



Christ Church Chronicles

Vol. 6, Issue 11, December 2015
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Class of 2017
Robert Gross—Rector's
Warden
Stephanie Laidig
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Class of 2016
Sue Furman—Peoples'
Warden
Janice Morris
Miriam Spade

From the Study

We approach the greatest Mystery of all: that God chose to join us as Himself and us human so that we would better find Himself and us divine.

There is no greater live than that: to be so vulnerable that others see your very being. In the Incarnation the Very Being of God is as a baby, born of a woman. Willing to share fully with his brothers and sisters - 2,000 years ago and an ongoing mystery - with us even today.

How do we faithfully celebrate Christmas? Here's a thought from Bishop Curry's book *Crazy Christians*: "(Christians are to) rearrange the picture of the world as it is now into a configuration of the way God dreams and wills for the world to be. That kind of rearrangement would constitute the ultimate witness of welcome, a witness to the beloved community and the dawning of the kingdom of God."

Let such a welcoming of the season of Christmas be what Advent is all about, for us.

Amen.



Faithfully,
Christina ✝

Streetwise

"The Church must unreasonably extend our welcome, our compassion, our joyful understanding to the entire world and live with the admittedly *very messy consequences* of that." Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.

September Newsletter: *Messy Home Visit* with Mrs. Washington who lives in a tenement.

October Newsletter: *Messy Home Visit* with Mrs. Walker who lives in a federal housing project.

November Newsletter: *Messy Home Visit* with family of Senora Flores who lives in El Barrio.

December Newsletter: *Messy Lesson* for the parish leadership and clergy.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The parish leadership always met around the table for Evening Prayer and supper in the rectory kitchen late on Sunday afternoons. After youth group, we returned to look forward into the coming week, ending with Compline. We cherished a special sense of peace in that short space between last week's inner city ministries to our people and knowing that tomorrow's ministries would still find our neighbors hanging on for dear life.

This night was different. We opened the door to the parish hall and heard their conversations stop in midsentence. The chairs were in careful rows. Surely all of our 100 youth were present. They stood up in unison. Our young men looked uncomfortable in suit and tie; our young women, self-consciously wearing heels, gloves and hats. We saw that chairs were set facing them, just the right number for us. We knew to go to our places.

Their president, 18 year old Ray Robinson, invited us to sit down. The youthful Body of Christ remained standing. Darian came forward to lead us in prayer, a prayer from the heart that was full of misapplied language that would never be spoken on the street. Louise sounded a pitch on the piano, and they sang, "What a Friend we have in Jesus." Ray invited them to sit down. They could not have been quieter or more attentive.

Ray addressed us. "We have something to important to say to you." There was an awkward pause while Ray dealt with his nerves. Father Jim Morton said, "We are here to listen." By then a small group had gathered to make their presentation.

Raphael spoke in Spanish, and Maria repeated his message in perfect English. We heard them say that all of them understood why so many parishes from our Diocese of Newark came to visit Grace Church (Van Vorst). Our church was located in the slums of Jersey City. Our parish needed help. Their parishes needed to do good works. Their youth needed to go on mission trips.

Margaret and Eva took over the mike. We heard them say that all of our youth were prepared to make salad and spaghetti and toasted bread for their lunches. In fact, they enjoyed doing this, and en-

joyed going to the luncheon tables to serve the meal and fill their cups with soda. They especially enjoyed taking out seconds, showing that they had made enough.

Ernest and James continued, saying that all of our youth felt important when mixing the paint so visiting youth or adults could paint the walls of the parish hall, over and over again, week after week. There was a shout from the back of the parish hall. "Yeah, and we love spray-painting our artwork on the walls so they have something to fix up!" The whole group laughed. They began to relax, and so did we. Some young men and women broke into street jive, which is a delight to experience. Others moved chairs so they could begin to dance.

Close to the time when youth group was to end, Ray took back the mike and called for attention. He called forward the final messengers. One Puerto Rican, one Negro, and one English came to the mike. They spoke in unison to us, the staff. Their message was plain. "This is what we want. We want to go on mission trip to help the parishes that come to help us. We know all of us cannot go at once. But please make arrangements for us to return their favor. Let us help."

