



Our door is always open ...

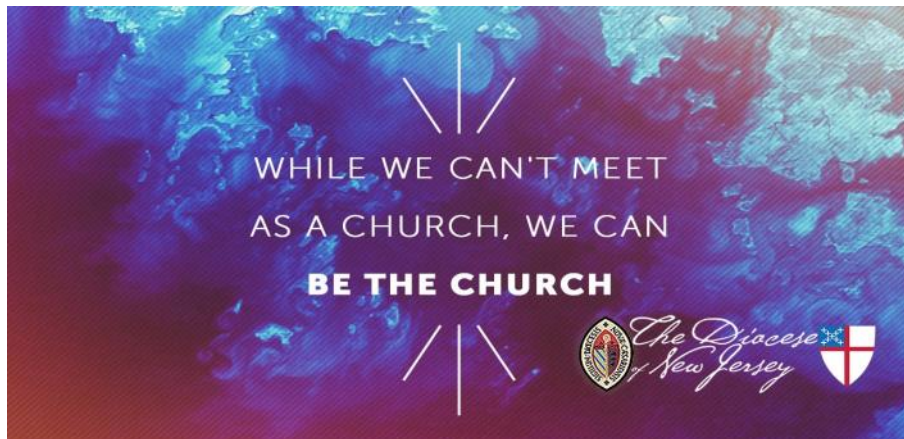
The Trumpeter

Church of the Holy Spirit, 3 Haytown Road, Lebanon, NJ

www.churchholyspirit.org

June 2020

OUR MISSION: To follow Christ as we serve others, proclaim God's love, and grow in The Spirit.



IN THIS ISSUE

2-3	From the Rector's Desk	8	Around the County
4	Treasurer's Report	9	Vote by Mail & Census
	Amazon Smile Donations	10	NJ Covid-19 Responses
	Giving Methods	10	Pulse of the Parish
5	Financial Impact of Covid-19		Ongoing Virtual Meetings
	Bill-Board	11	Snapshots
6	Greetings from the Senior Warden	12	CHS Who's Who
7	We Care		
	Prayer Chain: New Protocols		

From the Rector's Desk:

There is too much. Too much! In the coming days and weeks, much of our congregational energy will be devoted to focusing on what of that “too much” we can come together to do something about that is meaningful in a time of quarantine. We all know the headlines. 100,000 + dead and the virus continues unrelenting. The persistent malignancy of racism corrupts and destroys both systematically and glaringly in the occasional but equally unrelenting uniformed murder. IT'S TOO MUCH. Usually when I name it, it shrinks down to size. Not this time. It really is too much. Not even considering the health challenges we face together in the usual way of our frail bodies, the emotional and relational storms that blow through, the normal life-stage developments that require our full attention. So what is there to do? You will find no simple or really any answer in this posting. I will just share the sermon we offered to the women at Edna Mahon Prison.



I say “we,” because it’s not really me this time. In communication with the Prison Chaplain about the status there, she requested a one-page sermon she would read to the women. So I asked for help about what we should say. My gratitude to John Andrews began some time ago. It is ever lodged in my heart, that fateful Sunday morning at 8 am, when we received word of the tragic death of a parishioner on his way to Church and the grievous wounding of his partner. John looked at me and said: “Go! I’ll do Morning Prayer. We got it. Go!” And he stayed through to the 10 am service to meet the incoming congregation so they would know what had happened before they entered the sanctuary. You don’t perform at that level of grace without a profound God in your heart. And a profound heart. And so what has been shared with the women at Edna Mahan is really John’s sermon with a little granny-square crocheting from me. And I hope you’re still reading this and do read the sermon below. For this is a sermon for all of us in this time of Too Much.

[See next page for illustrations of Fr. Phil’s granny-square analogy — Ed.]

In the Name of one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Peace and grace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We at the Church of the Holy Spirit want you to know that we miss being with you and we pray for your safety and the safety of all of the inmates, Corrections Officers, Chaplains, the Administration and all of the other staff.

We miss the inspirational work that all members of the Shawl Ministry do by making shawls for those who are ill or who have suffered loss or great joy.

