



TIDINGS

The Newsletter of Christ Church – St. Michael’s Parish (Episcopal)

December 2008

It’s Advent now, so when is it Christmas?

Holding off on Christmas Carols at least in Church

For the past several years the clergy of Christ Church have told you to “slow down, it’s Advent.” Well, we are not sure it is working. After all, St. Michaels is described as a tourist town in Talbot County, a resort area, and the annual Festival of Trees and Christmas in St. Michaels events are meant to attract visitors to our area for some old-fashioned seasonal fun. And that would be Christmas fun. Advent simply doesn’t make the cut in our broader society. Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means coming, and refers to the coming of Christ, which we celebrate on Christmas Day. Like Lent, Advent is a season of preparation as we prepare our hearts and minds for celebrating the first coming of Jesus. Our worship service, or liturgy, during Advent carries the theme of expectation; we are awaiting something spectacular to occur at Christmas. That spectacular moment is what we experience when we celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus on December 25th—or on Christmas Eve in keeping with the Jewish tradition of a new day beginning at sundown. Ideally, that is when we put away the somber old Advent hymns and break out the Christmas carols as we begin celebrating the Christmas season, known as the “twelve days of Christmas” that fall between Christmas Day and Epiphany on January 6th. Perhaps, holding off on the Christmas carols until December 25th is too much to ask. Nevertheless, maybe each of us can endeavor to hold onto the spirit of Christmas well after the presents have been opened. Our neighbors may have moved on to the next holiday, but we can continue embracing the infant Christ. So, slow down for Advent and then rejoice heartily during Christmas!

Seasonal Services for Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 7th

The Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Lessons & Carols at 5 PM

Sunday, December 21st

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children’s Pageant at 10:15 AM

Wednesday, December 24th

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

Family Christmas Eucharist with

Children’s Sermon at 4 PM

Christmas Eucharist at 6 PM

Choral Prelude at 10:30 PM

Festive Christmas Eucharist with

Choir at 11 PM

Thursday, December 25th

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eucharist at 11 AM

Sunday, December 28th

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist at 8 AM

Christmas Lessons & Carols

at 10:15 AM

December Friday Fun Night: Caroling in St. Michaels!

Friday, December 19th 6:30 to 8 PM

Meet at the Christ Church Parish House and spend an hour caroling with fellow parishioners as we walk the streets of St. Michaels.

*Refreshments follow in
Etherton Hall.*

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

A Celebration of Advent Readings, Anthems and Hymns

Sunday, December 7th at 5 PM

As we prepare to welcome the Christ child on Christmas Day, set aside an hour of your busy holiday schedule to reflect upon the meaning of the season.

*And join us following the service in the nave for fellowship over
Sherry or sparkling water.*

Christ Church – St. Michael’s Parish
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St. Michaels, MD 21663
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e-mail: info@christstmichaels.org

Office Hours: 8AM - 4PM
 Weekly service schedule:
 Morning Prayer – 9AM Mondays through Fridays
 Healing Service – 10AM Wednesdays
Sunday Services: 8AM & 10:15AM

Submissions to the *TIDINGS* monthly parish newsletter are due on the **15th of the previous month**

Please email items for publication to kmliberatore42@yahoo.com or leave in newsletter editor’s mailbox located at the parish house

Editor: Kim Liberatore Stolz (410-745-6546)

PREPARING A PLACE

Having grown up in New England, I am always pleasantly surprised by the relative mild of a Mid-Atlantic winter. Together with my children, I am hoping that one year we get a real snow storm, but generally speaking, I enjoy being able to run outside in December, January and February and I like to be able to send my children to the backyard to play. Still, as I green my home for Advent and prepare by lighting candles, saying prayers, cooking, wrapping, singing and anticipating the arrival of family, I am aware that no matter how mild the weather may seem to this New Englander, I spend most of my time indoors during the winter months and I am grateful to have a comfortable home. Not everyone has such a luxury.

