



Ash Wednesday Observance

March 6, Carmel Hall and Chapel

Dinner of homemade soup and rolls, 6:30 PM

Bring your own soup bowl, salad plate and utensils.

Also dish: Alphabet A-H, cupcakes; I-Z Salad

Worship, Chapel 7:30 PM

Imposition of Ashes and Lord's Supper



"Ashes to Go"

By Pastor Ashley

7:00 AM—9:00 AM

March 6

Glenside Train Platform

Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent

Following our dinner on March 6th, we will make our way to the chapel for our Ash Wednesday service of worship. Ash Wednesday is a day of solemn assembly that is built right into the church year. It is a day of fasting, a time for mourning our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a time when we recognize our mortality--save for the grace of God, and a time when we request that the Lord remember our birth and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time in the church calendar where we are called to undergo a discipline that helps us become better disciples. The worship includes the imposition of ashes, which is the marking of an ashen cross on our foreheads with the pastor's thumb dipped in a little olive oil mixed with the ashes of a previous year's Palm Sunday branches. The mark of the cross upon the forehead is God's mark of grace upon us that we might not die even though we are obvious sinners. Indeed, the sign of the cross, spiritually branded upon us at our baptism, marks us as God's own beloved, sealing us against the deadly power of the forces of evil. Through the grace of Christ, we are destined ultimately for life, not death.

Though the words during the imposition of ashes remind us of our mortality ("Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return"), they are uttered simultaneously with the sign of the cross to remind us of our baptism into Christ's death and our eternal life in him. So, these ashes are not to just remind us that we're going to die (which is not necessarily a bad thing in our death-denying society), but they also call us to a sober examination of our lives, so that we might live more fully in the abundant life of Christ.

Dr. James W. Thornton

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A Sunday morning Lenten class with Dr. James Thornton



Church & State:

A Conversation

Sundays, March 10 to April 14, 9 a.m.
in the Fellowship Lounge



"The purpose of our time together is to listen and understand the positions of others with dignity and tolerance."

See page 2 for included topics

Church and State Class Topics



People from all sides of the spectrum on any of the issues are welcome – in fact, they're strongly urged to attend. Questions will be encouraged in order to understand where the person of a different perspective is coming from, but not to debate or belittle. If you don't believe you are capable of such restraint, please don't come. But it will be fascinating to hear and learn, if we're really willing to listen.

Topics will include, but not be limited to:

- The purpose of government
- The separation of church and state
- The Christian view of, and responsibility to, a secular government
- The first amendment
- The second amendment
- Individual freedoms versus communal responsibilities
- How ethical do we expect our government to be and why
- How do we decide what's right when church and state collide over ethical issues such as – abortion, homosexuality, welfare, etc.
- When is resistance to the government appropriate and what does that look like
- What constitutes justice in society

Dr. James W. Thornton



Refuge Collects Socks for the Homeless

Refuge kids are sponsoring a sock collection for those experiencing homelessness in the Philadelphia area. As you may know, socks are one of the items shelters request the most. Men's or women's white crew socks are what is needed.

We will be setting up collection bins in Carmel Hall and the lobby, accepting donations through the end of March. All *new* donations will be taken to Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia. Thanks for supporting this ministry outreach by our kids!

refuge



Thank You!

Thank you all for supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our Refuge youth collected \$234.75 on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3, to aid Broad Street Ministry of Philadelphia in their efforts to provide meals for the homeless and low income.

Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, March 10
Set your clocks ahead!



Sing for Easter Services

You are invited to join with our Sanctuary Choir for a special Festival Choir for Carmel's Good Friday and Easter services. If you can't make that weekly Thursday night commitment all year, but would like to sing in a choir, this is your chance. Anyone who can match pitch and can smile is welcome.

Rehearsals for Easter begin on Thursday, March 21, at 8:00 PM in the Choir Room. They will run for five weeks: Thursdays, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11 and Wednesday, April 17 at 8:00 PM. We will be singing for the Good Friday service on April 19 at 7:30 PM and the 10:00 AM Easter service on April 21.