We miss the deep faith and thirst for God that we experience at the Bible Study sessions with you.

At times such as these we are reminded of how Jesus felt abandoned in the Garden of Gethsemane and asked his Father to “remove this cup from me”, but he went on and told his Father “yet, not what I want, but what you want.” After suffering torture, He was crucified and He called out from the cross “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This incredibly human feeling of being abandoned and alone in a frightening time is one we all share and it brings us closer to Jesus. But, God did not abandon His Son and He will not abandon us.

As St Paul writes to the Christians in Rome,

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

The wonderful poet and writer Maya Angelou said:

“You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.”

“I’ve learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.” And “Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God.”

From the Rector's Desk (continued):

Paul reminds us that on the listening and hearing of the voice of God we can be empowered to live in holiness:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Frida Kahlo, the 20th-century Mexican painter, said:

“At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can.”

Finally, Mother Teresa said:

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

In this time of darkness open yourself to God's unerring love, trust in that love and spread that love to those around you. Until we meet again, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings and Peace,

John Andrews and Philip Carr-Jones



These two beautiful patchwork works of art are among 8 — yes, 8 — shawls and lap blankets painstakingly designed and crocheted together by Jan Paxton from the countless granny squares created by women of the shawl ministry at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility. The squares are treasures, stitched with love and prayer by women for whom 2—4 hours a week in communion with CHS volunteers is a blessing and lifeline to normal living. Please keep them in your prayers during this time of peril and pain.— Ed.

Jan Paxton photos



Treasurer's Report



As of the end of April our financial results for 2020 are as follows:

	YTD	Budget YTD
Operating Revenue	\$ 119,699	\$ 105,275
Total Expense	\$ 119,636	\$ 108,889
Net	\$ 50	

Thank you to those who have been able to keep current with their giving and special appreciation to those who have prepaid their 2020 pledge. We are grateful for all of your continued support during these difficult times.

Due to the pandemic, we needed to postpone our May auction. This is our main fundraiser for the year, so as the summer months approach, our income will be down YTD without this income. We may be able to reschedule something for the fall, although perhaps in a different way than we are used to.

Stay healthy and hope to see you in person in the near future.

Sally Bird



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (*would that be Church of the Holy Spirit?*) every time you shop, at no cost to you. **AmazonSmile** is available at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2030161> on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop **AmazonSmile**, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that **AmazonSmile** will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to CHS. You can choose from over one million organizations to support, so why not CHS. ?

Giving Methods	Before COVID-19	Since Stay-at-Home Order	
PAYPAL (online)	5%	10%	Doubled
Bank Checks	10%	20%	Doubled
Personal Checks & Giving Envelopes (sent to church)	85%	70%	



From Eva Lesniak — thank you Eva!! — see her article opposite page.

Financial Impact of COVID-19 upon CHS

Our community of faith continues to worship and support one another in new and wonderfully creative ways during this time of prolonged physical separation, among them: Sunday and weekday services. Links to Sunday services are on the Friday emails sent parish-wide. If you aren't receiving those notices, let us know so you have the most current information. You can also find those links under "Worship" on the church website.

- Sunday services (including virtually baking bread together last month — and "Mass on the Grass" is coming!)
- Noonday Prayer and 8 pm Compline on weekdays; Parish-Wide Check-Ins via our W3K Neighborhood groups
- Holy Spirit Clean-Up Day [see photos in Snapshot section — Ed.]
- Tuesday morning Bible Study and Theology on Tap
- Alexei's virtual "Sofa Session" concerts (alas, no new ones scheduled for a while as he works on new music. Check his YouTube presence if you'd like more and don't miss him on Sunday, live from home.)

