Jesus loved everyone he met, he never told a single one, "You have it all right, don't change a thing about your life." Maybe it is time for an update!

In Christ's love,
+ David



GROCERY BAGS ARE NEEDED

Please bring any extra grocery bags to the parish hall. They will be used for making mats to hand out to the homeless. See Sharon Lupo (757)439-8949 if you have any questions or are interested in helping make the mats.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- Thurs, April 1—Maundy Thursday 7pm
- Fri, April 2—Stations of the Cross 11am
Good Friday Service 12:00 Noon
- Saturday, April 3—Easter Vigil 8pm
- Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30am (egg hunt following the 10:30 service)

**THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER HOLY WEEK-MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 10AM-5PM. Please be sure to sit 6 ft apart and wipe down your pew when you leave. **

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

As we enter March and journey through Lent, we can be thankful that God has sent us small reminders that Easter is coming! Warm days, sunshine, and migrating birds all remind us that things are changing, and this year hopefully for the better.

In Children's Chapel we have enjoyed getting to know Moses and the Israelites. We have journeyed through Egypt, convinced Pharaoh to comply, and have reached the wilderness. In March we will finish our Wilderness unit in anticipation of Palm Sunday. I pray that you all have found the Lenten bags helpful as we navigate this year. We have all been uncomfortably affected by many changes this year and there is no better time to address acts of community kindness with our children.

During Children's Chapel on March 21st, we will connect the Israelites suffering in the wilderness with current forms of suffering in our world today. To emphasize this point we will be assembling "blessing bags" for the homeless and less fortunate in our community. I hope to gather enough supplies for at least 50 bags. These will be held here at Christ Church for the staff and volunteers to distribute as needed. Please consider helping by leaving any of the supplies listed below in the designated tote in the church office or financially with the memo "Children's Chapel". I want to continue encouraging acts of outreach among our younger generation throughout the year and hope that you will consider praying for, contributing to, or participating in these efforts.

Thank you for making Christ Church an accessible and welcoming home for our children!

Jessica Cenci

Supplies Needed

- 50 Toothbrushes
- 50 Travel Toothpastes
- 50 Travel Deodorants
- 50 Travel Hand/Body Lotion
- 50 Bars of Soap/Travel Body Wash
- 50 Small Combs
- 50 Moist Towelette packs
- 50 Lip Balms
- 50 Fingernail Clippers
- 50 Disposable Razors
- 50 Pocket Hand Sanitizers
- 50 Disposable Masks
- 50 Gallon Ziploc bags
- 50 Bottles of Water
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Band Aids/Blister Bandages



SCHEDULE

MARCH 7: MAKING MANNA

MARCH 14: CREATING CANAAN

MARCH 21: BLESSING BAGS

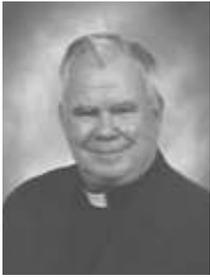
MARCH 28: PALM SUNDAY!

VIDEOS



CRAFTS





Fr. Jim McGee
Rector Emeritus

THE SOLID ROCK IS JESUS CHRIST.

There are two sources of suffering -- sin and the natural order. However, there is but one source of healing - God. Jesus said to His disciples, "*Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.*" (Luke 9:3) All healing comes from God. God is a God of health and wholeness. Healing is God's will for our lives -- whether our need is physical, mental, emotional, spiritual - He wants us well!

And, He has planted healing in the very world He created. A generation ago, there were diseases ravaging this planet that we don't even think of any more. As the growth of medical technology and knowledge continues to accelerate, there will be even more progress in the generations to come. We discover cures. But we discover what God has already ordained.

There was an article a while back about a medical team working in the Amazon jungle under contract from the National Cancer Institute to find the next generation of anticancer drugs. One of the scientists wrote back, "The rain forest is a veritable chemical factory." For example, an extract from the rosy periwinkle has been found to reduce white blood cell counts, actually bringing about remissions in 85% of childhood leukemia cases. We know that penicillin comes from a mold, but did you know that cortisone is derived from yams? Atrophine, a drug for stomach ulcers, comes from belladonna plants.

Where Bev and I lived in the Virgin Islands there were a number of natural remedies from the fruit and plants of the island. There was a local "weed woman" who knew the healing properties of the plants, collected the weeds and would mix and fix a broth to cure whatever ailed you. And sea water is a great healing agent. I can tell you stories about the healing power of salt water that we experienced, but they are lengthy, so ask me later. God has built healing into our very being and into the world that He has created. More importantly, God, Himself is healing. Jesus could heal the blind because of who He was. To be in the presence of God is to be in the presence of healing. His will for us is to be healed. Even though the brokenness of this world may take its toll on us, and does, it does not change His eternal purpose. Even death is a form of healing since it brings us into the eternal presence of God.