Tears were running down all of the staff's cheeks. Father Jim's voice broke more than once while he apologized to our young men and women. He confessed that we had not seen them for who they truly were. We had fallen into "the uppity place" where we did not recognize their full humanity. He said that we would find them mission work to do.

From the back of the Parish Hall a set of voices began to sing the Negro National Anthem. "Lift Every Voice and Sing, till earth and heaven ring. Ring with the harmonies of Liberty....." Ray led us then in our benediction.

The sad note was that though we contacted every parish in the Diocese, not one parish had any mission work that they felt our youth could help with. The blessed note was that our youth group created its own mission, that of desegregating a swimming pool.

J. Robin Robb, Deacon †

What is Prayer Ministry?

Each Sunday morning we announce that “Prayer Ministers will be available during the Eucharist at the baptismal font.” Have you ever wondered, *What really goes on up there?*



Christ Church now has 14 trained prayer ministers. Each Sunday morning, two prayer ministers serve during the 10:30 AM Eucharist. When someone comes to them for prayer, the prayer ministers will greet you and ask, “How can we pray for you?” With your permission, they may hold your hand or place a hand on your shoulder. They will listen carefully to your request, and then one or both will pray for your expressed concerns. They will keep anything you share strictly confidential. They will not even ask you for a progress report about your concerns if others are in earshot. After the prayer, a prayer minister will ask, “Do you want to be anointed?” If you agree, one of them will make the sign of the cross on your forehead using blessed oil and pray a blessing over you.

In offering healing prayers, Christ Church is continuing a long tradition. The Apostle James wrote, “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:14). However, you don’t have to limit your requests to physical healing. We have

prayed for stress on the job, difficult family situations, our deployed troops, success on exams and a wide range of other concerns—as well as thanksgiving for answers to previous prayers.



You’ll find that all the prayer ministers love praying for you. Even those who began praying nervously now delight in seeing the Holy Spirit at work through their prayers. We love to hear the stories of how God answered, and to see the joy on the faces of those for whom we prayed. You’ve probably noticed that those who come up once for prayer, usually come again. Some even eagerly come before they commune to “beat the crowd.”

If you notice people going for prayer while you are waiting in the pew, pray for those people silently. The Eucharist is such a good time to pray and be prayed-for, since you are filled with the Body of Christ through the Bread and Wine, and also surrounded by the worshiping Body of Christ, the church.

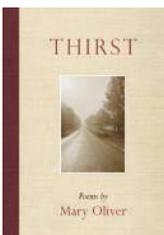
We will hold another Prayer Ministry Training in March. The training includes a theological basis for prayer, how to listen, as well as how and what to pray (and not pray!). All prayer ministers must be approved by the priest and receive the appropriate safe church training and clearances. Please see me if you are interested.

Judy Shelly, Prayer Ministry Coordinator



Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 5, 2015,
8:30 – 2:30 pm



based on the writings of Mary Oliver in her book *Thirst*, from Denise Levertov, Julian of Norwich, and the Psalms.

Facilitators: The Rev. John Kimball and Candace Woessner

Love Was His Meaning: The Wisdom of Poets and Mystics



Between a Rock and a Hard Place



A common theme in the Bible, one of the overriding themes, is the idea that God is doing something new. We hear it in sermons and lessons regularly. When we are in Christ, we are new, not just changed but a new creation. We are called to be different. This is not a call to just look different or talk different, but to really be different.

Having said that, the OBVIOUS question is: “Different how, and from what?” The consistent message is that we are to be different from the world. The Torah contains a long list of regulations that the Jews (Hebrews) were to observe—many of them having no other reason for their existence but to make them obviously different from those around them. There are no particular health reasons for the food restrictions and preparation instructions. They only exist so the Jews would be different.

