



Christ Christ Church Chronicles

Volume 7 Issue 10, November 2016

316 E. High St. Pottstown, PA 19464

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Warden

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Rick Metz—*People's*

Warden

Olin Mittan

From the Rector

Just got done mowing my lawn for the last time, I hope!! Well not really, I like the warmth of summer and while the seasons bless us with many wonderful sights and changes we always like to remember and stay in those seasons of life where climate and comfort were the best. These days, for me, warmth is better than the cold.

The seasons of our life are much the same way. In our youth we think the world is our oyster and it will conform to our desire. As we grow older we discover, to our dismay, that life is not as we want it to be. Work, family, school, bills and our life may be something we wanted to be a part of but the costs have been higher than we expected. Now life is a game of catch up. When we pass through the early years and we find life has moved past us we get worried we worry about health issues, life end issues and wonder why life is moving faster than we can keep up with it. But time has not gotten faster and our life just is getting shorter. We want to run away from this as fast as we can but we can not run fast enough to out run the inevitable.

The truth is, life has always been short, it was just our perceptions that made us see time through the lenses of a changing life.

As the Alpha and Omega, our Lord God sees it all from beginning to end, he extends himself to guide us and love us in good times and bad. He blesses our comings and goings. Watching, with amusement and at times with pain, as we take life for granted and waste it running after things that benefit no one on earth or in heaven. He sends us all manner of signs hoping we will see his direction as being the course to follow. He has promised to lead us into green pastures for his name sake with his rod and staff there to comfort us against all the issues in all seasons.

The church is made up of people struggling in life all trying to run his house according their desire forgetting whose house it is and who is ultimately in charge. The people of the church fuss and fume saying this is the way or that is the way but that is not the way. Forgetting to check their compass to discover the right way!

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All the seasons in climate, in life and in the church, are good if left in God's hands to lead, love and bless us. This is his will for us and his Church. He will lead us by his grace whether we are deciding on a budget or a new Rector, a vestry member or teacher, a deacon or volunteer, or any aspect of the mission. Take it away from his leadership, he will let you, and you will fall. You will discover how to hate the seasons of life, climate and church. If you look, he will always be there with arms out stretched. But why wait till then embrace him now and always be at peace in all your seasons.

I am your servant in Christ,
Fr Bill Rex ✚

Collect for the Election of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on Christ Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall call our new rector, that we may receive from you a faithful pastor, who will care for the people of this congregation and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Honk if you love Jesus...

Text while driving if you want to meet him.

Bazaar and Soup Sale

This year the Bazaar and Craft Show is providing home-made/take-home soup of various types, selling for \$7/quart. In past years we sold soup to take home from the lunch menu, but this year we are expanding it into a full-blown take-out.

We need you to make soup - your choice of what type. We are asking for a minimum of 5 quarts, and the church will provide standard size plastic quart containers. Please see Erma to get the containers/lids. We will also provide labels.

Your soup can be delivered to church Friday or early Saturday morning.

Please contact **Miriam Spade** (mbaspadie@dejazzd.com - 484-300-8054) or **Sharon Johnson** (slj2146@aol.com - 610-621-0043) with a description of the soup.

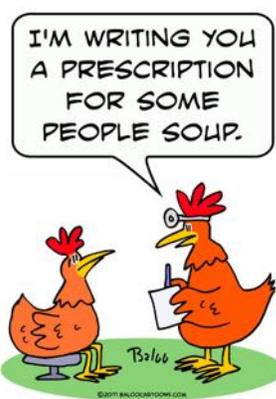
AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR & BAZAAR

Saturday, November 12, 2011
316 High Street
Pottstown PA
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

Various area
Crafter's - Pre-read
Books - Grandmas
Kitchen/Pantry/Jewelry
Plant Table -Baked Goods
and much, much
more!

Kiddy Kraft
Corner, Ages 3 to 10
(While Mom & Pop Shop)
Great Food Available
Breakfast & Lunch
Best Prices
Around!