Please contact Abby Palmisano, or just come to as many of the rehearsal dates as you can make. If you have any questions call 215-887-1074, #3. *Abby Palmisano,*
Director of Music

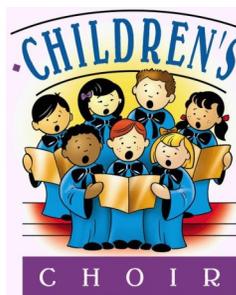


EASTER CHOIR

Carmel Children to Sing in Choir Festival

The Greater Philadelphia Choristers Guild is hosting a Children's Choir Festival on Saturday, March 9, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, PA. Ten Carmel children in grades 2-8 will be participating in this special event. The rehearsal starts at 1:00 PM with a closing Festival program at 4:00 PM. All are welcome to attend the closing Festival program.

Brian Hehn, the director for The Center for Congregational Song, will be guest conductor. Mr.



Hehn will lead the children through songs that teach about God the Creator, God the Redeemer and God the Sustainer. Through Scripture, songs, rhythm, movement, sound and motion, the children will learn songs and chants to explore the Trinity. At the end of the afternoon, they will present a festival performance. *Abby Palmisano,*

From the Session . . .

The following items were among the reports and business conducted during the Regular Meeting of the Session in February:



Session Notes

Approval of Christian Education requests to include Carmel Nursery School Ice Cream Social on April 7; curriculum for this year's VBS – ROAR; presentation of Bibles to third graders on April 7 and a Spring "Lunch and Learn" led by Reverend Rossi on May 19.

Special Collections for 2019 approved by Session include One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent; Peace and Global Mission in September and Joy Offering during Advent.

Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session

Carmel Nursery School News

Welcome special person



On Thursday, March 21st, each student will invite a special person in their life to come celebrate together at Carmel Nursery School for Special Persons Night! They get to show this person (who may not normally be available) their classroom, their teachers, their friends and maybe get a little look at what a day is like in Nursery School!

The nursery school families will also be taking this time to help replenish the local food cupboard by having a food drive. We were informed that at Thanksgiving and Christmas they are overflowing with contributions but at other times of the year there are fewer donations. Jan Heckman will meet with each class and discuss "hunger and helping" and accept their generous donations. We are hoping we can help some families in our area! —Leslie Rupp, Director

ROAM: Retirees On a Mission

March 6 at 12:30, Fellowship Lounge

Lunch (Bring a covered dish to share), followed by Licensed Dealer Bill Randel's program,



Interesting Facts on Coin Collecting

Save the date: April 3

Garden expert Ed MacFarland will teach about herbs.



From the Deacons ...

Peace, love, and blessings from the Board of Deacons! Our reorganization is now in full effect with you, the Carmel community, at the center of our attention. We've introduced our new board members to the missions that we will continue to oversee while being called by Christ, such as general church duties, member care, and mission outreach.

So, what can we do for you? Plenty! Including visitation, transportation, providing meals in a moment, prayer and more. "Once-a-Deacon, Always-a-Deacon" Karen Bogle and Pastor Ashley completed their Gwynedd Estates Blitz on Monday, February 11, where they spent time spreading God's love to our shut-in members. If you'd like a visit from us--or need church transportation, meals in a moment, and/or a prayer--please reach out to Pastor Ashley, pastorash80@gmail.com or call the church office at (215) 887-1074 to be connected with a Deacon that is here for you.



Save the Date!

Nursery School Art Show and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, April 7, 11:00-12:30

Carmel Hall

Enjoy children's art, ice cream, socializing

Raffle baskets available



One Great Hour of Sharing: You Can Help Others

Isaiah calls us to become repairers of the breach. One Great Hour of Sharing gives us the opportunity to contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People throughout Lent. Look for more information in the bulletins and envelopes in the pews beginning in March. The offering will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. —Anne Newman, Stewardship Chair



Kudos to **Kim Williams**, Carmel's graphic designer, for her design of the new *Carmel Courier* logo on page 1. Thank you, Kim!

What can we do together? Right now we are in need of donations to the Carmel Food Cupboard found in the church lobby. Donations are collected weekly and delivered to the Inter-Faith Food Cupboard located on Easton Road in Roslyn, PA. "The Food Cupboard provides a variety of foods to low-income residents of Montgomery County to reduce food insecurity and improve nutrition."

Next time you're picking up groceries, consider grabbing a few extra canned goods and non-perishable items such as pancake mix, syrup, pasta sauce, or peanut butter and jelly and drop them off at Carmel at any time.