God’s people were to be like Him, not like anyone else, and that principle was based on God’s eternal character (*“Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.”* (Psalm 102:25-27))

God is the same, always. And yet, we seem to live in a time when everything seems to be in a constant state of flux. At every turn we are encouraged to do a “new thing,” which, unfortunately, usually means to adapt to our culture. It has become a common aphorism that “Jesus accepts us where we are.” While this is indubitably true, it is also remarkably incomplete and misleading. Properly, it should say “Jesus accepts us where we are, and then, He insists that we come someplace else.”

What God demands of us is that we change, but change to be in **His** image.

Christ Church is at one of those flux points. Things are changing. Of course, this change has happened before - we’ve had three rectors (or priests-in-charge) in a relatively short period of time. The old Greek term for such a time is “*krisis*,” which is not exactly what **we** mean by “*crisis*,” but meaning a time to make a serious decision. The decision point for us is not so much who we will choose for a Rector, but where we really believe God intends us to be in the future. It will be tempting to look for someone comfortable and expect that person to “fix” us. (OK, to “inspire us to a new direction.”) Comfortable meaning liberal/conservative, modern/traditional, high/low church, evangelical/catholic/?, etc.—which ever way we tilt. Or we may insist that we are to find someone to make us uncomfortable. “Us” usually means “everyone but me.”

But Jesus never calls us to be any of those things. He calls us to change, to be like Him, different from the world around us. We’re not particularly promised fun, acceptance, happiness, or much of anything nice. Jesus was different; Jesus was crucified. It may be the case that we will be, too, whatever that means in today’s world. To follow Jesus is to take up a cross. And no, your mother-in-law is not your cross.

It is tempting to say that “change is good.” We’ve had consultants here to advise us that used that phrase as their mantra. Alternately, some of us may think that “change is bad.” To a Christian, change is good only if it brings us nearer to the ideal that is our Lord and Savior. Anything else is at least irrelevant, if not actually bad.

So we are starting the selection process for a new Rector. Personally, I can’t think of a better questions for the interview than “What do you think of ‘change.’”

Bob Gross, Rector’s Warden



Crocheters Wanted! GFS needs instructors for learning to crochet - we are involved in a project to make a blanket (Chemo Crochet). We need 9x9 squares using washable yarn. If you are interested please call Jan Morris at 610-323-6405 or just show up on Monday evenings, 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Thank you.



From The People's Warden

We begin another Church year with the first Sunday of Advent. Let us pray that this will be a year of gentleness for each of us. May we treat each other gently; may we disagree gently; may we listen openly; may we work together in harmony for the advancement of Christ's church, recognizing and remembering that that is the common goal of us all. We all have gifts to share, let us honor one another's gifts and gently accept them.

Christ Church will again host Main Street Ministries during the month of December. We are blessed to be given this opportunity to share our space, our time and our resources during the holiday season. A board for meal sign-up is in the Parish Hall, gift requests will soon be on the Parish Hall bulletin board and our guests will soon be here. Please bring a meal, buy a gift, share your time. We



get more than we give from this endeavor.

Did you know?

Charlie Slichter has been opening the church and making our coffee while Lou Steffenhagen is recovering from knee surgery? Thank you, Charlie!

The great room will receive a new coat of paint this month? This is the almost-last step toward refurbishing this room – carpet next.

Each month's newsletter is reviewed and approved by a committee before it is published?

Donations are being accepted to repair the three stained glass windows stored in our undercroft for almost 100 years? We would like to hang them in the great room when they are repaired. They are beautiful! See Bob Shanley for more details

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Sue Furman, People's Warden

Advent

Advent is the time to prepare the way for our Lord.....

The time to watch and pray.....

The time to prepare our hearts to have the Christ child born anew
in each of us.....

To think about what that will mean.....

And a time to serve .

We will place the crèche in the church for the Advent season and again ask you to place infant clothing at the crèche.

The clothing may be new or used so long as it is clean and in good repair.

The clothing will be given to the Salvation Army and to Genesis to give to needy families.

We thank you for your kindness and your generosity.

Grace Hoover



Search for a New Rector

As we get moving on a search process, one of the first items is completion of a parish profile. Unlike previous such profiles, this one is defined by the Episcopal Church. All parishes doing a search will answer the same set of questions, although we are free to add to it if we desire.