One of the reasons that I felt called to be a priest had to do with my desire to minister to people in need, particularly the hungry and homeless. I have served in a variety of settings. I have prepared, served and shared meals, led bible studies, staffed a referral service and slept in church shelters. And the most significant moment for me occurred when, new to New York City, I went to volunteer at Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen. I found the person who was to show me around and she brought me through the kitchen into the space where people ate their meals. The place was full of tables and people. I was greeting guests and making sure that I did not bump into anyone and then I began to look around the room and realized that I was standing inside the church. The altar was at one end, the organ to the side and the worship chairs removed to make room for tables, but still the space was clearly recognizable as the place where the parish gathered for worship. Here was a community of faith living out their call to serve others right there in the place where they live out their call to worship God.



This December we have an opportunity to do something similar. The Talbot Shelter is “An Emergency Overnight Haven for Homeless Men, Women and Children” that is to operate during the months of January and February. Its mission is to offer hospitality, shelter and food to those in need in response to an understanding of what it means to live out our faith in the world. An interfaith team of volunteers has done a great deal of work to put together a plan to operate this cold weather shelter in Talbot County and Christ Church has been asked to be a host community.

Last month, organizers of Talbot Shelter made a presentation at our Adult Forum. As of this writing, I am working with the town to determine any restrictions we might encounter in terms of zoning. Two parishioners have stepped forward to help lead us through the process of determining to what extent Christ Church will be a part of this project. There are many details involved in this initiative and you may have many questions or you may wish to help. Please speak with me. This is the perfect time to consider this ministry.

In the dark months of winter we have a chance to be a light to others. This Advent, as we prepare a place in our hearts for the infant Jesus, we wonder about preparing a place for those who have no place else to go; “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” Matthew 25:35

— Abigail Crozier Nestlehatt



Advent and the Hospitality of Christmas

Advent is a time for reflection and preparation as we ready ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This year, however, we are repeating our cyclical pattern of preparations against the backdrop of a recession. This Christmas, most trees will have fewer presents underneath their boughs, more families will need some material assistance and retailers will be tested. It is not surprising that in the midst of the current economic instability many people appear stressed or concerned. This feeling of uneasiness around the financial and credit markets and its effect on our daily lives weighs heavily, yet we all look forward in anticipation of better times.

In the early days of November, there was at least a moment of triumph and accomplishment. By midnight on November 5th it did not matter whether one was a Democrat who voted for Barack Obama, a Republican who voted for John McCain, a Democrat or a Republican who crossed party lines, or an Independent, because for the first time in our Nation's history Americans had elected an African American as President of the United States. Whether or not President-elect Obama's policies are your policies, or his philosophy is your philosophy, the Country as a whole has watched another longtime barrier to integration and inclusion fall. As Mark Shields and David Brooks noted on the *News Hour* after the election, when Air Force One lands in any country around the world, the couple that steps off that plane representing the people of the United States will be African American. It is a strong visual image and it appears that we have become a more inclusive people.

On a smaller scale, we at Christ Church have endeavored to be more inclusive as well. Since arriving here in 2003, Abigail and I, with Paul's assistance, have worked to make our worship services and parish activities more family and child-friendly. We have stressed the importance of having all ages feel welcome at worship and making sure that we have designated space set aside for children for their own spiritual development, in addition to dedicated teachers and mentors, to nurture their formation as Christians. Another effort of inclusivity has been our desire and success in making sure that our parish house facility is open and used by the broader community. We understand this as our ministry of offering hospitality to others.

Last month, Christ Church was approached by TACL to consider hosting the homeless during the winter months. Doing so would be a new use of Etherton Hall and may challenge us to think more openly about how we use our lovely spaces. Here perhaps the Christmas story can offer us a helpful image. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary and Joseph travel to his ancestral homeland for a census. With no extended family and no traditional lodging available to the couple, an innkeeper extends hospitality by offering them the stable. While there, Mary gives birth to a baby boy, who we call the Messiah. Angels and shepherds welcome the infant into the world and Matthew's Gospel tells of wise men from the East traveling to see this special child. And we read in these stories that Jesus was nurtured in the ways and teachings of God.