Caritas / Agape

The famous passage of I Corinthians 13 focuses on the an attitude called *agape* in the original Greek, *caritas* in Latin.

St. Paul holds is up as the absolute essence of God's attitude towards us, and, if we are to be in the image of God, absolutely essential for us.

It's been noted that *agape/caritas* is used two ways in the N.T. - vertically to indicate the relationship between God and us, and horizontally to indicate the relationships among us.

In the King James version it is translated as "charity." Throughout the Bible, in both Testaments, charity is absolutely mandated. The Torah has detailed descriptions on how to harvest grain sloppily so some would be left for the poor. Incidentally, in most places the KJV translation for *agape* is *love*. It is *charity* here to specify the horizontal relationship.

Unfortunately, language evolves, and over the years charity came to have other meanings implying some element of mere mechanical action and condescension. Consider the many places that we get asked for donations, from the bell-ringing Santa to the plastic box by each cash register at Wawa. It has come to have a meaning of action detached from connection. Use of *charity* today screens out the inclusion of connection and feeling.

Equally unfortunately, the meaning of "love" has evolved. The terms "Hollywood" and "TV" say it all. Love is now absolutely equated to sex or to trivia (I love ice cream) in popular culture, making the modern translations at least as problematic as the King James one. Use of the word love in this Biblical context screens out the subtleties of God, non-sexual human affection, selflessness, and well-being of others.

And, unfortunately yet again, I am unable to find any other English word that makes for a really accurate translation. I found *affection, altruism, benevolence, benignity, bountifulness, clemency, generosity, goodness, goodwill, humaneness, kindness, love, magnanimity, mercy,*



tenderheartedness - none of them quite work.

Which leads me to a part of our mission at Christ Church. A couple of years ago we were given a large (by Christ Church standards) bequest with no strings attached. We did not immediately act on it, mostly because it had to go through a fairly lengthy legal process before the funds were distributed, and then came to us in several pieces.

We've had an ongoing discussion in the Vestry and in congregational meetings on what we should do with this gift.

The Vestry has made two major policy decisions on it. The first was to allocate the funds to particular areas: on the original estimate of \$1,300,000 we would allocate \$500,000 to mission (38.46%), \$400,000 to property (30.77%), and \$400,000 (30.77%) to be held and invested. The actual amount, with interest, etc. was a bit more, but don't really affect our actions.

In addition, it was proposed that we give a *tithe* from the bequest as a thank offering. A few months ago, after discussion in congregational meetings, the Vestry voted to do just that. We are giving away approximately \$130,000 to needs outside the parish, with no strings attached, the same way the bequest came to us.

This will not be done overnight. Any gift from this tithe has been, or will be, discussed and evaluated. The main criteria have come to be a) there are no strings attached, and b) the recipient is not a part of our regular parish mission.

Thus far we have given out three pieces of the tithe. The first was triggered by the tower collapse at 1st Baptist Church. After considerable discussion we gave them \$50,000 to get the repair and reconstruction work started. (We also loaned them \$40,000, but that is not a part of the tithe as we expect to eventually be repaid.)

Following that, we have given \$15,000 to the Seaman's Church Institute and \$10,000 to Ministries at Main St. We still have a ways to go.

Feeling thankful and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

Search Committee

In the past several weeks the committee completed our working job description for a right Rector and presented it to the Vestry. It is most important to note that this is our working document and not confuse it with an official job description which will be negotiated by our new Rector and the Vestry.

We use this document to assist us in setting criteria for a first sort of resumes received and formulate interview questions. In order to assure ourselves that we and the Vestry are in agreement regarding our Rector hopes and needs, we reviewed this with the Vestry, asking only that they tell us if we are on the right path; not that they re-write or approve each line. They overwhelmingly agreed we are going in the right direction and affirmed that God must be leading us.

