



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Peter N. Campbell, Priest-in-Charge

January 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Collect for Guidance (BCP, p.832, #57) has long been a favorite of mine. I say it to open Vestry meetings and on other occasions (Annual Meeting, for one). It is parsed below via the Barbee/Zahl format.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help is a combination of Address (O Lord), Acknowledgment (thy most gracious favor ... thy continual help) and Petition (Direct ... further) intermingled and rolled into the opening phrase.

We are addressing God (O, Lord), not the latest and greatest guru. We are addressing our creator and the source of everything, not some middleman or crewman.

We are acknowledging Gods power to help us (gracious favor) and his ability to make it stick (continual help). Graciousness is one of the attributes of the divine. Sticking power is a reminder to us that we are always in God's hands and will continue to need God's help.

We are petitioning (Direct us ... in all our doings) for God's direction in everything, admitting God's infinite power and our own serious limitations, no matter our expertise.

that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life the Aspiration provides a higher purpose for the Petition: i.e., we're not just asking this for kicks.

The first thing to notice is that 'works' is plural to agree with 'doings' earlier. The second thing to notice is the time continuum is covered, beginning to end, by God's presence (in thee): i.e., all of what we do, whatever it is, includes the presence of God, which can be comforting and maybe scary at the same time.

The 'higher purposes' for the petition are to glorify God's name (which all of our actions should strive to do) and to obtain everlasting life, which is what the Christian life's journey is intended to obtain.

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen We were instructed by Jesus to pray in his name: i.e., through him. He is our connection with and to God the Father. Missing the rest of the standard Trinitarian closing (adding God the Father and God the Holy Spirit) which is common in many of our prayers, it nonetheless meets the standard.

Peace be with you,
Pete+

AROUND AND ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH

ReVive Christmas Baskets Program...Pat Millett and Nancy DiCiocco, Coordinators

It was another very generous 2025 Revive Christmas Basket Program this year! Many thanks to Christ Church Sponsors: Father Pete, Nancy and Dom DiCiocco, Kristin and Seth Flanders, Buzz Hunter, Karen McCarthy, Pat Millett, Julie Nizick and Maureen Puleo for their generosity and caring hearts. Our eight seniors will indeed have a very Merry Christmas!

We also want to thank our church family that donated \$25 Jewel Gift Cards. There was a total of 42 gift cards received this year, an all time high! Thank you again for opening your hearts to the 2025 Revive Program.

Many thanks to Pat and Nancy for their dedication and organization of all the tasks. Could not have done it without you! (ed.)

RED STOCKING PARTY...Pat Brundage

Sunday, December 7th - The occasion of another successful Red Stocking Party!

In spite of 8 inches of snow accumulation, our party was well attended. The main course was ham as usual, with a beautiful assortment of side dishes - including Episcopickles, and of course the usual yummy desserts. We all enjoyed the feast, sang Christmas carols, some familiar and some unknown, and of course applauded the Red Stocking donations which have now reached \$510.00. The money will go to the OPRF Food Pantry (Beyond Hunger). Thank you all for your generous contributions. It was a jolly day and enjoyed by all.

Kudos to Pat for getting the ham and all the helpers from set-up to clean-up for making this another of our successful and fun celebration at Christ Church. (ed.)

EPISCOPICKLES - 2025

Pickles are here and are ready to take home. You may pick them up during the week between 1 and 4 p.m. Please call the church office at 708-366-7730 to make arrangements with Julie. They are \$7 per jar, payable when you get them. They make great hostess gifts!

People to remember in our prayers

Andrew, Joy, John, The Reverend Bob Wyatt, Tony, Alayna, Bob, Emily Gracia, Terry Kearns, Cindy Pierpaoli, Marc & Sylvette, Diane, Christina & Dean, Barb, Merik, Kasia, LaMonte, Jen Santos, Faith, Ceil, Kent, Lois, Justine, George, Amanda, Sharon, Maureen Puleo, The Rev. Mary Frances, Nicholas, Nancy Stisser, Doreen, David, Courtney, Buff Martin, Judy, Scotty, Jordan, John, Hilde, Dom, Nick, Dan, The Aronson family, Sonya, Jolie, Kathleen Flanders, Blake, Frank Cassello, Patrick & Veronica, Buzz, Jack, Mike Murphy, David & Mona Avalos, Evelyn Housenga, Jean Ottens, Steve, Martha, Barb Julie, Jason Brown, Ron, Paul Moravec, Eliza Ann, Rocky Pate, William Keating, Kim, Terry Ziemke, Ada, Kathy, Deborah, Josefina, Abel, Jamie, Darcy, Joe, Adrienne, and those in our armed forces: Andrew Tapley, Reese Jones, Joseph Sowka, Alicia Johnson, Colton Stockholm, Hank Hamilton, Zach Zobel.

BEYOND HUNGER

Please keep bringing non-perishable food items, regular size toiletries and cleaning products. **Note:** check all items for “sell by/expiration date”, the item must be factory sealed and not open, and any brands with identities based on racial stereotypes will not be accepted. Please bring them on Sundays and place in the basket in the Narthex.

The Annual meeting of the Parish, Sunday, January 25th

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be after the 10 a.m. Eucharist. The Vestry will host with a light lunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend. No 7:30 a.m. Eucharist.

The **2026 EPISCOPAL Churchman’s Ordo Kalendars** are for sale for \$5. They are available on the table in the Narthex. Call the church office if you would like to have one sent to you.

The **Altar Flower chart for 2026** is posted on the bulletin board. The cost for flowers is \$40 per Sunday. Please make your check payable to *Christ Church* following your Sunday and mark “*Altar flowers.*”

Please remember to turn in your Pledge Card for 2026

If you haven’t already, please show your commitment to Christ Church by filling out a pledge card. The amount pledged does help in our budgeting process, but more importantly, the pledge card shows that you support our church. If you’ve already pledged, thank you, and God bless you! Extra cards are on the table in the Narthex.

The Donors for Christmas Flowers are:

Patricia Brundage

Fr. Pete

Nancy & Dom DiCiocco

Kristin & Seth Flanders

Buzz Hunter

Cyn Koukos

The Lietz Family

Karen McCarthy

Pat Millett

Eliza Moravec

Maureen Puleo

Patti Wright



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY IN JANUARY

4 Monika Lietz 22 Patricia & Wes Smithing

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

Friday, January 9th - Men’s and Women’s Lunches at noon, Madison Park Kitchen

Sunday, January 11th - Reports for Annual Meeting due

Sunday, January 18th - Vestry Meeting after the 10 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday, January 25th - Annual Meeting of the Parish after the 10 a.m. Eucharist
No 7:30 a.m. Eucharist.

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

Friday, February 6th - Men’s and women’s lunches at noon, Madison Park Kitchen.

Sunday, February 15th - Vestry meeting after the 10 a.m. Eucharist