As Episcopalians, people who place tremendous importance on the incarnational aspect of our faith—which stresses that each of us is created in God's image and that a spark of the divine exists in every one of us—it is not a difficult leap to see how welcoming the homeless and celebrating and nurturing children is imbedded in the core stories of our faith. We live in a challenging time, yet signs of hope are all around us. It's Advent, but soon it will be Christmas.

— Mark Nestlehatt

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sabbatical Update: AUSTRALIA - An Early Christmas Gift

Thanks to a very generous grant, the Nestlehutts will indeed be traveling to Australia for their upcoming sabbatical beginning in May 2009. In November, Christ Church received news that it had received a \$45,000 grant on behalf of Abigail and Mark Nestlehutt to enable them to participate in the 2008 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. Christ Church is one of 133 congregations across the country that will support its clergy to allow them to step back from their busy lives and renew their spirits for the benefit of their ongoing ministries. A significant period of time will be spent in Adelaide, Australia where Mark will serve at St. Peter's College, an Anglican school for boys age 4–18. Abigail will undertake a directed readings program in spirituality and spiritual direction. And, of course, Asa and Honor will accompany them as well. In addition, a portion of the \$45,000 grant will be used to fulfill pastoral duties during Mark & Abigail's absence. These funds, coupled with the parish's sabbatical fund, will allow for the Reverend Paul Winters to minister on a full-time basis and for an interim priest to assist Paul during the Nestlehutts' May 1st – September 15th sabbatical.

Update from Morris Osborn

Hello everyone. I have just finished a week of intense study on the New Testament at Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin. There are 16 students in this class. The week went well and was highlighted by a visit from Bishop Shand and The Reverend Michael Moyer. Michael is a graduate of Nashotah House and is now rector of St. Paul's in Berlin. The Bishop visited my class and others, met with the Dean, and toured the campus. He and Michael attended the matriculation ceremony as I and five other students were formally accepted into the degree program. We had two evenings together with lots of conversation over dinner. Many of the students who met the Bishop were suitably impressed. I have received my final grade from the class on Systematic Theology and managed a B; it would have been an A but I was late on two assignments. I am still serving at St. Paul's in Vienna MD. Sunday, October 26th, was the Bishop's visitation and we had about 32 in the congregation. I have requested of the Bishop that I be allowed to return to St. Michaels for a time; I am missing the parish family and I am hoping that will be arranged soon. We have moved back to our house on Mulberry St. at last and it feels good to be home. Now it is the unpacking. Thanks again to everyone for their continued love and support.

Additional update from Abigail: Bishop Shand has confirmed that Morris will finish his assignment in Vienna at the beginning of Advent and will have the seasons of Advent and Christmas to be here at Christ Church. During that time he will determine, with the help of others, what he will do for the remainder of his formation. By Epiphany he will have a new assignment, but he will move to a schedule that allows him to be at Christ Church at least once a month. At their November meeting, the vestry signed a letter of support for the next step of Morris' ordination process and at the beginning of this month, he will meet with the Commission on Ministry for their approval. We are grateful for Morris' willingness to serve and are privileged to support him throughout the process.

ECW Rummage Sale Thank You – Sheila Vaughn

The following letter reminds us of our ministry to the community.

Dear Christ Church,

I am not quite sure how to start this note other than to tell you that I have fallen into difficult economic circumstances recently and found myself with few basic material things. I guess what I am trying to lead up to is to thank you for your rummage sale. I was able to make my life a little more comfortable within my small means. Some electronic purchases will help me generate work. The bag sale helped me with household items. So, thank you for having the sale. It benefits the church, I'm sure, but also people like me that are starting over or who are living in poverty.

Anonymous

ECW thanks all members of our Christ Church family and their friends who helped to make our fall rummage sale so successful. A special thank you goes to Judy Sandground for chairing the sale and to Carol McCanna for providing a delicious lunch for all of us on Thursday.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.