The questions are intended to give potential candidates a view into the internal nature of parish, and are paralleled by a questionnaire that all candidates are expected to answer.

A number of questions are details of the job offer—how much are we offering, do we provide housing, etc. The important, and most difficult, ones, are below. We expect preparing these answers to take several weeks. The end result will need to be approved by the Vestry and the Bishop before they are made public. Note that some of these have deliberately ambiguous terms (e.g. “Church of the future”.) Please explain your definitions in such cases.

We are publishing these in the newsletter so that all parish members are able to provide input. The final version will come from a broad, we hope, base. If you have any thing you think we should consider, please put it in writing and send it to the Rector’s Warden, either at the church office, or by email to grossrm@verizon.net.

1. Describe a moment in your worshipping community’s recent ministry which you recognized as one of success and fulfillment.
2. How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?
3. Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.
4. Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.
5. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?
6. As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?
7. How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?
8. Describe your worshipping community’s involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.
9. Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?
10. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?
11. What is your worshipping community’s experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?
12. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?





A long-time Anglican tradition is an event called the greening of the church. Since the Episcopal Church honors the season of Advent we wait to decorate the church for Christmas until the Sunday before Christmas. This year the greening will be held Sunday, Dec 20th after the 10:30 service.

On that day our Altar Guild, (our florists in residence), provides us with everything we need, greens, flowers, poinsettia plants, etc. etc. to decorate the sanctuary. This is the time when we set up the Christmas tree, and the nativity set as well. It's all done to the sound of Christmas carols and lots of



laughter. Afterwards we adjourn to lunch, with Bourbon Meatballs, cookies, coffee, and warm cider add to the good cheer. Come join the fun and be amazed at how beautiful our sanctuary looks when we are done! Together, we cover the inside of the church until it smells like being in the middle of a forest. Lunch with Bourbon Meatballs, cookies, coffee, and warm cider adds

to the good cheer. As always, you are encouraged to bring a dish or dessert.

Along with the usual work and fun, we will be having a "Cookie Walk." (see p.7.) Be prepared for all sorts of cookies, to eat while we work, or to take home.



Advent—Learning with Legos

We know what Advent is—what’s an Advent **Calendar**? What does it have to do with Legos?

Advent is the period of preparation for the coming of Christ—Christmas. “As with any planned schedule people needed some way to keep track of elapsed time, or how much time was left. Centuries ago, the importance of this event caused many Christians to feel that it was inadequate merely to mark off only one day on the yearly calendar for celebrating this incredible gift from God. Believers had (and still do have) such a sense of awe and overwhelming gratitude and wonder at what happened that first Christmas that they felt the need for a period of preparation immediately beforehand. They could then not only take time themselves to meditate on it, but also teach their children the tremendous significance of Christmas.

At first, the days preceding Christmas were marked off from December 1 with chalk on believers' doors. Then in Germany in the late 19th century the mother of a child named Gerhard Lang made her son an Advent Calendar comprised of 24 tiny sweets stuck onto cardboard. Lang never forgot the excitement he felt when he was given his Advent calendar at the beginning of each December, and how it reminded him every day that the greatest celebration of the whole year was approaching ever nearer. As an adult he went into partnership with his friend Reichhold and opened a printing office. In 1908, they produced what is thought to be the first-ever printed Advent Calendar with a small colored picture for each day in Advent. Later on, at the beginning of the 20th century, they hit on the idea of making the pictures into little shuttered windows for the children to open day by day in order to heighten their sense of expectation.”