Our priority is to ensure that we can minister to one another and those most in need in our community. We are so grateful that your charitable giving continues to be strong:

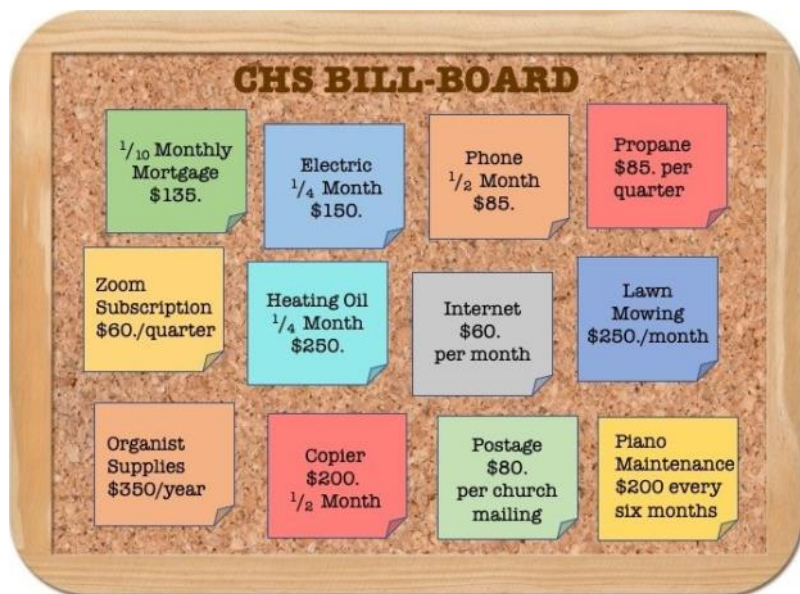
- Through the "We Three Kings" 2020 Stewardship Campaign, we have received 62 "Estimates of Giving" to date, totaling \$168,748., and pledge cards continue to trickle in.
- Up through May 1st, we received \$84,095 in offerings through the charitable giving of 89 donors.
- Several members have accelerated their annual giving earlier in the year than we have seen historically.
- Consequently,
 - ⇒ Pledged donations received are \$4,000 ahead of this time last year, and
 - ⇒ Non-Pledged donations are \$10,000 ahead of this time last year.
 - ⇒ Giving using PayPal and Bank Checks ("bill pay" service) has doubled.

However, there are three impacted sources of church revenue that we want to make you aware of:

- The loss of the Loose Plate offering will likely create a \$2,000 shortfall.
- Not being able to hold our Cinco de Mayo Auction last month has created a \$22,000 budget gap,
- Building use rental income is already down by \$3,500, and we anticipate this gap will grow further.

Our initial action plan to address these challenges includes a committee exploring how our Service Auction might be run virtually. It could be really fun and different!

We have resurrected the CHS Bill-Board in virtual form. If you feel called to help cover any of these church bills, please note "Bill-Board" on the memo line of your check or on your giving envelope. Your regular donations are still vital, especially during the summer! As you are able, please support Holy Spirit by mailing your envelopes to the Church, using your bank's online bill pay systems, or online via PayPal by credit/debit card (by using the DONATE button found on the CHS website). Let me know if you would like a booklet of giving envelopes mailed to your home.



Eva Lesniak (elesniak@mac.com)

Greetings from the Senior Warden

When I started my tenure as Senior Warden at the beginning of the year, I had no idea of the situation that was to unfold in the months ahead. None of us did. We were blissfully unaware of the challenging time that we would all soon be facing. Isolation. Social distancing. Loss of life. Fear. Anxiety. Anger. Helplessness. Confusion. Depression. The ultimate realization that for the foreseeable future we would not be able to gather together on Sunday to worship, break bread or share the peace.



But despite the challenges during this unprecedented time, it is also important to remember to make room in our hearts and our minds for HOPE. JOY. FAITH. LOVE. HEALING. During difficult times, it may be especially hard to recognize these concepts, but with God, they are always present, even in the darkest hours. Remember Isaiah 41:10. *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Remember HOPE. Hope for the researchers and scientists working so diligently on a vaccine. Hope for those who have been infected with the virus but are in recovery. Hope for the brighter times that lie ahead. Because as my Mother has often said in troubled times, “This too shall pass.”

Remember JOY. Joy in the simple things we usually take for granted. A child’s laughter as you share a family meal together or play a board game. The peace of a quiet morning as you enjoy your coffee on the porch. The warmth of the sunshine on your face as you walk your dog in the park. Joy in the unique opportunity we have been given to slow down our everyday lives and perhaps literally smell the roses.

