



# The Flame

March 2024

**Our Mission** is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.

## Holy Week

Beginning Sunday, (24 Mar) we will enter what the church calendar calls Holy Week. The week begins with our Palm Sunday services, includes Eucharist services Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, our shared meal and Eucharist on Maundy Thursday (28 Mar), with an all-night prayer vigil in our chapel between 8pm on Maundy Thursday and 11am on Good Friday (29 Mar), two services on Good Friday (Noon & 6:30pm), our Easter Vigil service on Saturday (30 Mar @ 6:30pm), all culminating in our Easter Day services on Sunday (31 Mar). We know that not everyone can attend all services. We do, however, invite each of us to attend those services we can to more fully grasp the story Holy Week tells. Please note below our Holy Week service times.



Palm Sunday Eve	Sat (23 Mar)	5:30pm in the Chapel
Palm Sunday	Sun (24 Mar)	8 & 9:30am (9:30 begins in the Parish Hall)
Holy Monday	Mon (25 Mar)	Noon in the Chapel
Holy Tuesday	Tues (26 Mar)	Noon in the Chapel
Holy Wednesday	Wed (27 Mar)	9:30am in the Chapel
Holy Wednesday	Wed (27 Mar)	7pm – Walking and Praying the Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday	Thur (28 Mar)	6:30 Dinner and Service
Good Friday Vigil	Thur (28 Mar)	8pm – 11am (Fri)
Good Friday	Fri (29 Mar)	Noon & 6:30pm
Easter Vigil	Sat (30 Mar)	6:30pm
Easter Sunday	Sun (31 Mar)	8 & 9:30am

Services time shown in red will be broadcast live on Facebook

## Fr. Tom's Tidbits



### Tidbits

What a blessing the warmer weather has been. Being able to enjoy the outside has been a welcome relief after being cooped up indoors so much this winter. But as Spring approaches, we are reminded of all that lays before us. Our Lenten Soup Supper & Study is in full swing, our Inquirer's class is underway, the frantic sprint to Holy Week is already at a full trot, and before we know it, it will be Pentecost and the bishop's annual visit. Our never-ending calendar of events does keep us busy; and while busy is good, it also keeps us from doing something Lent reminds us to do, reflect on our relationship with God and one another.

Why do I mention this? Because it is easy to take both God, and one another, for granted. When this happens, it is easy for us to miss the warning signs that someone needs help; and that someone might just be ourselves. When was the last time we stepped back from all the craziness that surrounds us, to rest in the peace and silence of God? Scripture calls this stepping back, Sabbath, a time of intentional rest, giving our bodies and our minds a break, time to be rejuvenated so that when returning to the hectic pace of life, we are better able to deal with the ups and downs that come our way. However, Sabbath is more than just putting our feet up or taking a nap. It is also about taking time to put aside what has dominated our lives, allowing us to reconnect with those we sometimes take for granted.

I know I am not alone in this struggle. During our last retreat, several of my fellow clergy admitted this was a problem for them too. I know it is true for all of us to some degree; work and life can keep us so busy, we begin to grow distant from those we love and who love us. Sabbath is that intentional time we take to keep that distance from reaching a breaking point. This Lent, as we continue our reflection on deepening and strengthening our relationships, let us not forget this tool the Lord has given us, to help us stay connected. One with another, and one with God.

*Fr. Tom*

## Rector Search

Canon Liz Easton will meet with the Vestry on Thursday (14 Mar) at 5:30pm to outline the Diocesan process and to help us begin our parish search for a new rector. Please watch the Flame for regular updates on what is happening. For information about the process, feel free to contact our Senior Warden, Cindy Pekarek.