Christ Church Announces Christmas Bazaar – Peg Orem

The Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church announced their annual Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, December 13, 9AM to 12Noon, at the Parish House on Willow St. during the Christmas in St Michaels weekend.

The Bazaar features fresh Christmas greens from members' gardens, wreaths, centerpieces, swags, and cut greens. Christmas elves produce beautiful handicrafts, including needlework and "one-of-a-kind" gifts. Talented home chefs contribute delicious homemade jellies, jams, relishes, and other edibles to the Country Store. The Bake Table sells tantalizing homemade breads, cookies, cakes, fudge and sweet temptations galore.

A wonderful raffle item is offered this year – an exquisite pair of diamond and sapphire earrings worth \$1,600 -- donated by Aida Leisure, owner of DBS Fine Jewelers of St Michaels, a long-time supporter of our community. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and can be purchased through the church office and at various events in St Michaels until they are sold out. All funds raised by the Christmas Bazaar are donated to various charities in the community. Some past local beneficiaries have included Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of Talbot County, Camp Wright, the Bay Hundred Youth Task Force and the Food Pantry.

The Christmas Bazaar Committee includes Chair, Peg Orem; Greens, Louise Woods and Nancy Sipe; Treasures, Ginny MacLeod, Pat Holmes and Lillian Watts; Country Store, Barbara Smith and Karen Orem; Bake Table, Pat Martin and Elizabeth Simoncini; Publicity, Pat Barbis; and Raffle Tickets, Karen Burger. These creative ladies are preparing a Christmas Bazaar full of goodies not to be missed. For further details visit www.christstmichaels.org or contact Peg Orem, 410-819-0022.

Christ Church Crew Wear—or in this case, Church Wear!

Many parishioners have commented recently on the vests, jackets, polo shirts or baseball hats worn by the clergy and staff of Christ Church. These garments sport the handsome parish logo that reads: Christ Church – St. Michael's Parish – Founded 1672 and includes the parish crest. Well, just in time for Christmas, you too can purchase these items from Lands' End Business Outfitters. Any item in the catalog can be embroidered for an additional fee of \$5 and thread colors may be changed to accent the article of clothing. Items include polo shirts, sweaters, Polartec vests and jackets, raingear, parkas, hats and bags. To order, simply call 1-800-338-2000 or visit landsend.com/business. Our logo number is 0835961S, which is shown at right.



From left to right – Barbara Smith, Elizabeth Simoncini and Pat Martin.



GROUP & CLUB NEWS



Attention all Women of Christ Church

– Sheila Vaughan

Our annual Christmas program returns! The Easton High School Choir, under the direction of Chris Noyes, will again perform for us this year on December 9th. We have invited women from all of St. Michaels' churches to come together at 11:30 in Etherton Hall for wine and snacks, followed by lunch of quiche, salad, and cookies at 12:00. At 1:00 we will proceed to the Church for the concert. Don't miss it!

Congratulations to Peggy Orem who was honored by our Diocesan ECW on November 16th at a Thanksgiving for Women's Ministries at St. Luke's in Church Hill. The event honored women from throughout the Diocese whose ministry in their parish has made a positive difference in parish life. Bishop Shand spoke to the group, praised these outstanding women and noted that they represent women throughout the church who faithfully serve. We are very proud of you, Peggy!

We thank Canon Heather Cook who presented a wonderful program on Celtic Spirituality this past November. We were all inspired by her beautiful Celtic prayers and early church history.

If you would like to receive ECW email updates please send Sheila Vaughan your email address at svaughan@atlanticbb.net

November Vestry Highlights – Alison Sanford

Mark opened the meeting with a prayer, which put aside individual political stances and Tuesday's election results, and asked for peace and unity in the world. The annual stewardship campaign continues. As of November 6th, Carl Widell reported we have received 160 pledges totaling \$339,015. Following this update, the vestry discussed the 2009 budget (\$475,000) as well as a contingency budget (\$450,000) in the event that we do not meet the 2009 goal.