Remember FAITH. Faith in God and our CHS community that has come together in such a remarkable way, despite the physical distancing. Of course, faces on a Zoom call aren’t nearly as satisfying as a hug in church on Sunday, but they ARE a constant reminder of our continued fellowship and strong sense of community, which helps sustain us until the day we can gather together again physically.

Remember LOVE. Love of God, our family, friends, neighbors, clergy, front line heroes, those who serve and protect our great country. Remember the power of both giving and receiving love and that it is all around us, even in these dark times. *Especially* in these dark times.

Remember HEALING. At this point in time, it may seem like an impossible idea, but we WILL get through this and we WILL heal. Remember Jeremiah 30:17. *‘For I will restore you to health and heal your wounds’, declares the Lord.* And not just the healing of those who are afflicted with the virus, but the healing of our world as well. In fact, it’s already been documented that due to the pandemic, there have been *positive* impacts on our environment. Improved air quality, reduced carbon emissions and a decrease in global warming, to name a few. Even in a crisis, there is still healing.

So, during this crazy period, that at times seems like it will never end, we will ultimately experience fear, anxiety, anger, helplessness, confusion and depression. And these are perfectly normal and natural responses. BUT, along with those feelings, I strongly encourage you not to forget the HOPE, JOY, FAITH, LOVE and HEALING that is also present in our lives all around us. We WILL get through this. And we WILL come together again. And what a truly joyous day that will be!

Tracy MacGeorge

We Care

I am swamped with summer course work. However, the antiquated way of communication in the written word in the form of cards, notes and letter writing is a great way to reach out and touch someone. Who doesn't love to find something personal, uplifting and encouraging in their mailbox amongst the junk mail? A little surprise of hope. Personally I would rather find a personal message in my mailbox than another thing waiting for me in email, which can become overwhelming in a heartbeat. Hope comes in many forms, shapes and sizes! Just send it!! The recipients will love the thoughtful and heartfelt intention.

Deacon Michelleslie

At last, I'm back at my iPad. We have had many dark days these past weeks; prayer — both alone and in virtual community — has helped us through, together with our collective faith.

New Jersey is slowly opening up, but the despair of many continues. The food banks are struggling, since many folks simply don't have enough to eat. That is IN ADDITION to their worries about rent/mortgage and other expenses, What can we do, I ask myself? I know that many of you have been actively helping where you can. Questions: Who out there is desperate? Who can we help? Who needs a meal? Or a call? Please reach out to me or to one of the CHS ministers and be assured of our discretion.

Susan Kane

Prayer Chain: New Protocols

At a recent meeting, the CHS vestry agreed that it was time to revise the process by which prayer requests are disseminated. While Barbara Burton's faithful ministry via email distribution has been much valued and appreciated over many years, our life experiences now offer simpler, more technologic ways of requesting intercessory prayer. Some folks may desire more anonymous ways to insure discretion. Once we can gather again, we will be adding a real cork board in the Narthex so that folks can thumbtack prayer requests as they choose; other members of the congregation can offer prayer as they are moved to do so.

Requests for prayer will be made on our CHS website. If someone contacts you verbally or by email/text, you are welcome to use the form, or you can direct them to the link.

Choose from two separate options:

For confidential requests, the petitioner is directed to the clergy. Contact information for me and the deacons is available on the link.

For all others, complete the form and it will automatically be distributed to those who have confirmed their ongoing commitment to offer intercessory prayer.

A weekly list of only the specific persons (or situations) for whom prayer is requested will be posted on the website. This list will not include the sponsors or any other details .

Thanks again to Barbara for her loving ministry and to Jan Paxton and John Rollins for their expertise installing the new forms on our website. Click on this link for access: <https://www.churchholyspirit.org/prayer-requests.html>

Philip+

Around the County (and CHS)

Patrick and Andra Taylor created a new Little Free Library which was installed in Hunts Mill Park, Clinton. Bring a book; take a book!. Thanks for this act of kindness!

