

**Holy Innocents’
Episcopal Church
Pearl & Marine Streets
Beach Haven, NJ 08008**



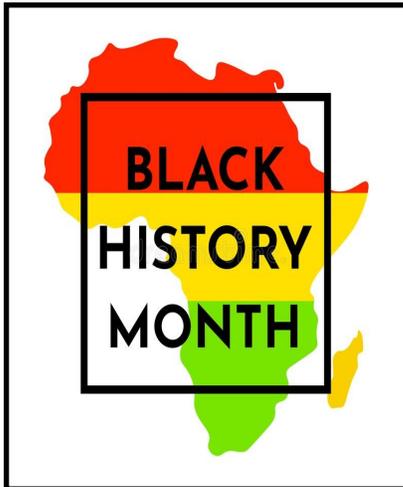
**A community of faith, sharing the love of the Holy Spirit,
seeking and serving Christ in his creation.**

**Church Email
hichurch08008@gmail.com
Website: www.hiecbh.com
Office: 609 492 7571
Parish Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9:00am - 2:00pm**

The Parson’s Place

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We are going to have a Lent and an Easter that are two weeks later than last year. So, enjoy the Epiphanaic themes of light and peace. One way I’ve been doing this (or trying when it’s not too windy!) is to walk my prayers more often. Part of my calling is to pray, daily, for you, for the world, for those who are hurt or are struggling, and for hope, faith, and love. I decided this year to expand upon how I already do this while walking and exploring. It gives me continued focus and my step count has been consistently strong and high - a nice benefit. I want to encourage you in your prayer life to consider the sanctity of all things, including you. Prayer takes the form of dialogue with the Holy Spirit and so one may simply “be” instead of conforming to the expected images of praying. Then, one can also practice spirituality in those familiar and comfortable ways as well. A number of you read daily devotionals and there are a ton from which to select. I have shared prayer resources in the E-pistle several times each year. We pray corporately in our Sunday services and daily offices. Some of you pray while cooking, a deliciously holy and peaceful option. Some pray while building/crafting things. Some pray while spending time with their pets and families.

Some pray while painting or reading poetry. Whatever your methods, try something new this season as we prepare for the Call to an Holy Lent and self-examination. You are more than welcomed to come to the church during the week and spend some quiet time in our beautiful nave or in our chapel. If you’d like to talk about your prayer life or are seeking something new, I am available to ponder with you. We will also be starting a new Prayer Ministry here at Holy Innocents’. It will be a monthly in-person meeting in the church and led by laity. It will take our Prayer List and pray some general and specific prayers over all people, over the folks on our list, and for each other and whatever comes to mind. I would like to begin with this group in Lent (which begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022.) I think that prayer is often very effective when it includes more silence in between prayers. I believe the total time that this monthly meeting will take is approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on how the group would like to run it. Please prayerfully consider this new ministry and let me know if you’d like to be a part of it. And now, one of my favorite winter poems by Mary Oliver.

Continued on next page

Parson's Place Continued

On Winter's Margin by Mary Oliver

On winter's margin, see the small birds now
With half-forged memories come flocking home
To gardens famous for their charity.
The green globe's broken; vines like tangled veins
Hang at the entrance to the silent wood.

With half a loaf, I am the prince of crumbs;
By snow's down, the birds amassed will sing
Like children for their sire to walk abroad!
But what I love, is the gray stubborn hawk
Who floats alone beyond the frozen vines;
And what I dream of are the patient deer
Who stand on legs like reeds and drink that wind; -

They are what saves the world: who choose to grow
Thin to a starting point beyond this squalor.

Caroline+

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newly-elected Members of the Vestry, Junior Warden, Deputies and Alternates to Diocesan Convention, and Delegates to the Atlantic Convocation at our annual meeting.

Wardens:

Richard Vaughan - 2022 Senior Warden

Leila González Sullivan - 2022 Junior Warden

Vestry:

Vince Contreras

Matt Starr

Diane Carter

NJ Diocesan Convention

Delegate

Kay DeCicco

Leila González Sullivan

Robert Meyer

Alternate

Melissa Wall

Mary Jane Mannherz

Atlantic Convocation Representatives

Melissa Wall

TBD

Clerk of the Vestry ~ Judy Contreras

From Our Minister of Music

It is soon time to welcome back our choir!