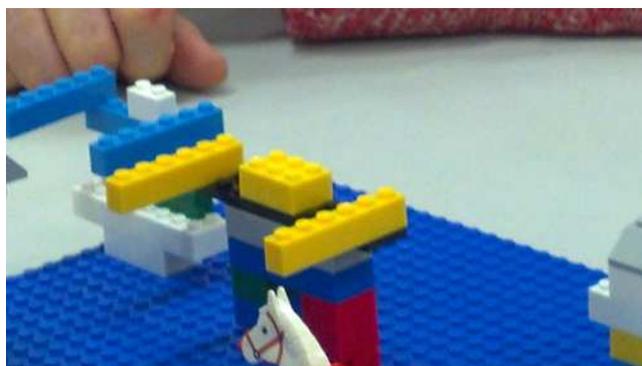
<http://www.gotquestions.org/advent-calendar.html>

On the first Sunday of Advent this year, the Adult Forum had the opportunity to participate in the learning process of the Sunday School, by making Advent/Christmas scenes with Legos. The Sunday School has been using Legos this year as a means of visualizing and understanding the Bible.

Below are some photos of the results (the lower middle one is Mary and Joseph visualized as Transformers.)

Thanks to Georgine Takach and Darryle Tillman for helping us make Advent come alive.

Just FYI—the Sunday School could use a LOT MORE Legos.





Give to Christ Church Do Your Christmas Shopping With AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Christ Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the church

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Christ Church if you register your account as an *AmazonSmile* account. There is no addition to your cost, and, except for the initial setup, no effort on your part.

How do you do it?

1. Instead of amazon.com, log in at smile.amazon.com, with your usual username and password.
2. On your first login, you should find "Select a Charity". Enter "Christ Episcopal Church" and scroll down a few lines to the one in Pottstown, PA.
3. Click "Select" and you're done. You can



change the selection at any time.

From then on, go to smile.amazon.com and you will support the church with your purchases.

http://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_aas_redirect?ie=UTF8&qid=1443237892&ref=spkl_3_1_2075349482

!!! Mark your Calendars!!!!

Let Us Take Care of Your Holiday Baking

December 20, 2015 will be a fun-filled day at Christ Church. We will be having our 1st Annual Christmas Cookie Walk. There will be 20+ varieties of fresh, home-baked cookies and treats for you to purchase by the pound.

You will be able to do your shopping between the services and after the 10:30 service. Additional holiday excitement will abound during the Greening of the Church after the 10:30 service, followed by lunch (provided.) Please join in on the fun and fellowship.

Cookie Walk

We will need at least 20 volunteers to bake double batches of cookies. Please include a copy of the recipe or a list of ingredients (for people with food issues.) There will be a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the near future. Please indicate the type of cookie or treat that you will be baking to help us to ensure a nice variety of goodies. Cookies will need to be delivered to the church on Friday evening or Saturday morning so that they are available for sale at the 8:00 service on Sunday.

Questions or suggestions – see Lisa Baro or Sharon Johnson



Christ Church Wants You

The Vestry is the elected body of lay members who provide the ongoing leadership and decision-making processes of Christ Church. There are twelve members elected to three-year rotating terms.

The Vestry has three primary areas of responsibility:

Prayer & Presence. While the Rector serves as the primary spiritual leader of our congregation, the ministry of the Church belongs to all baptized members. To that end, our Vestry members are called to serve as effective examples of a prayerful and purposeful life, to pray daily for our members and ministry, to give consistently to the needs and ministry of the church, and to be present in the life of our congregation.

Vision & Mission. Along with the Rector, the members of our Vestry are the primary vision casters for our congregation. Listening for guidance from the Holy Spirit and from our members the Vestry asks, “What is God calling our church to do next?” This can take the form of long-range planning, or the simple month-to-month decisions made at Vestry meetings.

Oversight and Empowerment. The Vestry has ultimate oversight of the business and financial affairs of the parish, plus additional responsibilities with Finance, Property, Christian Education, etc. Vestry members work with other leaders in these areas to ensure good communication among our ministries, and to empower our members to serve creatively and effectively.

Elections

New Vestry members are elected during our Annual Parish Meeting in February for a three year period. Nominees must be baptized and confirmed members in good standing; not be an employee of Christ Church; be 17 or older; and be willing to serve. Nominees are named before the Annual Meeting by a nominating committee composed, traditionally, of the outgoing current Vestry members, and may also be nominated from the floor of the Annual Meeting. We normally elect four, unless we need to replace a member who has resigned.

If you feel called to the Vestry, or know someone you think would be a good candidate, please contact one of the Vestry members, or the parish office.