Check out the websites below for wonderful activities to fill your summer days:

<https://www.cagnofitness.com/cf-online> — our own Kristina offers a number of online classes; start your week on the right note with her free stretch class (Monday afternoons at 4:30)

<http://co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm> — while a number of the programs hosted by our terrific parks department have been cancelled, there are some virtual tours available for both children and adults.

<https://hunterdonartmuseum.org/summer-camp/> — The teacher and staff at this Clinton treasure are working hard to offer as many virtual art camps for children as possible. Check them out! Art classes for adults are ongoing as well..

www.churchholyspirit.org — hearts to hearten. Quick and easy knit or crochet projects to be given to those who need a boost. Patterns are online.



Did you know that some of the women at Edna Mahan participate in the Puppies Behind Bars training program? Each resident assigned a dog is responsible for it 24/7. Sometimes those of us who volunteer at the prison are lucky enough to have puppies and their handlers visit in our classes.

Since the dogs need to be introduced to society, other volunteers take them out to visit the local community on a regular basis. Bob Kane is awaiting clearance to become one of those folks.



SUPERDOG COMES TO THE SUPERMARKET

Larry Dawkins has not only been a volunteer puppy-sitter for almost two decades, but for many years he's done the time-consuming and essential job of scheduling all the outings for puppies at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility in Clinton, N.J. He recently told P.B.B. how his work with the dogs has become even more meaningful—especially to the staff at his local supermarket, who've been on the front lines:

“I have been going to Shoprite for years, as one of the many places I go to socialize our P.B.B. puppies. Last year, one of the managers asked if I would be able to visit the employees in their break room to bring some smiles to their faces and help break up the day. So, I started visiting them once a month, sometimes with one or two other sitters. Needless to say, they thoroughly enjoyed it.

“Since the pandemic, I try to visit once a week, walking throughout the store to chat with the employees and break up their very busy day. The customers enjoy seeing the puppies also. The comments range from ‘You made my day’ to ‘Thank you for doing this. It means a lot to me and my coworkers.’

“It's just my small part in trying to be positive and helpful.”

Primary Election Vote by Mail and On-Line Census

[I received my primary election ballot on May 30th — probably early because I'd already signed up for automatic mail-in when the choice first became available last year. It's easy and a postage-paid envelope is included. More detailed information is below.

And on another note, if you plan to respond to the 2020 census and haven't yet done so, here's the link. The form takes only about five minutes and this page contains lots of good information, including an explanation of each question and the reason for it. — Ed.]

[https://2020census.gov/?cid=23767:us%20census%](https://2020census.gov/?cid=23767:us%20census%202020:sem.b:p:dm:en:&utm_source=sem.b&utm_medium=p&utm_campaign=dm:en&utm_content=23767&utm_term=us%20census%202020&msclkid=2b501813f27c1e99a2d846c57c4c78ad)

[202020:sem.b:p:dm:en:&utm_source=sem.b&utm_medium=p&utm_campaign=dm:en&utm_content=23767&utm_term=us%20census%202020&msclkid=2b501813f27c1e99a2d846c57c4c78ad](https://2020census.gov/?cid=23767:us%20census%202020:sem.b:p:dm:en:&utm_source=sem.b&utm_medium=p&utm_campaign=dm:en&utm_content=23767&utm_term=us%20census%202020&msclkid=2b501813f27c1e99a2d846c57c4c78ad)

NEW JERSEY'S ELECTIONS: COVID-19 RESPONSE



Understanding Governor Murphy's Executive Order #144 regarding the upcoming July 7th Primary. Visit LWVNJ.org to learn more!

AUTOMATIC VOTE-BY-MAIL

All active registered Republican and Democratic voters will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot. A pre-paid postage return envelope will be included. All unaffiliated voters and inactive Republican and Democratic voters will receive a postage-paid vote-by-mail application.

DEADLINES



Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before July 7 (Election Day) and must be received by the County Board of Elections by July 14.

DROP BOX LOCATIONS



To the extent possible, there will be at least 5 readily accessible secure ballot drop box locations per county.

NO SAMPLE BALLOTS



Voters will not receive sample ballots, but will receive notification of their polling locations.