ALL ARE WELCOME to sing in our choir. We are always looking for new members.

Please consider joining us:

You don't have to read music or have a wonderful voice.

You only need to have a voice you love to raise in song!

Please contact me if you are interested in joining

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, February 16th at 7PM

Choir returns for Sunday worship on February 20th

Save the Date for Spring Concerts!

Saturday, May 14th 4pm - Nocturnes Big Band

Sunday, June 5th 4pm - Capital Singers of Trenton

Ellen Dondero

Minister of Music



DIOCESAN CONVENTION - Our 2022 Diocesan Convention will be **Saturday, March 5th** and will again be online. Those who are our delegates will be attending via Zoom and the rest of the diocese will be watching via YouTube.

Olympic Volunteer Experience



SKIING ~ The Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing is nearly upon us. Gail and I were fortunate to be volunteers for the 2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City 20 years ago. It was a wonderful and exhausting experience for us both, although we were assigned to two different sites. Gail was on the Men's Downhill race course (on skis) and I was at the Olympic Village. Preparation for the Olympics began over eight years before and involved making a bid to the International Olympic Committee. It was successful and

then more planning and building began in earnest. For us, it meant training as part of the Olympic Volunteer Team which took place over 18 months prior to the Olympic events. During the winter of 2000-01 there were world competitive events held at all the venues. Gail and I were able to witness ski aerials, speed skating, ice skating and skeleton sled racing. When our volunteer events began in January of 2002 our schedules were quite different. Gail started at 4:30 in the morning meeting her team of ten driving to Snowbasin Ski area to prepare to ascend the mountain (they were 10,000 feet up) of the downhill race. In temperatures of zero and below, Gail's team was responsible for keeping their portion of the race clean and clear of snow. After the racers were done her team returned home and then started the process all over again. This went on for 10 days. In the meantime, I was at the Olympic Village (where most of athletes lived) from 10 am to 7 pm and sometimes later. As you can see by this schedule our paths did not cross too often. We started to leave notes for each other as we didn't want to wake the other up! My job was to check volunteers into the Village, check their credentials and make certain they were scheduled correctly. The individuals I checked in were medical staff and commercial contractors (including landscapers, photographers, food personnel among others). Admittedly, I was inside in a warm building while Gail was outdoors (with a #12 shovel)...something she reminds me of from time to time! My volunteer schedule was much longer but I did have days off. The public did not see all of the activities that went on at the Village. For example, as each team of athletes arrived at the Village, they were greeted by local elementary school children who had been studying about their adopted country. They even corresponded with the athletes. At the incoming ceremonies each countries flags were raised, their national songs sung and special gifts were given to each athlete. The Village provided the Olympians with food, training and medical services. The Olympic events took place over 17 days and was an unforgettable experience for us both. As you watch the events of the 2022 Olympics, it is helpful to remember how 20,000 volunteers help to keep the events running smoothly.



Happy February TV watching! ~ Tom & Gail Jacobsen

Parish Prayer List February

If you need to add or delete a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator

Beth C.
Charles Bishop
Carol
Lynn Cowper
Dennis
Faye
Ryan Jastrzembski
Carol Jordan
Karen Grossman
Cyndi Lamon
Diane Lee
Lucas
Sharon Osborn
Marie R.
Ron
Simone
Robert Thomas
Ann White

Bonnie Benoit
Jackson Brackett
Joan Connolly
Mary Ann Crewdson
Carol Dobbins
Gary
Jeannine
Anne Joyce
Mary Keough
Dave Lamon
Arlene LeConey
Virginia Nicholas
TJ Patton
Debbie & Joe Reising
Rick Rosenbaum
Lara Sparks Deitz
Colin Walker
Betty & Family

Beverlee
Marie Bregler
Judy Contreras
Marie Elena D.
Meg Dougher
Jan
Joan, Susan & Bob
Karen & DJ
Kitty
Alan Lee
Cecily Lovas
Brian O'Sullivan
Lucien Picard
Kathy Rice
Shirley
Bill Todd
Bill Ulmer

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White



COFFEE HOUR! Our weekly Coffee Hours will be starting back up again.

There is a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board for those of you who wish to take a turn to provide refreshments.

You may call me at 1 (814) 598-4973 if you have any questions.