Here is our working document:

Position Description: Rector Christ Episcopal Church Pottstown, Pennsylvania

The Rector is the spiritual leader, principal minister of the sacraments, pastor and chief executive officer of the parish, with responsibilities and functions traditionally associated with the office, set forth in the canons of the church and further interpreted here.

Organizational relationships: The rector reports to the Bishop and the Vestry and in accordance with the canons, bears certain authorities of the office and accountability to the Bishop as chief pastor. S/he supervises directly or indirectly all employed staff and volunteer ministers, is ex officio a member of every parish organization and may appoint individuals or groups to specific responsibilities as deemed needed or desired.

Specific areas of accountability:

Corporate Worship

- Conduct worship services in a dignified and reverent manner
- Present the liturgy in a way that is accessible to

all, including newcomers

- Guide those assisting in the service so that they are able to fulfill their functions smoothly and contribute to the reverence of the service
- Preach using the lectionary readings in ways that help us understand the meaning and apply it to our daily lives
- Include and educate the parish when liturgical changes are considered

Pastoral Care

- Acknowledge a primary responsibility to our parish needs and recognize Christ Church parishioners as your first flock
- Promote coordination among our ministries of congregational care and share with those groups your knowledge of special needs of members whenever appropriate
- Visit our sick and homebound
- Establish office hours when you are available to meet with parishioners
- Engage in fellowship opportunities with church members, attend Parish-wide functions when possible
- Become aware of the needs of individual parishioners; strive to learn their names

Outreach

- Model concern and care for the needs of the world
- Support and assist the parish in the development of ministries of service to the wider community
- Help us to regularly evaluate our existing ministries of service
- Participate in the life and ministry of the Diocese of PA
 - • Model the hospitality of Christ by welcoming all people into the parish

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- Work cooperatively with other clergy and ministries in the area to serve our Pottstown community

Christian Education

- Teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ by word and by the example of study and prayer
- Oversee Spiritual Formation in the parish, including programs for youth and adults
- Empower and encourage lay teachers and leaders
- Oversee preparation for baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation and reception
- Develop additional educational opportunities as appropriate in collaboration with the Vestry and lay leaders
- Inform the Parish about Diocesan and other opportunities for continuing education and encourage participation
- Participate in programs and retreats for personal growth and development

Administration

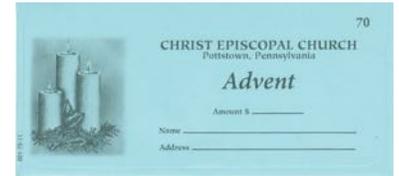
- Oversee parish administration and church staff.
- Encourage and support lay leadership
- Prepare for and chair Vestry meetings
- Support the Vestry in their leadership of the parish
- Manage personal time and energy, including regular days off and vacation.

Please pray that we continue on the right path!

Sue Furman
Search Committee Chair



Advent Envelopes



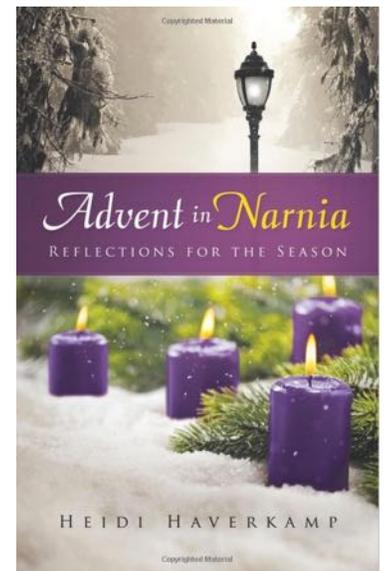
In your box of giving envelopes you will find, towards the back, 4 blue envelopes marked Advent. They take the place of the Advent folders and mite boxes we have used in the past.

These are for your special offerings of thanksgiving and celebration during the 4 weeks leading up to the joyous time of Christmas. The act of giving this special gift reminds us of the most special gift we have received – God’s Son.