The Diocese of Pennsylvania is looking for a bishop to unify us around a shared, dynamic vision.



The following is from the Diocesan web site—<http://diopabishopsearch.com/diocese/>

We are striving to carry out the church's mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" (BCP 855), but we are seeking a bishop who will guide us as we envision what this mission looks like in our own context.

This context includes *this time in history* for the church and world. It includes our particular *geographic region*, which is not only a mix of urban, rural, and suburban, but is also a combination of rich resources and multifaceted struggles related to poverty, race, and education. And it includes the *diversity* of dynamics and demographics in our parishes and other ministerial organizations.

Within this context, we are committed to being innovative, relevant, diverse, and welcoming. These essential qualities provide the approach, cadence, and accountability measures for our mission. We seek a bishop to focus and shape this mission with us.

Our diocese does not lack a vision so much as we have *many* of them, each deeply rooted in our diverse histories and each carried out by faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

For those who know the story of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, this variety and even autonomy is not surprising. Yet we know that to establish and build a collective mission and vision, it will take a bishop with authenticity, care and empathy, strategy, and follow-through.

With a history that includes both powerful ministry and painful conflict, the Diocese of Pennsylvania has high standards for a new bishop. We accept nothing less than what we know is truly required when Jesus calls us to love and serve God and our neighbors.

What's Next?

November-December 2015—Background checks and videoconference interviews

January 10-12, 2016—Retreat for all finalist candidates

January 26, 2016—Slate of three to five candidates to Standing Committee

February 16-23, 2016—Week of mutual discernment

March 12, 2016—Special convention to elect a bishop

July 16, 2016—Consecration of the bishop of Pennsylvania and celebration of the ministry of Bishop Daniel

November 2016—Seating of the bishop of Pennsylvania



Topics for Adult Forum
November/December 2015
“To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture and Service”

11/29 Advent With Legos

12/20 Cookie Walk

12/6 Congregational Meeting

Incarnation and Gospel – Helen White

12/13 Incarnation and Gospel – Helen White

Greening of the Church

Advent and the Advent Wreath

The four Sundays before Christmas are the season of Advent (Latin *adventus* meaning “coming”) Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God

The First Sunday in Advent is the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day (meaning that Advent 4 may also be Christmas Eve) and may fall on any day from 27 November to 3 December. A simple way to figure the date is as the Sunday before the first Thursday of December.

For the Church, the first Sunday in Advent, not January 1, is the beginning of the church’s New Year.

The wreath has four candles, three violet (the color of penitential or preparatory seasons) and one rose. Home wreaths may sometimes have a white one in the center. It usually has other decorations, typically decorative seasonal greens. Some traditions replace all the candles with white candles from Christmas to Epiphany.

The first (violet) candle is lit on the first Sunday, and one candle is added each week until all are lit. The third Sunday, called *Gaudete Sunday* (“to rejoice” - from first words in Latin of the Psalm for the day) is always the rose candle. The rose color is sometimes thought to be a symbol of the Virgin Mary, but in this case the connection is accidental. The symbolism is actually that “rose” is sort of “light violet” indicating a pause in the penitential season. If there is a white candle it is first lit on Christmas Eve. If a church has them, rose vestments are used on the third Sunday (also used on *Laetere Sunday*, the 4th Sunday in Lent, for the same reason.)

The tradition of a wreath in church appears originally to have been Lutheran and have spread to other denominations, including Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox. It was brought to the US in the 1930’s.

First Week—”All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.”

Second Week—”God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.”

Third Week—”Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.”

Fourth Week—”Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.”



Prayer Chain

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.



If you are not already a part of the Prayer Chain, and would like to regularly pray for others, and to know specific needs for prayer, please send your name and e-mail address to Stephanie Laidig at stephanielaidig@aol.com or via our parish e-mail address, church@christpottstown.com

Prayer For Others On Sunday

We have carefully reviewed the list of people we pray for every Sunday to make two distinctions:

The **Current Prayers** are going to be names of people who have a specific and particular need for prayer and will be on that list for at least 30 days. At 30 days, we will call each of those people to see if they still would like prayer. These will be prayed for by first name, out loud as we are accustomed to doing, and their first and perhaps last name, as they agree, will be in the bulletin each Sunday.