The month of November included both United Thank Offering (UTO) Sunday and Children's Home Foundation (CHF) Sunday. Carol Carlson, chair of UTO at Christ Church, happily reported an ingathering of \$1,150 on UTO Sunday. Sheila Vaughan reported a fall rummage sale net profit of \$8500+ and thanked Judy Sandground for so capably chairing the sale. Abigail, a member of the Children & Youth Committee, spoke of efforts to create more opportunities for parishioners to get to know the children and youth at Christ Church, including the adult forum on November 16th and Youth Sunday on January 18th. On December 7th, the second Sunday in Advent, our traditional Evensong service will change to Advent Lessons and Carols. The vestry meeting concluded with Night Prayer.

Docents' Guild – Linda Makosky

Ten waterproof docents came in out of the rain to attend their Fall Meeting in Etherton Hall on November 8th. The earliest arrivals were put to work assembling the new name tags. These individualized name tags, in plastic pin-on holders, will be stored in the docents' cupboard in the church, ready for use when docent duties begin again next May.

Although the regular docent shifts are over for this year, the Guild likes to have a docent present on special days. For the "Christmas in St. Michaels" weekend, Nan Heikes and Faye Shannahan volunteered to serve on Saturday, December 13th. Two volunteers are still needed for Sunday, December 14th. If you can help, please call the schedulers, Sue Kilmon at 410-745-3141 or Faye Shannahan at 410-745-9373. Docents who are going away for the winter are requested to call Faye or Sue before you leave and give your date of return and which day of the week you would like to serve next season.

Minutes of the fall meeting will be available at the spring meeting, but the big news is that Betty Mitchell retired from the chairmanship and Joan Frey volunteered to take her place. All present expressed their deep appreciation to Betty for her service, and thanks to Joan for taking up the position.

The Men's Group – Leo Foulds

The Group will meet for breakfast at 8AM on December 6th in Etherton Hall. Our Guest Speakers will be Maggie and Mert Jarboe who will offer a large screen presentation of experiences traveling through African Game Parks. Non members wishing to attend, please contact Leo Foulds, 410-745-6153, prior to December 2.

REACHING OUT



Angel Tree – Carol Carlson

“Angels we have heard on high” ... Yes, indeed!

Once again our Angel Tree will be up in the church for one and all to take an angel and become an angel to a child in St. Michaels

The angel on the tree will have all pertinent information to guide your selection. Please wrap your gift(s) and return it to the tree or to the church office *with the angel on top of the package*.

Look for more details in the Sunday service bulletins or contact Karen Orem, 410-770-3629, or Carol Carlson, 410-770-9591.



Episcopal Church Women Outreach Program for 2009 – Mary Thomas

Bay Hundred Foundation	\$ 500
Bay Hundred Youth Task Force	500
Camp Wright	2,000
Children's Home Foundation	500
Christmas Gifts for the Homebound	200
Community Food Pantry	500
Critchlow-Adkins Day Care Center	1,000
Dixon House	1,000
El Hogar, support of Boy	1,500
El Hogar Girls	500
Episcopal Relief & Development	1,000
For All Seasons	500
Habitat for Humanity	1,000
Hospice of Talbot County	500
Midshore Council on Family Violence	500
Operation Smile, International	500
St. Michaels Community Center	2,000
St. Michaels Fire Department	1,000
Seaman's Church Institute	500
Talbot Partnership	500

Additional funds are given to National Cathedral, Clergy Seminaries, Discretionary Funds, Diocesan Bishop's Guild etc., for a total of over \$20,000.

What to get the Person who has Everything?

Why give yet another tie, slippers or sweater when you can give a mosquito net, a micro-credit loan, post-natal care, clean water or school meals?

You can give all these things and more with Gifts for Life or Episcopal Relief and Development. Through your donation, a gift of life is delivered in the name of your chosen loved ones to needy communities served by ERD and its partners. This year's catalog features new items to fit any budget, offering you even more ways to make a personal difference in the lives of people living in poverty or as victims of natural disasters in the U.S. and the Third World.