Thanks so much! ~ Ellen Kehr

Stewardship

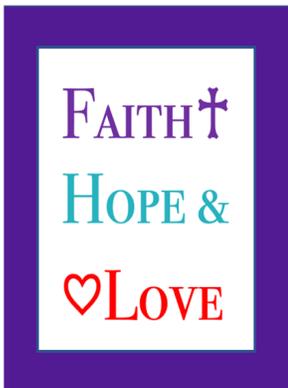
Pledge Update!

It's worth repeating the good news that was outlined in our Annual Report. In another year that was still unlike most, our congregation was very generous in continuing to support the parish. We have 63 pledging families to date. Of these, we have 4 new pledging families and a handful of families that have returned to pledging this year. Our total pledge is \$185,681. This is an increase of 19.64% from last year (2021 total pledge was \$155,203).

We can't say it enough-- thank you for each and every pledge!! Your support directly impacts our mission and ministries: our worship, outreach, education, music, congregational care, and the many programs which build our spiritual community.

To a new year filled with hope and prosperity of spirit and soul for everyone,

The Stewardship Committee



Dishing With The Deacon

Swirling around in my head are a load of questions about the meaning of the last 18-24 months. Do I really want to rehash all of this again? Are you tired of it? I am. No, I don't want to play ostrich, either. There are still a lot of unanswered questions and I like answers, especially ones that make sense.

Maybe the point of the past 24 months is for us to learn to trust the Lord more and ourselves less. I believe God expects us to trust our cognition and to live with what we can't understand, too. The foundation of our theology is Scripture, theology, and reason. If you don't know what that means: ask Mother Caroline or me.

Our lectionary readings, especially lately; readings in Morning Prayer, especially the ones from the Psalms and the Psalms read on Saturday nights lately all seem to have a strong message about trusting God and his plan for us. Yes, we have free will, but seeking God's will is a good path to take in times like these. God can see around corners but we cannot.

Here are some of the verses from the Psalms that I have encountered especially in the past few months. Let's turn our thoughts away from thoughts of pestilence that stalks the earth to a Savior who seeks us out in love.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
Surely, he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you."

God has promised us that we belong to him and he will protect us. AMEN So be it.

Love from your Deacon, Judy

Mark Your Calendars!

Pancake Supper ~ Our Annual Pancake Supper to be held on Shrove Tuesday/*Mardi gras* (March 1st).
TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

Lenten Program & Suppers ~ The first Sunday in Lent is March 6th. Our Lenten Program will start on Thursday March 10th with Holy Eucharist at 5:00 pm followed by Dinner and Lenten Program at 5:30 pm. This will continue through Thursday, April 7th. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

United Thank Offering (UTO) ~ During Lent, we will distribute UTO Blue Boxes so that any spare change may be collected and given to the UTO for the Diocesan Annual Ingathering in May. Ruth McLaughlin is our UTO Parish Coordinator.

Environmental Education and Advocacy Committee

Plastic Pollution Affects Sea Life Throughout the Ocean

Portions shared from articles produced by Simon Reddy, Director

International Environment at the *Pew Charitable Trusts*, and Abe Musselman an editorial fellow at *Sierra*

Your plastic water bottle will likely spend its golden years floating around the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, but its life began thousands of feet underground. How it got from there to you—and why it was made in the first place—has big implications for global climate goals. To make that plastic bottle, raw natural gas had to be pumped from beneath shale rock deposits. After it was refined to make ethane, it was piped to a facility called an ethane cracker, where steam heated the gas to about 850°C and broke apart its chemical bonds, turning ethane into ethylene. A final step braided together long chains of ethylene and chopped it into small plastic pellets called “nurdles,” which were shipped around the world to make products like grocery bags, bubble wrap, and action figures.

Our ocean and the array of species that call it home are succumbing to the poison of plastic. Examples abound, from the gray whale that died after stranding near Seattle in 2010 with more than 20 plastic bags, a golf ball, and other rubbish in its stomach to the harbor seal pup found dead on the Scottish island of Skye, its intestines fouled by a small piece of plastic wrapper.

According to the United Nations, at least 800 species worldwide are affected by marine debris, and as much as 80 percent of that litter is plastic. It is estimated that up to 13 million metric tons of plastic ends up in the ocean each year—the equivalent of a rubbish or garbage truck load’s worth every minute. Fish, seabirds, sea turtles, and marine mammals can become entangled in or ingest plastic debris, causing suffocation, starvation, and drowning. Humans are not immune to this threat: While plastics are estimated to take up to hundreds of years to fully decompose, some of them break down much quicker into tiny particles, which in turn end up in the seafood we eat.