The **Ongoing Prayer** list will be folks we would love to pray for ongoing, as the need for prayer for them will be our asking God to move in God's time for healing a more chronic condition. These people will be listed in the bulletin as usual, and on the 4th Sunday of every month will be prayed for out loud by first name.

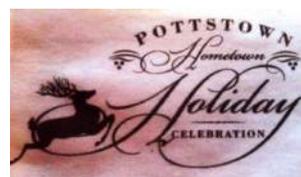
Please continue to join in prayer weekly for those who have asked us to pray for them.

Thanks.
Christina †

Christ Church To Participate in Pottstown's Hometown Holidays Celebration

Pottstown's Holiday Celebration begins at 4:30 pm on Saturday, November 28, with the arrival of Santa and the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Smith Family Plaza and continues for the following two Saturdays with choirs from local churches performing.

On December 12, members of Christ Church's choir will be joined by the music students of Phyllis Mitchell at 3 o'clock for an hour long program at Connections On High, 238 East High Street (just a block away from Christ Church). Please come, provide your support and join in signing your favorite Christmas carols such as *We Three Kings of Orient Are* and *O Christmas Tree*.



Fund Raising With Redner's Tapes—How Does It Work

When you shop at Redner's, use your Redner's **Pump Perks/ 1% Save-A-Tape** card. Each time you purchase at Redner's your receipt will be designated as a 1% Save-A-Tape customer receipt. Turn in your tapes at church in the Redner's box. When we have enough tapes for a meaningful rebate, they will be turned in to a local Redner's manager. Please don't save them up; tapes over two years old become invalid. In about eight weeks we will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of the tapes submitted. *Note: you must swipe your card at the time of purchase or the tape will not be valid for the rebate.*



Serving Our Local Communities Since 1970

Downloadable Advent Calendar

From ECF Vital Practices, a PDF calendar by Thomas Mousin.

http://www.ecfvp.org/files/uploads/2015_Advent_Calendar_.pdf

Our Gang Rides The Colebrookdale Railroad

Our Gang experienced a step back in time riding through the Secret Valley from Boyertown to Pottstown on the restored railroad that has become so popular with residents of the area. We were greeted by conductors dressed in period attire complete with white gloves. We had the freedom to walk from our deluxe coach to dining and outdoor cars and learned some local history from the narration as we passed through different areas. It was a most enjoyable time and topped off with dinner at the Greshville Inn. We would definitely recommend this journey to everyone. Four stars!!

What's coming up in December?

On Sunday, December 6, the group is attending the White Christmas Matinee at Steel River. At this point in time, all reservations are filled but you could certainly try through the box office if you desire to come. Barbara has arranged for us to have dinner at Grumpy's Restaurant nearby on High Street. He has opened his place to us so it will be a private dinner party. Thank you to Wendy for making the arrangements at Steel River and Barbara for setting dinner.

On Sunday, December 13, the group decided when touring the Pottsgrove Manor in the fall that we wanted to attend the Candlelight Tour. It sounded so lovely. This is the same day as the Pottstown Tour of historic homes. We are asking that you all meet us by 2:00 PM in the parking lot. The tour will include all three floors but floors second and third are optional if you feel that it is not doable for you. We will then go out for dinner at the Red Lobster after the tour.

Our Gang is open to any adult in the church. We have such a good time and have visited a different place every month. We would love to share that magic with everyone. Watch for new events in 2016.