Go online to www.er-d.org/GiftsForLife/ and choose your gift or pick up a catalog at the back of the church or Parish Hall. Your gift will be delivered by Christmas if you order by December 8th. You will receive an attractive card for each gift you purchase to personalize and send to friends and loved ones. And don't forget to order your Bishop's Blend coffee at the same time (you can also pick some up at the Easton Diocesan office). It makes a wonderful Holiday hostess gift and provides even more support for ERD. Please contact Pamela McCloud, ERD Liaison with questions, 410-745-3576

Food Bank Needs Financial Assistance – Nance Masone

The requests for food have increased over 100% since last year. Please consider a Christmas Gift to the Food Pantry.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION**Book of the Month** – Robert K. Barrett

Gomes, Peter J., *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's so Good about the Good News?* Harper Collins, New York, 264pp, 226.06GOM

It still shocks some Christians to realize that Jesus was not a Christian, that he did not know “our” Bible, and that what he preached was substantially at odds with his biblical culture, and with ours as well. Preaching of the comfortable by the comfortable and for the comfortable floods every inspirational TV and radio station in the world. The Gospel, however, is another story. Here God is portrayed as bigger and more generous than we. This is the core of what Jesus called the ‘good news.

The Bible is a necessary library of religious stories, but what sustains Christians is the real Gospel message of Jesus Christ, which today is judged to be an inclusive Gospel that does not exclude anyone. In the long history of Christianity, churches have at times supported wars, embraced slavery, denigrated women, rejected divorce, supported racial bigotry and other wrong-headed positions, and overturned them one by one. Gomes believes that the next one to fall will be against homosexuality. As he states, Jesus never mentioned homosexuality at all, so it could not have been a serious irritant and certainly does not warrant the hostility and hatred manifested in some of our churches.

The church’s obsession on the issue is a waste of time especially when divorce is a bigger problem and a threat to family life. We live in a world steeped in hostility, suffering and injustice. Still, we hang onto the hope that it is not mere nostalgia for what never was, but an earnest expectation of what is to be. This is because the Gospel is not about the past, but about the future. The future is about the Kingdom of God, not about raptures, the left behind, the arrival in heaven of the raised or the Armageddon. Nor is it about revenge as in the pleasure of the righteous that comes from witnessing the fate of the wicked (advanced by St. Augustine in *The City of God*). No, it is about wondrous joy of the parousia at the escheton, or even the joy of establishing the Kingdom on Earth as we pray in the Lord’s Prayer.

Gomes makes the compelling case that Jesus was the ultimate subversive – in a good sense – but his aim was to bring about change, to force new ways of thinking, to include the marginalized, and to break some crockery. In short, when Jesus came preaching, it was to disturb the status quo. A bonus of this book is an excursion into the thoughts of renowned theologians as the truth of the Gospel evolved over time and the inclusion of excerpts from poetry and from hymns that have advanced the way.

Peter J. Gomes is a renowned preacher who has been minister of Harvard University’s Memorial Church since 1974. He is an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College at Cambridge University, England, and he has received thirty-three other honorary degrees. He is regarded as one of the finest preachers of our age.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CONT...



Nurturing Our Children: Prayer Leaves

“The Church is called to receive, nurture and treasure each child as a gift from God.” This is the first statement of The Children’s Charter for the Church, a document developed by dioceses around the country and affirmed at General Convention for use in all parishes. At Christ Church, a vestry subcommittee has been meeting to discuss the ways in which we minister to young people and how we can do more. A first step is to educate the entire parish about the importance of ministry with our children and youth, and also to encourage our members to get to know the young people in our midst. Throughout this program year, we will introduce activities that will draw us together as the community of Christ Church in St. Michaels. The first is **Prayer Leaves**: paper leaves with a number that coincides with a child in our parish, and directions to follow that will enable you to connect with, meet, and then continually pray for a child/youth in our parish. Sound difficult? Well it’s not! All we are asking you to do is to pray for one child and to introduce yourself to that child. A tree bearing prayer leaves will be in the parish house. Our goal is to have one man and one woman praying for each child—please help us to meet our goal. Please, take a leaf and follow the directions. Our children and youth understand the power of prayer and will benefit from your efforts—and so will you!