There was a story that is repeated on either the History or Discovery channel every year or so about the building of the Hoover Dam. The Hoover Dam, built in 1935 on the Colorado River, is an engineering wonder. Hoover Dam is what is called an arch-gravity dam. It is designed so that the greater the pressure applied to the dam, the more it is wedged into the solid rock. The greater the water pressure applied to the dam, the more it is wedged into the solid rock. The stronger the force against it, the stronger it becomes. So it is with us. When heartaches come, as they do and will, let us not cry out, "Why has this happened to me? Or, Why has this happened to someone I love? What I have done to deserve this?" Rather, let's surrender our need to a healing God. Let's allow our hurt to wedge us ever more surely into the solid rock. The solid rock is Jesus Christ.

Pax Vobiscum

- Jim



Thanks to all who participated
in
Evensong on February 28!!



March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 am Morning prayer at SP	2 7:00 Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	3 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Lenten Service	4 7:00 am Morning Prayer SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	5 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	6 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
7 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	9 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00pm Lenten Service	11 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	12 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	13 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
14 8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	16 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	17 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Lenten Service	18 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	19 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	20 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
21 8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP Newsletter Deadline!	23 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	24 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Lenten Service	25 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:30 pm SOULS feeding 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	26 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	27 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
28 The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday 8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Morning Prayer	29 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	30 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	31 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House			

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT



The Vestry met on February 16, and prior to that meeting, we re-instituted and conducted our first meeting of the Administrative Committee. Our former rector disbanded the Administrative Committee as was his prerogative, but Daniel graciously agreed that it was a good idea to re-establish this long established custom of Christ Church. The Administrative Committee consists of the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, Clerk and the Rector, and typically meets right before the regular, monthly Vestry meeting. The purposes of this Committee, not surprisingly, is the administration of the church and its business. However, the primary utility and function of this committee is to streamline church business. Further, and as we saw with

our first meeting last month, the Administrative Committee meetings often result in a more streamlined, efficient Vestry Meeting, where final decisions are made about Christ Church's affairs. I appreciate Daniel, Wes, Todd and Gary's willingness to join this committee, and the hard work they have done and will do going forward this year. As I noted in last month's report, all church members should feel welcome to make inquiry and share concerns with any of our committee members, noting that we meet at 5 pm before each regularly scheduled Vestry Meeting, typically, the third Tuesday of each month.

I would also like you all to be aware of the good work and effort Jessica Cenci has given our church in her role as children's director. Those with children know she and Daniel delivered Lent bags to our children this past week, and this and all she does is much appreciated.

The Vestry is looking for a tenant for its property above Todd's pharmacy which was formerly rented as music studio. This is a great, small space, perfect for a small business, studio or office. If anyone is interested or has a friend or colleague looking for space, let the church office know and we'll get them a look at this space.

Lots going on at the church with Lenten services at noon each Wednesday, and many special services planned between now and Easter. Check out this newsletter for more information.

Yours in Christ.
Phil Hornthal
Senior Warden

March Birthdays

- 2 Dillon Matthew Jones
- 3 Glenn Roth
- 8 Trevor Pharr
- 10 Becky Elliott
- 11 Patrick Dean
- 13 Peter Bruderle
- 15 Danny Jennings
- 16 Rick Pureza
- 17 Beans Weatherly
Todd White
- 18 Beth Jennings
Jessica Rich
- 20 Kenly Foreman
Sharon Curtis
Suzy MacMorris
- 21 Don MacMorris
Dru Thompson
- 26 Lisa Harman-Wakefield
Betsy Peel
Rob Gillam III

- 29 Judith Abbott
- 31 David Smithson
Taylor Flach

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office. Thank you!

March Anniversaries

- 9. Sally and Peter Bruderle
- 17. Sharon and Bob Curtis
- 20. Becky and Andy Elliott

Parishioners in Assisted Living

Brookdale of EC, 401 Hastings Lane: EC 27909
 Juanita Mullen Helen Gibson
Elizabeth City Health & Rehabilitation, 1075 US 17 S: EC 27909
 Jim Hathaway

At Home

Ann Hughes, 1514 Crescent Dr., EC 27909
 Betty Ingram, 2121 Rivershore Road, EC 27909
 Nancy Ferebee, 337 North 343, Camden NC 27921

200 South McMorrine Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909-4831
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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

To be a Loving Family in Which Christ is Known and Proclaimed As Lord and Savior.

STAFF

Presiding Bishop The Most Rev. Michael Curry Bishop The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving
Rector The Rev. Daniel Cenci Retired Bishop The Rt. Rev. David Bane
Rector Emeritus The Rev. Jim McGee Music Director/Organist Douglas Blackwood
Parish Administrator Kim Willis Co-Directors of Youth Ministry Whitney and Chris Paullet
Directors of Children's Ministry Jessica Cenci
Nursery Coordinators Reinga Hammond and Lauren Flach
Librarian/Historian Anne Sanders Treasurer Gary Cooper
Chancellor Lisa Harman-Wakefield

VESTRY (2021)

Senior Warden Phil Hornthal Junior Warden Wes Lupo Communication Michelle Flach
Clerk Todd White Parish Life Sue Scurria Worship Mickey Golden & Grafton Beaman
Treasurer Gary Cooper Outreach Bettie Lyons Young Adults/Famililes Speight Bunn & Devon Morrison
Growth/Evangelism Mary Gillam Stewardship Joe Peel Children/Youth Anna Smith

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