Useful Links

Episcopal Questions and Answers

<http://stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-and-visitors/episcopal-q-a/>

Diocese of PA Parish Events

<http://www.diopa.org/parish-events>

Diocese of Pennsylvania <http://www.diopa.org>

Episcopal Church in the US

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/>

Online *Book of Common Prayer*

<http://www.bcponline.org/>

Anglican Communion

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/>

SPCK—Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge <http://spckusa.org/>

Bible Gateway <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

Liturgical Calendar

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2014.html> or

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2015.html>

Anglicans Online <http://anglicansonline.org>

Alpha <http://www.alphausa.org>

Anglicans Online USA

<http://anglicansonline.org/usa>

Daily Prayer and Worship Resources Online

<http://oremus.org/index.html>

Episcopal Veterans Fellowship

<http://evfellowship.org/>

Habitat for Humanity

<http://www.habitatmontco.org/>

Recycling in Montgomery County (including hazardous waste)

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637>

General Convention (2012) Report

http://library.episcopalchurch.org/sites/default/files/formation_team_gc_2012_report.pdf

Society of Archbishop Justus

<http://justus.anglican.org>

Project Canterbury (Anglican History)

<http://anglicanhistory.org>

Anglican Communion News Service

<http://www.anglicannews.org/>

SAMS—Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders

www.sams-usa.org

Episcopal News Service

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens>

Christ Church, Pottstown

<http://www.christpottstown.com>

Don't forget your Giant Cards.

When you buy a Giant gift card at church, you get the **whole** value of your purchase, and Christ Church receives 5% of your cost. It does not expire and purchases with it earn Giant Re-

wards Points, which can be redeemed for gas or food discounts. As an easy fund-raising mechanism, it's hard to beat. They are available from Debbie Metz between services.



Thanks to Houck & Gofus — Sponsors of the Newsletter



Houck & Gofus Funeral Home
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Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 323-8220
Fax: 610-327-1187



Christ Church Newsletter

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Homeless Shelter Clergy Conference 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group 7:00 pm Property Committee Mtg	2 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 10:15 am Education for Ministry 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Homeless Shelter 12:00 pm Cluster Delegate Mtg	4 Homeless Shelter 9:00 am Bible Study	5 Homeless Shelter 8:30 am DOK Advent Quiet Day
6 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 9:15 am Parish Meeting and Coffee Hour 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School 12:00 pm Confirmation Class	7 Community Meal Homeless Shelter 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	8 Homeless Shelter 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group	9 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 10:15 am Education for Ministry 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 Homeless Shelter 1:30 pm Finance Committee	11 Homeless Shelter 9:00 am Bible Study	12 Homeless Shelter
13 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School	14 Community Meal Homeless Shelter 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	15 Homeless Shelter 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group	16 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 10:15 am Education for Ministry 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Homeless Shelter 7:00 pm Vestry	18 Homeless Shelter 9:00 am Bible Study	19 Homeless Shelter 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
20 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Cookie Walk 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School 11:30 am Greening of the Church / Lunch 12:00 pm Confirmation Class	21 Community Meal Homeless Shelter Longest Night Homeless Memorial Service / Dinner 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	22 Homeless Shelter 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 3:00 pm Altar Guild 5:45 pm Exercise Group	23 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 10:15 am Education for Ministry 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 Homeless Shelter 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist	25 Homeless Shelter 9:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist	26 Homeless Shelter
27 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Christmas Cookies and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	28 Community Meal Homeless Shelter 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	29 Homeless Shelter 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group	30 Homeless Shelter 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 10:15 am Education for Ministry	31 Homeless Shelter	1 Homeless Shelter	2 Homeless Shelter

Christ Church Newsletter

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00 am Homeless Shelter Bible Study	2 Homeless Shelter
3 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 9:15 am Parish Meeting and Coffee Hour 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School 12:00 pm Confirmation Class	4 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	5 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group 7:00 pm Property Committee Mtg	6 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 12:00 pm Cluster Delegate Mtg	8 9:00 am Bible Study	9
10 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School	11 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	12 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group	13 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 1:30 pm Finance Committee	15 9:00 am Bible Study	16 9:00 am Daughters of the King
17 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School 12:00 pm Confirmation Class	18 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	19 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group	20 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm Vestry	22 9:00 am Bible Study	23
24 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School 4:30 pm Chili Cook-off and Basket Raffle	25 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Bible Study	26 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 5:45 pm Exercise Group	27 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 9:00 am Bible Study	30
31 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 10:45 am Church School 12:00 pm Confirmation Class						