Put a special offering in these envelopes in thanksgiving for all the blessings and promise Christmas brings. Make this offering in faith that it will help someone else to know and accept that promise.

Monday Night Book Study

The Monday Night Book Study will begin a new series on November 21, *Advent in Narnia: Reflections on the Season*, by Heidi Haverkamp. The book consists of daily Advent devotions with reflection questions and four small group discussions, followed



by a “Narnia Night” potluck and viewing of the movie version of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We will also read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis as background for the discussions. Both books are available on Amazon.com.

We are already attracting participants from other churches. Come and join us for a fun and thought-provoking journey into Narnia.

Our Gang

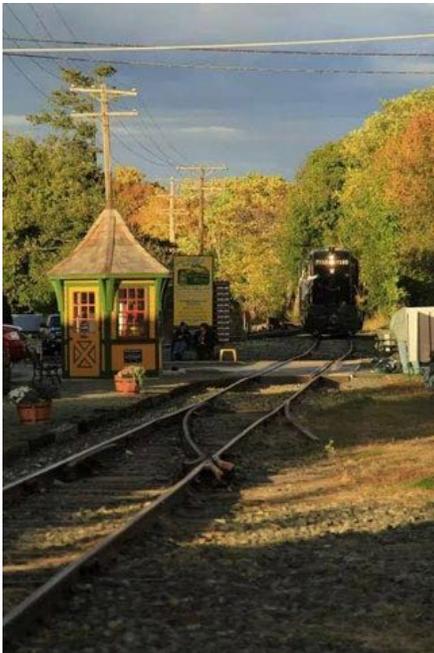
Our Gang is coming off a spectacular ride on the Colebrookdale Railroad transforming us back in time as we road through the Secret Valley between Boyertown and Pottstown. Scenery was beautiful, leaves colorful as we learned about the history of the era. We concluded the day with dinner at the Greshville Inn



Coming Up

Next we are looking forward to the Steel River holiday production of It's a Wonderful Life on December 18 at 2:00 PM and afterwards for dinner TBA. Cost is \$21 for Seniors and \$26 for adults. Sign up sheet on bulletin board.

In November we are taking a break from all the traveling and will be helping with the Church Bazaar.



We are group of adults, mostly seniors, but not a requirement to belong or attend our events.

Any inquiries about these events, please contact either of us.

All are welcome!!

Sue Rhoads and Barbara Ackerman, Coordinators



Music Program

This fall we began a music program for neighborhood children, run by Phyllis Mitchell. She teaches children rhythm, to play recorders, to sing, and to play other instruments. It was recently featured in the Mercury, and the following is an excerpt from that article.



In addition to her private lessons, Mitchell also teaches for a free children's music program in Pottstown. The free program is offered every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Christ Episcopal Church. During the one-hour activity, the kids sing, learn about rhythm and play different instruments. Mitchell said the kids are using fun, hands-on instruments like the recorder and color-coded percussion tubes called boomwhackers.

Mitchell has worked with students that have emotional issues and children with special needs. She said music is something that can be enjoyed by everyone and all ages.

"I think music can be an answer to really every walk of life," she said.

Eddie Shean-Hammond, director of education at Christ Episcopal Church, said the music class helps give the children a sense of pride and accomplishment. She said the kids are more focused and the sounds being played have a calming effect on them.

"It creates a filter," she said adding that it helps the children to sort out emotions going on inside of them.