*If your concern is the one time meeting (when/where?), we can help: the advent wreath workshop on November 30th, children’s snack time at the end of Adult Forum, Cider in the Hall, or after the Christmas Pageant, are some possibilities. Or, find Abigail and she will help make the introduction. Do not feel pressured on this front—your prayers are the most important part. Call Ann Roe with questions, 410-745-5200.

Children and Youth - Ann Roe

Fall is an exciting time for our parish youth. November found them helping in the Food Pantry preparing the dozens of Thanksgiving meals given out in our community and they started off the season of Advent by making wreaths at an All Parish Sunday Forum. They will be seeing the changes of colors in nature and in our Church, and hearing different prayers and lessons of the season. They will be caught up in the excitement of the holidays and anticipation of celebrations with their friends and families, here at Christ Church and at home. The season is upon us.

Church School: The children have been excited about the lessons of our new curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*. They are learning to appreciate the lessons and stories, of Jesus and his friends, and how they have been passed down through written and spoken words. They are learning how the messages the stories teach us are very important to the way we live our lives today. They are also coming to enjoy the formal way that prayer is incorporated in our class time.

Rte. 13: The youth in this older group are focusing on how to become active Christians, and how to take their teachings and apply them to their daily lives. They are spending time bonding with their leaders and each other. In October, they got together for pizza and fun at the Nestlehtutts’. After Abigail was successful in confiscating all “electronic devices” they were free to play games, eat, and interact. I understand it was great fun for all!

*Save The Date: Sunday December 21st at the 10:15 service we will host the annual Christmas Pageant. Our children will be dusting off their wings and practicing their “moooooing”. With the help of our more experienced youth it promises to be an unparalleled experience (as it always is!).

The Adult Christian Formation Group – Doris Fink

During Advent our hearts and prayers focus on peace at home as well as peace in the world. We have invited three guest speakers to share their thoughts on peace in the world. Following is our December schedule.

December 7 “Peace in Palestine”
Presenter: Rabbi Peter E. Hyman, new to the Temple B'nai Israel in Easton and the retired Rabbi Don Berlin from St. Michaels will address this topic.

December 14 "Peace in the Middle East"
Presenter: Our friend and former Ambassador to Morocco, Edward Gabriel, returns to our forum. We were enlightened by his October 10, 2004 talk on "Perspectives on the Middle East."

December 21 An Advent Forum by the Clergy

December 28 Christmas Recess – No Forum

Coffee Hour at the parish house begins at 9AM. The Forum presentations begin promptly at 9:15AM and conclude by 9:58AM. We'd love to have you join us and feel free to bring a friend as well. Everyone is welcome! Everyone is welcome! We invite all adults to experience these unique Adult Forum sessions.

Finances (as of October 31, 2008)



Income

Current Month	\$54,035	“Fair”
Budget YTD	\$467,081	
Current YTD	\$464,077	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<3,004>	“Poor”

Pledges

Current Month	\$46,379	“Good”
Budget YTD	\$375,764	
Current YTD	\$370,477	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<5,286>	“Poor”

Expenses

Current Month	\$56,444	“Poor”
Budget YTD	\$463,786	
Current YTD	\$457,437	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<6,322>	“Good”

Income less Expenditures

Current Month	\$<2,409>	“Good”
Budget YTD	\$6,476	
Current YTD	\$3,322	
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	\$3,318	“Good”

Ministry Areas of Christ Church

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Forum	Doris Fink
Adult Inquirers	Mark Nestlehutt
Church School	Ann Roe
Disciples Program	Christopher Whyman
Youth Confirmation	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