POLLING PLACES

A minimum of 1 polling location per municipality will be available and each county will open a minimum of 50% of its polling places (provided that sufficient poll workers are available). CDC guidelines for polling place safety and sanitation will be followed. Voters cannot return voted vote-by-mail ballots to polling places.

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS



Voters who vote at polling places will vote using a provisional ballot. Voters with disabilities may vote on ADA-accessible voting machines.

Pulse of the Parish

Congratulations to all our graduates this spring! We're proud of you!

Thank you:

- To our Formation Group and all those who work with them. They bring such joy and promise to our worship. The weekly videos put together by the Marlow family help to keep us connected during this time of virtual church! The younger folks are our hope for the future.
- To all who are working so diligently during the pandemic

Rest Eternal:

- † Paul Peter Gnash , father of Chris Gnash
- † Joyce Landgraf, mother of George Landgraf
- † Robert Corr, uncle of Katie Gnash
- † All who have succumbed to Covid-19

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Red Wagon is currently in storage, but Katie Higgins reminds us that the Open Cupboard and Flemington Food Pantries are busier than ever. The Clinton pantry alone feeds over 400 area families. While our current quarantine makes it difficult to deliver food to the pantry and its hours have been curtailed, ShopRite and Costco gift cards are welcome, as are cash donations. The mailing address for cards and checks is Open Cupboard Food Pantry, PO Box 5071, Clinton, NJ 08809. Thank you!

HOLD THE DATES

ONGOING EVENTS

Mon—Fri 12:00 pm — Noonday Prayer

8:00 pm, Compline

Tuesdays 6:00 am, Bible Study

7: 00 pm, Theology on Tap

Third Thursday 7:00 pm, Vestry Meeting (exception Wednesday June 16)

To be Determined:

On a Sunday at 5:00 — Mass on the Grass (subject to the approval of the Diocese and the weather gods)

Make-up mini town halls with Fr. Phil.

With the exception of Mass on the Grass, all meetings are held by Facebook Live and /or Zoom. Links are posted on the CHS Website and Friday CHS News. (If you aren't receiving the latter by email, it's easy to sign up: www.churchholyspirit.org. And while you're there, take a little time to see what else is going on — Jan Paxton and John Rollins share a wealth of information about local events as well as church news.

Snapshots

CHS Yard Cleanup Day

The clean up day on May 17th was very successful. It felt like a mini-Good Friday Service Day. We did not have a large group of people turn out but as it happened, we seem to have gotten just enough to accomplish the essentials. The gardens along the driveway (3 of them) had leaves blown out; weeds pulled by many hands, including the area around the “river bed”—to the left of the main steps — and mulch spread to freshen the beds. In addition, weeds, vines and self-rooted trees in the Memorial Garden were cleared and the beds mulched. And I need to mention Fr. Phil’s wrestling match with the errant rose bush. Our hero, as always.

A few of us stayed after the work was done and had our lunch on the front steps while we chatted non-stop. The BEST part of day, besides seeing the property renewed, was the in-person visit we enjoyed. It was therapeutic to catch up on how everyone is faring and coping with the current situation. And the whole time, we practiced physical distancing and wore our masks.

I sincerely hope we can do this again as there is always outside work to be done and conversations to be had. Our thanks to Bruce Allen for his donation of 10 yards of mulch—it made all the difference!

Marge Keller



Marge Keller Photos

Church of the Holy Spirit — Who's Who

Vestry: Senior Warden	Tracy MacGeorge	973-865-9272	t_kunz55@hotmail.com
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The Rev. Dorothea N. Hospador, Deacon

The Rev. Michelleslie Maltese-Nehrbass, Deacon

www.churchholyspirit.org

Check out CHS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/churchholyspirit>

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[all phone numbers 908 area code unless otherwise listed]

Check the CHS calendar on the website, Sunday bulletin and the Friday email news for updated information: churchholyspirit.org And a reminder to make sure that you register on the website so that you don't miss the most timely news from CHS. Especially if you're new to our parish, make sure we know how to reach you! And don't