Don't forget to set your clocks  
ahead Saturday, March 10th



# Parish Life

## Valentine's Extravaganza

Another great time was had by all. The food was outstanding, there were a ton of prizes, the parish hall was filled with laughter. Special thanks go out to Kristi, Alan, and Marcia for helping with all the decoration, Sharon and Lori who ran the kitchen so wonderfully, Donna Boettcher who made such beautiful and tasty cakes for dessert, for the team of volunteers who poured all our beverages, Sharon and all those who help populate the prize table with so many fun prizes,



and of course, all our members and their guests who made the night so much fun. We are looking for a couple of volunteers who would like to work with Fr Tom and Sharon on coordinating next year's event so that we can keep this even going after Fr Tom retires.



## Shrove Tuesday



Thanks go out to our Journeys Youth Group who cooked, and cleaned up, on Shrove Tuesday. The pancakes we amazing, and along with the sausage, bacon, and chili, there was something for everyone. We raised \$256.85 through the free will offering to support the ministry of Magdalene Omaha and their work in helping women rebuild their lives after leaving a violent domestic situation or escaping the dangers of sex trafficking.



## Ash Wednesday

This year Fr Tom offered three services for the imposition of ashes, along with the chance for drive-through ashes for those on their way to work who could not attend one of our later services. Once again, our Journeys youth stepped in to help with serving a simple soup supper to our guests before the 7pm service.



## Lenten Soup Suppers

Our annual Lenten Soup supper and Study is meeting on Sunday evenings at 5pm. The night begins with a shared soup supper, during which we have really enjoyed some tasty, as well as spicy, offerings. After we do the dishes, we talk briefly about what we did the week before, and then sit back to listen to our video presenter, Margaret Feinberg, as she helps us to understand the visions of John the Apostle as recorded in the Book of Revelation. This is followed by a time to discuss the evening's materials closing out our evening offering the prayers of Compline. There are still four more evening sessions, and we would love to have you join us.



## Lenten Wednesday Meditations



With the beginning of Lent, Fr Tom is once again offering a short 30 minute service of meditation on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30 pm. The meditation includes a brief reading from scripture, prayer, and time of silence for resting in the peace and grace of God. This service will be offered every Wed this month. On Wednesday (27 Mar), in place of scripture and prayers, the service will include a reading of the Stations of the Cross in the Chapel. If anyone would like to read and walk the stations we have in the Sanctuary, all are invited to join our Journeys youth that evening at 7pm as they walk and pray the Stations.

## Ministry Team Leader Meeting

Last month's meeting of ministry team leaders, which occurred immediately following our Mobile Pantry, opened using the morning devotion found in the BCP. Afterwards we discussed issues concerning the ministries which either Fr Tom or the Vestry could help with. Some of the items discussed included the repair of current and the purchase of additional LEM albs, repairs needed for choir robes, along with the purchase of additional choir stoles, the need to purchase new albs for our growing acolytes, volunteers needed for the Meals on Wheels ministry, and a look ahead at VBS planning. Another topic of discussion involved how ministries go about doing the work they do. Realizing much of what we do is internalized within our team leaders, it was agreed that ministries should develop a ministry handbook that helps lay out what they do, how they go about doing it, and who their contacts are. Jen Wilson offered to help with this project by conducting interviews with the different ministries. Our meeting closed with the offering the daily noonday prayers found in the BCP.



## Parish Clean-up

On Saturday (23 Mar) beginning at 11:30am (immediately following the Mobile Pantry) we are organizing an outdoor parish clean-up to spruce things up ahead of our Easter celebration. We will need volunteers. The more helping hands we are able to gather together, the quicker the work needed will get done. If we are blessed with a large team, there are a few things we could do inside as well to get ready for our guests. For more information, please contact Dean Olander or Chris Darrell.



## DOK Lenten Labyrinth and Quiet Day

*walk, pray, meditate, and connect with God*

The Daughters of the King chapter is hosting a Labyrinth and Quiet Day on Saturday, March 16th from 10am to 2 pm. The 27-foot square labyrinth will be set up in the parish hall. The outdoor labyrinth by the circular drive will also be available depending on the weather. The parish is invited to walk and pray either labyrinth. Members of the chapter will be available to provide guidance or instructions for those who have never walked or prayed the labyrinth before. Material will also be available for walking the Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary or in the chapel.