OUTREACH & WIDER MISSION

Back to School Project	Gillian Whyman, Judy Sandground
Children’s Home Found	Nance DuPont, Dianne Shaw
Community Grants	Paul D’Zmura
Commun. Youth Initiative	Mark Nestlehutt
Episcopal Relief & Dev.	Pamela McCloud
El Hogar Project	Margie Steffens
Habitat for Humanity	Martha Austin, Ted Taylor
Honduran Dental Mission	Jim Campi
St. Michaels Food Bank	John & Nancy Masone
United Thank Offering	Carol Carlson

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

Layweeters	Kay Perkins
Lemonade/Cider in Hall	TBD
Coffee Hour	Fritz Riedlin
Covenant Churches	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt
Docent’s Guild	Joan Frey
Episcopal Church Women	Peggy Orem, Sheila Vaughan
Gardeners	Kay Perkins
Kitchen Committee	Mary Riedlin, Nancy Sipe
Men’s Club	Leo Foulds
<i>Tidings</i> Newsletter	Kim Liberatore-Stolz
Welcoming Committee	Jim McCloud
Lea Library	Robert & Marilyn Barrett

PASTORAL CARE

Care Circle	Gillian Whyman
Eucharistic Visitors	Jessie Weddle
Flower Delivery	Molly Malkus
Knitting Group	Linda Spire
Pastoral Visitors	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt
Prayer Chain	Doris Fink
Stephen Ministry	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

STEWARDSHIP

Annual Campaign	Carl Widell
Finance Committee	Bob Holden
Property	Craig English, Sal Simoncini

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Acolytes’ Guild	Lee Hamilton
Altar Guild	Helen Bower, Judy Hause
Choirs: Chancel	Bill Thomas
Handbell	Bernice Walk
Youth	Bill Thomas
Euch. Ministers & Readers	Chloe Pitard
Greeters/Oblation Bearers	Tom Mendenhall
Shepherds	Tom Mendenhall
Ushers	Bob Burger

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Wally Jansen
- 2 Donald Doolittle, Anna June Sanford
- 3 Salvatore Simoncini
- 4 Eric Moseley
- 5 Maryan Ramey, Basil Delashmutt
- 6 Fran Brown
- 8 Elaine Magrath
- 9 Linn Ong, Abner Kingman
- 11 Vara Jean Reeser
- 13 Darlene Leach, Norma Harris, Morris Osborn
- 14 Tom Hamilton
- 16 Ned McCall
- 17 Robert Moore, Alan Gregg
- 18 Betty Millard, Sue Brannegan, Debby Gregg, Lillian Watts
- 19 Suzanne Newnam
- Craig & Annette English (anniversary)
- 20 Sheila Mann, Fritz Riedlin, Betty Hurford
- John & Nancy Masone (anniversary)
- 21 Neil Armstrong
- 22 Irene Valliant
- 23 Charlie Wilson, Shawn Clark, Helen Grace Fegan
- Janet Raitt
- 24 Rick & Carol Clark (anniversary)
- Carol Kilbourn
- 25 Barbara Goetze, Barbara Jablin, Leslie Stevenson
- 26 Phoebe DuPont, Judy Parker, Guy Reeser III
- 27 Kristen Shaw
- 28 Claire Hughson, Sarah Megargee
- 29 John Hughes, James Rhine
- James & Rosemary Campi (anniversary)
- 30 Elizabeth Guthrie
- 31 Anne Van Dyck, Laurie Driggs

Staff

The Rev. Mark S. Nestlehutt, *Rector*
The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Paul D. Winters, *Assistant*
Mr. William R. Thomas, *Director of Music*
Ms. Carolyn Coyle Finch, *Secretary*
Mr. Tim Clayton, *Sexton*
Ms. Dominique P. Sturgis, *Nursery Director*

Vestry

Christopher Whyman, *Senior Warden*
Alison Sanford, *Junior Warden*
Ed Sipe, *Treasurer*

Bob Burger	Ann Roe
Michael Clark	Sal Simoncini
Craig English	Clyde Sisk
Bob Holden	Sheila Vaughan
John Hunnicutt	Carl Widell
Jim McCloud	Joan Zwemer

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