Research indicates that half of sea turtles worldwide have ingested plastic. Some starve after doing so, mistakenly believing they have eaten enough because their stomachs are full. On many beaches, plastic pollution is so pervasive that it’s affecting turtles’ reproduction rates by altering the temperatures of the sand where incubation occurs.

A recent study found that sea turtles that ingest just 14 pieces of plastic have an increased risk of death. The young are especially at risk because they are not as selective as their elders about what they eat and tend to drift with currents, just as plastic does.

Plastic waste kills up to a million seabirds a year. As with sea turtles, when seabirds ingest plastic, it takes up room in their stomachs, sometimes causing starvation. Many seabirds are found dead with their stomachs full of this waste. Scientists estimate that 60 percent of all seabird species have eaten pieces of plastic, a figure they predict will rise to 99 percent by 2050.

While dolphins are highly intelligent and thus unlikely to eat plastic, they are susceptible to contamination through prey that have ingested synthetic compounds.

Plastic in our oceans affects creatures large and small. From seabirds, whales, and dolphins, to tiny seahorses that live in coral reefs, and schools of fish that reside on those same reefs and nearby mangroves.

Plastic waste can encourage the growth of pathogens in the ocean. According to a recent study scientists concluded that corals that come into contact with plastic have an 89 percent chance of contracting disease, compared with a 4 percent likelihood for corals that do not.

Unless action is taken soon to address this urgent problem, scientists predict that the weight of ocean plastics will exceed the combined weight of all of the fish in the seas by 2050.



February Birthdays

Maria Mack	02	Edward Miller	21
Kimberly Sparks	02	Matt Starr	21
Philip Boulden	05	Gabriella Vaughan	21
Jean Nelson	06	Connie Anderson	26
Ellen Dondero	08	John Dondero	26
Joan Melega	10	Sherry Johnson	26
Anita Miller	11	Leila Sullivan	27
Noah Dondero	12	Jo-Anne Andrade	28
David Hunter	13	Barry Baxter	29
Joe Johnson	17		



February Anniversaries

Francis W. and Janine C. Kleber 09 Robert and Ellen Meyer 26

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The following parishioners have graciously volunteered to assist with our worship and/or have donated either candles or flowers for the altar for the month of **February**.

FEBRUARY ALTAR DONATIONS

6th -
 13th -
 20th -
 27th - Patricia August & Hank Henninger

FEBRUARY FLOWER GUILD

6th - Carol Hammond
 13th - Kim Sparks
 20th - Angela Hala
 27th - Donna Evleth

FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

6th - Jackie Sparks, Chris Burlaga
 13th - Jackie Sparks, Jeanne Cashel
 20th - Carol Hammond, Diane Entrikin
 27th - Melissa Wall, Carol Hammond

FEBRUARY USHERS & GREETERS

6th - Kay DeCicco, Mike DiCicco
 13th - Bob Weidmann, Mike Fahner
 20th - Bill Cowper, Sue Hughes
 27th - Dave White, Leila Sullivan



If you are interested in reading a children's book for Kid's Korner, please contact Leila Sullivan at lygs27@gmail.com

If you are able to volunteer as an usher at anytime during the upcoming months please contact Rob Meyer at 609 618-3914 or rmeyer1394@aol.com



In the Spotlight

Parishioner Spotlight is a regular feature in The Post. The purpose is to provide insights into the background and personalities of our fabulous parishioners! We hope you enjoy getting to know the people of Holy Innocents'!

Erma has been a member of Holy Innocents' since her baptism in 1934, probably making her the member with the longest membership who has been active throughout. When she joined, Holy Innocents' was at what is now the Museum. There was a winter church there also, next to St. Rita's.

Erma attended Sunday School at Holy Innocents' and sang in the Choir for many years. She was recording secretary for ECW.

Erma's husband was Catholic, so she was married at St. Thomas Church on 4th and Beach. She signed a blue paper that said the children would be raised as Catholics and would attend CCD, but she never left the Episcopal church.

Erma remembers special events that were part of Holy Innocents', particularly the Canterbury Fair. She made food for this, and they would have games for children. Erma's mother, Mary Pitts Sprague, went to Holy Innocents', and her sister Esther (Ruoff) went to the same church.