## New Voter ID Requirements



With Nebraska primaries coming soon, members are encouraged to take note of the changes that will take effect with the passage of LB514 later this year. Beginning May 14, 2024, when voting, a photo ID will now be required. Should one forget a photo ID, the voter can cast a provisional ballot. For the ballot to be counted, a voter casting a provisional ballot must go to their county election office and show their photo id on or before the Tuesday after the election. Photo ID's are required to vote early; and when voting by mail, a driver's license or state ID number is required on the ballot return envelope.

If one does not have a valid photo ID, one can be issued **free of charge** at any Nebraska DMV office. To get a free state ID, one must present a certified copy of their birth certificate which can be obtained from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. **Here at CHS: If anyone needs a State ID, and cannot afford the cost of a certified birth certificate or does not have a way to get to the local DMV office, they are invited to call Fr Tom at the church office.**

The following photo IDs are considered acceptable for use:

Nebraska Driver's License/State ID

Passport, Military ID, or Tribal ID

US Passport

Hospital, assisted-living facility or nursing home record

Nebraska political subdivision ID

Nebraska College or University ID

For more information visit <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/voter-id>.

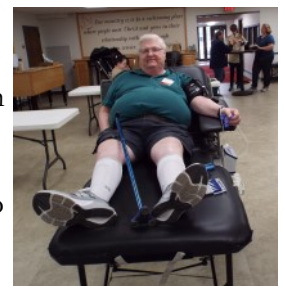


## Outreach

### Blood Drive



Once again we had a very successful blood drive. The Red Cross team wants to offer not only their thanks, but also an apology. Due to staffing that day, the team at CHS was understaffed. Even though there were a few unreserved time slots available, they were forced to decline the offer of most of our walk-in donors. The good news, at the end of the day, only two of our slots remained unfilled. They had successful collections to fill all the others. We will be offering another blood drive next February. If you would like to see us do another one later this year, please reach out to Carol McLaughlin who has been helping us coordinated Red Cross visits these past few years.



## Mobile Pantry

What a blessing. On the morning of our pantry, the sun was shining and the temperatures were mild. Except for a slight breeze in the morning, it was a beautiful day for the pantry. For the third month in a row, we ran out of products a little earlier than we had hoped. If this trend continues, we will look at increasing our shipment. Beginning in April, Ted Powell will take the lead in this very important ministry. He could use another volunteer to be his co-coordinator. If you might be interested in what this would entail, please contact Fr Tom or Ted.



## Episcopal Relief & Development

It is Lent, and as such we are conducting our annual collection in support of Episcopal Relief and Development. To make a donation, simply note ERD in the memo line of your check, or pick up one of the envelopes marked Episcopal Relief and Development. ERD shares 100% of funds received with communities in crisis. A few years back CHS received funding to support our food ministry following the area flooding. As designated in the CHS budget, CHS will match the first \$250 donated. To learn more about ERD's ministry, please visit <https://www.episcopalrelief.org>



## Youth Activities

### Movie "The Bridge"

Last month, our Journeys Youth, along with some of their parents, watched the movie MOST: The Bridge. This short Oscar nominated 20-minute video is a modern day parable bringing to life the story of the passion in a more modern day context. For those members of the parish who might want to see and discuss this movie, Fr Tom will offer a showing on Sunday (17 Mar) in the chapel beginning at 11:00am. If the response is larger than the chapel will hold, we will move the viewing upstairs to the Sanctuary.



### Journeys Evening of Prayer



On Wednesday (6 Mar) our Journeys Youth will participate in an evening of prayer. Thanks to our chapter of the DOK, our youth will get to walk and pray using the large 27 foot indoor labyrinth, and weather permitting, our outside one as well. If you wish to join us that evening, please let Fr Tom, or one of our Journeys mentors know. Walking and praying the labyrinth will take place between 7:00-7:30pm.