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." —Galatians 6:9 —Taylor Tolton

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

This month's editor: Janet Simon
Next Courier deadline: March 10



Meet Carmel's Newest Members of the Staff

Ed Reilly, Custodian

Ed Reilly has been working as Carmel's custodian since mid-January of 2019. Ed grew up in Roslyn and attended local schools at St. John of the Cross, Abington Junior High and Abington Senior High. He graduated in 2006. His family includes his parents and a sister.

Watching sports is a major interest for Ed, and he is a passionate Philadelphia Flyers fan. He also plays outdoor ice hockey when the weather permits. In warmer weather, he enjoys the beach and the shore, as evidenced by the Ocean City, NJ sweatshirt he was working in.

Please say hello to Ed and welcome him when you see him performing his duties at Carmel.

Flowers for Worship

Do you notice that every Sunday there are beautiful flowers in the front of the sanctuary? In addition to Easter and Christmas memorial flowers, Carmel parishioners can dedicate a floral arrangement for loved ones anytime during the year. Your memorial will be included in the bulletin on the Sunday you choose. And after the worship service, your flowers will be separated into smaller arrangements and delivered by the Shepherds to congregants who are ill, celebrating special events or just in need of cheering up.



If you are interested in a flower memorial, please call Nancy Rose at 215-880-7897. Your \$30 contribution helps defray the cost that Carmel Church pays for these weekly flowers. Here are dates open for 2019:

March 4, 11, 25, 31	August 4, 25
April 14	September 1, 29
May 12	October 13, 20
June 2, 9, 23, 30	December 1, 19, 29
July 7	



Former member **Lida Coulter** passed away on January 31. Lida was a long-time, very active Carmel Presbyterian member, officer, Women's Circle participant and sewing volunteer until she moved to a Doylestown retirement community. Please remember her son Rich, daughter Sue Tschepik and five grandchildren.

Thank You!

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia you gave Anne at Christmastime. It is still doing well even if she forgets to water it. Thank you for the floral assortment you gave Walt as he progresses through his medical journey. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

Anne and Walt Newman

Sarah Renio, Communications Specialist

My name is Sarah Renio and I've recently joined the Carmel Church staff as the Communication Specialist. The importance of effective communication to reach the many demographics of members and within the community cannot be stressed enough. As I begin, a few of my goals in this role are to create a strategy to effectively communicate through the website, social media and new channels that will inform and motivate members; build and maintain relationships internally and externally; make Carmel more accessible to present and future members. I am committed and will dedicate my time and skills to become an integral part of Carmel.



I have worked at Teleos Leadership since 2011. I am a project manager and also coordinate marketing, branding and social media. I have a deep history in the company and take pride in managing various projects by supporting and maintaining positive client relationships, creating materials, and faculty management. I have worked with clients ranging from Fortune 500s to government to local not-for-profit. I always strive to strengthen my skills in project management, marketing, social media, and graphic design.

Prior to working at Teleos Leadership Institute, I worked as a production assistant of live events and television in New York City for Red Eye Flight Production. I helped in the production of pre-game and halftime concerts for the NFL, celebrity events in NYC/Miami/Las Vegas, primetime specials for Elvis and Beyonce on ABC Network and much more. Though I'll always love the work I've done in the entertainment industry, my passion to create and entertain has taken on a new form of life in communications and leadership development.



My education background is a B.A. in Psychology from Temple University. I was also selected as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success by the Temple Chapter for my academic accomplishment and leadership potential.

Editor's note: Sarah grew up in Elkins Park and graduated from Cheltenham High School in 2002. She and her partner live in Wyndmoor with their 8-year-old son Benjamin. She enjoys traveling the world, recreational sports—especially softball, and bike riding.

Just a note of thanks for the thinking of you letter and all the signatures. It really made my day. I miss coming to Carmel but have found a church that has welcomed me. Gwynedd Square has been a second home to me. When the weather breaks, I might surprise you and come down. Thank all of you again.

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Frick

Carmel Friends,

Just a little note to thank you for the lovely flowers Karen brought by on Sunday. I also want to thank everyone for the letter I received on Tuesday, which everyone signed. Thanks again.

Love,
Gwen Posante