Erma was born in a house near the Surflight Theatre and raised in Beach Haven. She attended Beach Haven Grade School and Barnegat High School. She worked at Sperry Gyroscope Co. on Long Island. She had gone to Long Island because her sister, Esther, was living there.

Erma met her husband, Thomas Spiotta, through a blind date. Carl, a friend of Thomas, had set the date up. Her husband was from East Orange and was a truck driver. Erma was 20 when they married.

Erma's husband was from East Orange, and they lived there. The Spiotta family had a house in Holgate and also owned a trailer park (which they still own). Her daughters, Debbie and Beth, lived with the family in East Orange. The family moved to LBI in 1960. Erma worked on LBI at Ship Ahoy. Erma's husband died in 1982, when he was 50.

She remarried 19 years ago, in 2002. She married Robert Green, who owned a dairy farm. They traveled a lot, including overseas trips to Ireland, Italy, New Zealand. They also took many road trips in the U.S. Robert Green died in 2012.

Erma was President of the PTA, on the Board of Education, and was a 4-H Club leader.

She worked for the Prosecutor's Office in Toms River, where she was secretary to the Major Crime Unit. She did this for 10 years and then retired so she could travel with her husband.

Erma is 87. Her brother, Ron Sprague, lives in AZ. She has three sons, two daughters, ten grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Erma was an avid knitter and seamstress. She upholstered chairs and refinished furniture. [One of the pictures is of a chair that Erma upholstered.]



Parishioner Spotlight Continued...

Favorite things about Beach Haven: Going to the beach.

About Holy Innocents’: Camaraderie, Rummage sales, Canterbury Fair, Pancake Supper, card games, game night – with a covered dish dinner, Saints & Sinners

Food and Drink: Fuzzy navel, Chinese food

Season – Fall **Color** – Orange **Music** – Frank Sinatra **Hymn** – “How Great Thou Art”

Verse of Scripture: “The Lord is My Shepherd” (from Psalm 23)

Something we might not know about her: She is an Eagles Fan and she has always done her own nails.

February Parishioner Spotlight ~ Erma Green

Souper Bowl!



February 13th is the SOUPER BOWL date this year.

We hope to see lots of choices of soups, breads, and cookies to serve during coffee hour that day.

As is our custom, we will have two soup kettles representing the two football teams that are playing in the NFL game later that day. Put your donation in the kettle of your chosen team.

It's been shown in the past that the most \$'s collected in a team's kettle will be the winning team that evening!

All donations collected during SOUPER BOWL coffee hour will be sent to OPERATION SMILE.



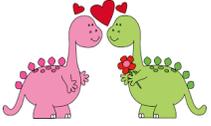
The story of **Black History** Month begins in 1915, half a century after the **Thirteenth Amendment** abolished in the United States.

That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2022 theme, "**Black Health and Wellness**," explores "the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well."

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6pm EP (FB)	2	3 9pm Compline	4 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 7pm Kids Korner (FB)	5 7pm Praying the Psalms (FB)
6 <i>The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 930am Rite II	7 9am MP (FB)	8 6pm EP (FB)	9	10 2pm Book Study (Church) 7pm Vestry Mtg 9pm Compline	11 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 7pm Kids Korner (FB)	12 Diocesan Discipleship Conference (online) 7pm Praying the Psalms (FB)
13 <i>The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 930am Rite II SOUPER BOWL	14 9am MP (FB) 	15 6pm EP (FB)	16 7-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Resumes!	17 9pm Compline	18 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 7pm Kids Korner (FB)	19
20 <i>The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 930am Rite II	21 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 9am MP (FB) 	22 6pm EP (FB)	23 7-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 9pm Compline	25 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 7pm Kids Korner (FB)	26
27 <i>The Last Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 930am Rite II 2pm Book Study after Coffee Hour	28 9am MP (FB)	MARCH 1 5pm-7pm Mardi Gras Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 	2 12 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	3 9pm Compline	4 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	5 7pm Praying the Psalms (FB)



**Holy Innocents' Episcopal
Church**

**Pearl and Marine Streets
Beach Haven, New Jersey 08008
609-492-7571**

**Sunday Morning ~ 9:30 a.m.
Rite II Worship Service with music
609-492-7571**