### Youth Sunday

On the Sunday after Easter (7 Apr) we will once again celebrate Youth Sunday. On Youth Sunday, during our 9:30am service, parish youth are invited to take over for the adults sharing their love for the Lord in sometimes new and exciting ways. This has always been a day in the life of our community when we have rejoiced in the gift God gives to us through our youth. We suspect this year will be equally blessed. Those youth who will be participating this year, are asked to mark their calendars and arrive at 9:00am to meet with their adult helpers and get ready for service.



## Palm Crosses and Stations of the Cross

On Wednesday (20 Mar) our Journeys youth invite everyone to join them as they fold palm crosses for our Palm Sunday services. Folding will begin at 7:00pm and end at 7:45pm. With the help of Jean Cook, guests can learn how easy cross folding is (at least after the first one). It is usually a night of fun and laughs and we will end our evening by sharing in Compline at 8:00pm.



On Wednesday (27 Mar) our Journeys youth invite everyone to join them as they walk and pray the Stations of the Cross hanging in the Sanctuary. This 30-minute service recounts Jesus' walk along the Via Delarosa as he makes his way from his trial before Pilate to the cross.

## Youth Mission to the Dominican Republic



Attention all Youth 12-18, Now is the time to begin planning for our summer mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Our first trip will begin on Saturday (29 Jun) returning Friday (5 Jul). This trip is for youth 12-15. Youth participating in this trip must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Our second trip will depart Saturday (6 Jul) and return Friday (12 Jul). This trip is for youth 16-19. Older youth, or adults, who wish to go on either trip, please speak with Fr Tom. Both trips are planned to work out of the Diocesan Camp just outside the city of Jarabacoa. While there, a majority of our projects will be on the camp. However, the church is continuing its efforts to improve the quality of life for the people living in the surrounding barrio. Passports are needed for both trips. A sign-up sheet is located at the Spirit Hub to let us know if you might be interested. For more information on scholarships and fundraising, please visit with Fr Tom. Our hope is to not let funding prevent anyone from going who wishes to go.



HOLY WEEKLY MINISTRY TEAMS				
Ministries		March 28 Maundy Thursday	March 29 Good Friday	March 30 Holy Saturday
Hospitality Greeters	Noon		Pam C TBD	
Ushers			Doug C Lora C	
Altar Guild	Noon		Toby W, Leslie N Charlotte A, Carol M	
LEMs	Noon		Alberta Y	
Greeters	6:30 pm	Barb S Bill F	Deanne M Bill F	Barb S TBD
Ushers		Chris D TBD	Chris D TBD	Chris D TBD
	6:30 pm	Charlotte A Jan S, Sharon J	Sharon J, Sue P Barb S	Leslie N, Kathy B Charlotte A, Jan S, Sharon J, Sue P
LEMs	6:30 pm	Jan S Charlotte A	Vince C Ken G	Jan S Terri S
Acolytes	6:30 pm	Isaiah CH		Vincent C Evelynn C Kyper C

# Your 2024 Vestry

Senior Warden



Cindy Pekarek

Junior Warden:



Judy Darrell

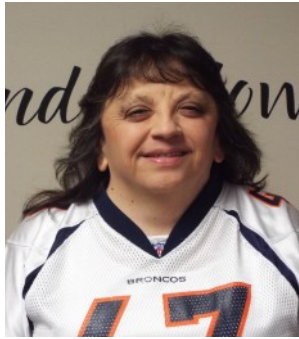
Clerk:



Patrick Howell



Kristi Smith



Lori Erickson



Barb Smith



Vince Cummings Jr



Rick Horejs

Treasurer



Marcia Adams

Recorder



Carol McLaughlin



# Vestry Meeting Minutes

15 February 2024

Vestry Members present: Fr. Tom Jones, Leslie Nutting, Lori Erickson, Judy Darrell, Ken Gomeringer, Barb Smith, Cindy Pekarek, Patrick Howell, Vince Cummings Jr, Kristi Smith, Rick Horejs. Also present: Marcia Adams, Bill French

The meeting opened with prayer at 6:30pm.