Paterson, Michilea. "Press play on music therapy" *Mercury* [Pottstown] 28 Nov. 2016: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/lifestyle/20161028/press-play-on-music-therapy-for-wellness-and-enjoyment>



Boomwhackers



Recorder



Useful Links

Episcopal Questions and Answers

stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-andvisitors/
episcopal-q-a/

Diocese of PA Parish Events

www.diopa.org/parish-events

Diocese of Pennsylvania

www.diopa.org

Episcopal Church in the US

www.episcopalchurch.org/

Online Book of Common Prayer

www.bcponline.org/

Anglican Communion

www.anglicancommunion.org/

SPCK—Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge spckusa.org/

Bible Gateway

www.biblegateway.com/

Liturgical Calendar

www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/
Calendar2016.html

Anglicans Online

anglicansonline.org

Alpha

www.alphausa.org

Anglicans Online USA

anglicansonline.org/usa

Episcopal Veterans Fellowship

evfellowship.org/

Habitat for Humanity

www.habitatmontco.org/

Recycling in Montgomery County (including hazardous waste)

www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637

General Convention Reports

library.episcopalchurch.org

Society of Archbishop Justus

justus.anglican.org

Project Canterbury (Anglican History)

anglicanhistory.org

Anglican Communion News Service

www.anglicannews.org/

SAMS—Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders

www.sams-usa.org

Episcopal News Service

episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens

Christ Church, Pottstown

www.christpottstown.com

Christ Church (website in development)

www.christpottstown.org

Daily Prayer and Worship Resources Online

oremus.org/index.html

AmazonSmile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Christ Church if you register your account as an AmazonSmile account. There is no change to your cost, and, except for the initial setup, no effort on your part. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/about> to get started.



Don't forget your Giant Gift 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 Rewards Points, which can be redeemed for gas or food discounts. As an easy fundraising mechanism, it's hard to beat. They are available from Debbie Metz between services.



Thanks to Houck and Gofus - Sponsors of the Newsletter



Houck & Gofus Funeral Home

55 N. Charlotte St.

Pottstown, PA 19464

(610) 323-8220

Fax (610) 327-1187



Christ Church Newsletter

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 All Saints' Day 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program 7:00 pm Property Committee Mtg	2 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:30 pm Choir	3 12:00 pm Cluster Delegate Mtg 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	4 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Virgilio Cardona Memorial Service 5:00 pm Diocesan Convention	5 8:00 am Diocesan Convention
6 Change Clocks - Fall Back 1 Hour 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	7 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	8 9:00 am Finance Committee 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program 7:00 pm Search Committee	9 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 6:00 pm Advocacy and Mission 7:30 pm Choir	10 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	11 9:00 am Bible Study	12 8:00 am Bazaar
13 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	14 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	15 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program	16 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:30 pm Choir	17 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm Vestry	18 9:00 am Bible Study	19 9:30 am Daughters of the King
20 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Congregational Meeting 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	21 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	22 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program 7:00 pm Search Committee	23 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:30 pm Choir	24 Thanksgiving 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	25 9:00 am Bible Study	26
27 1st Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	28 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	29 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program	30 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:30 pm Choir			

Christ Church Newsletter

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 pm Cluster Delegate Mtg 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	2 9:00 am Bible Study	3 9:00 am DOK Quiet Day
4 2nd Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Congregational Meeting 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	5 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	6 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program 7:00 pm Property Committee Mtg 7:00 pm Search Committee	7 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:30 pm Choir	8 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	9 9:00 am Bible Study	10 5:00 pm DOK Dinner/Caroling - Proposed
11 Gaudete - 3rd Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II	12 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	13 9:00 am Finance Committee 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program	14 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 6:00 pm Advocacy and Mission 7:30 pm Choir	15 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm Vestry	16 9:00 am Bible Study	17
18 4th Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - I 9:15 am Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:15 am Nursery 9:15-12 10:30 am Holy Eucharist - II 12:00 pm Greening of the Church	19 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	20 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program 7:00 pm Search Committee	21 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:00 pm National Homeless Memorial Service 7:30 pm Choir	22 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	23 9:00 am Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Christmas Eve 10:00 pm Caroling / Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	26 Community Meal 6:30 pm Girls' Friendly Society 7:30 pm Book Study	27 10:00 am Tuesday Book Study 4:00 pm Music Program	28 8:00 am Thrift Shop 9:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:30 am EfM 7:30 pm Choir	29 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	30 9:00 am Bible Study	31