## INFORMATION/UPDATES:

Calendar: Lenten Soup Supper will begin this Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The office will be closed on Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> for the holiday. Next Saturday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> we have a Food Pantry and a Ministry Meeting 11:30am after the pantry. The Vestry is invited to join the Ministry Team Leader Meeting. We will be discussing the need for ministry continuity books so if something happens to the leader, someone else can come in and pick it up. Fr. Tom postponed the planned March Vestry retreat until after Canon Liz visits with the Vestry. The next Vestry meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Canon Liz will come to speak to the Vestry about the search.

## FINANCE REPORTS

Marcia presented the monthly financial reports. January was a good month for contributions. We had 108% for pledge contribution. Non-Pledge includes one large contribution that typically would have come in late last year. Pledge Offering Prior Year was moved from the holding fund to this year's operational expense fund.

Postage is high due to Father Tom buying bulk stamps prior to a rate hike.

Payroll expenses include end of year expenses. One License/Text in Church is the full year cost. Line items added for Deacon Prof Development/Deacon Travel under Ministry Expenses. Snow removal was over \$800. Rector development was for the clergy retreat and a class on racial awareness. The big expense under youth was the lock-in.

Fr. Tom reviewed expenses noted in the Changes in Equity Report.

Outreach Misc Fund	Stockholder's Dinner/Laundry Supplies	\$143.13
Oktoberfest Fund	Supplies/Prizes	\$100.33
Building Fund	Kitchen Trays	\$29.00
Rector Search Fund	Postage	\$330.00
Rector Disc Fund	Donation	\$50.00
Vicar of Msn Fund	Language Training	\$308.00
DOK Fund	Pass through, Annual Dues	\$420.00
Special Funds (Wyant)	Funds distribution per family request	\$1300.00
Oktoberfest Fund	Supplies/Prizes	\$697.02
Conley Mem Fund	Stained glass panel deposit	\$520.00

**M02-15-01:** Barb moved and Lori seconded that we accept the reports as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**M02-15-02:** Cindy moved and Kristi seconded that we pay the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Fr. Tom said we had a 25% increase in our church insurance. Fr. Tom talked with Beth at the diocese. The insurance company had 38% premium increase across the board. That will put us over budget this year. Vestry decided not to amend the budget as given at the annual meeting.

Leslie has been working with Rainbow Stained Glass. She shared 2 mock-ups. These will be paid for using the Connely Memorial Fund as they wished. It will be a little over \$2000 for both.

Patrick got ahold of Bombas. He said yes that we want to host a drive. He hasn't heard any more. For each one purchased they will donate one. The Stephen center is one of the recipient choices. More to follow at next month's meeting.

Fr. Tom got an email from the diocese. They are bringing back the Bishop Clarkson grant up to \$5000 for deferred maintenance. With other funds available, we may be able to upgrade the lighting in the sanctuary this year. Bids are being taken. A decision will be made at a later date.

Lighting bids: Fr. Tom has 3 new companies coming in to give us quotes on lighting. One of them is an architectural lighting firm. Precision Lighting has submitted a bid as well.

Parking Lot: Fr. Tom has 3 companies coming in to give quotes for repair & reseal.

Outdoor Painters: 2 Bellevue painters are coming out to do bids. The initial bid is \$10,000. This includes the power washing and staining needed, repairs and painting the doors. There is an option to stain the fence on the north side to match the building.

Shrove Tuesday went well. The youth group did an amazing job!

Bell choir and building committee are to discuss what to do about water stains in the bell choir ceiling. Will address this next month.

Cindy will discuss the new VPoD schedule individually as needed. Hard copies were handed out.

Fr. Tom will have the new Vestry member liaison chart next month.

## DECISION ITEMS

In accordance with the parish by-laws, the Vestry made the following appointments:

**M02-15-03:** Judy motioned and Cindy seconded to appoint Marcia Adams as the 2024 Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

**M02-15-04:** Motion by Judy & seconded by Kristi to appoint Patrick Howell as the 2024 Vestry Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Fr Tom noted, that with the approval of 2024 Ministry Grants from Endowment Fund interest earned in 2023, during our January Meeting, we now need to approve funds removal/transfer. **M02-15-05:** Patrick motions and Judy seconds to move the Endowment grant money into CHS Grants Fund and to then distribute out to each ministry. Motion carried unanimously.

The Vestry has a request from Wyant Family to move the remaining memorial fund balance in the Wyant Memorial Fund to the Funeral Fund to further support this ministry. **M02-15-06:** Lori motioned and Barb seconded to move the remaining Wyant Memorial Fund money to the Funeral Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

The Vestry has a request from the Smith family to move the funds held in the Smith Memorial Fund to the Mission Santa Ana Fund to help cover the cost of supplies needed while our team is working at the Mission.

**M02-15-07:** Kristi moved and Cindy seconded to move the funds as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

**M02-15-08:** Judy motioned and Kristi seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Report as of January 2024

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 18,938.00	\$ 17,512.17	\$ 18,938.00	\$ 17,512.17
Other Inc.	\$ 15,496.33	\$ 2,415.83	\$ 15,496.33	\$ 2,415.83
Total Inc	\$ 34,434.33	\$ 19,928.00	\$ 34,434.33	\$ 19,928.00
Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,032.67	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,032.67
			\$ 34,434.33	

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



- Mar 3 - Lenten Soup Supper & Program - 5pm
- Mar 8 & 9 - Vestry Retreat
- Mar 10 - Finance Committee Meeting - 11am
- Mar 10 - Inquirers Class - 11am
- Mar 10 - Lenten Soup Supper & Program - 5pm
- Mar 14 - Vestry Meeting - 5:30pm
- Mar 17 - Lenten Soup Supper & Program - 5pm
- Mar 20 - Palm Cross Folding - 7pm
- Mar 23 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10am
- Mar 24 - Palm Sunday
- Mar 24 - Foods of Jesus's Time - 11am
- Mar 24 - Lenten Soup Supper & Program - 5pm
- Mar 28 - Mandy Thursday
- Mar 29 - Good Friday
- Mar 30 - Easter Vigil
- Mar 31 - Easter Sunday



## LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
<b>VPOD</b>	Kristi S	Lori E	Patrick H	Barb S	Rick H
<b>Hospitality Team</b> 9:30 am <i>Greeters, Ushers &amp; Coffee Hour Host</i>	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 2
<b>Spirit Hub</b>	Dean O	Sharon J			
<b>Altar Bread</b>				Ryan M	Ryan M
<b>Recycle Team</b>	Jan S	Marcia A	Marcia A	Karen G	Jan S
<b>LEM Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	Charlott A	Kristi S	Kathy B Toby W	TBA	TBA
<b>LEM Sunday 8:00</b>	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A	TBA	TBA
<b>LEM Sunday</b> 9:30 am	Jan S Carol S	Anika S Brian C	Ted P Michele H	TBA	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b> Crucifer Torch Torch	Isaiah JH Mya H MacKenzie C	Evelynn C Vincent C Mya H	Isaiah CH Olivia H MacKenzie C	Isaiah JH Kyper M Mya H	Kyper M Isaiah JH Vincent C MacKenzie C Ailynn M Mya H

Please submit articles for the April 2024 FLAME to the church office by March 22nd. Thank you



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**Regular Services:**

**Sunday:** 8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II \*  
**Wednesday:** 9:30 am Holy Eucharist \*  
**Saturday:** 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist  
\* Broadcast live on Facebook

**Education: September- May**

**Sunday:** Sunday School @ 10:30 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study @ 10:15 am  
Journeys to Adulthood @ 6:30 pm

**Office Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday:** 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
**Friday:** 9:00 am–Noon

**Rector's Day Off:**

**Friday**

*The Flame* is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org). The next deadline for submitting news is March22nd.

**Webpage: [www.chsepiscopal.org](http://www.chsepiscopal.org)**

**Email: [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org)**

***The Flame***  
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