



# Christ Christ Church Chronicles

## Volume 7 Issue 10, November 2016

316 E. High St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

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### Newsletters

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### Vestry,

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Donna Yanalavage

### Class of 2018

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*Accounting Warden*

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Susan Rhoads

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### Class of 2017

Robert Gross—*Rector's*

*Warden*

Stephanie Laidig

Rick Metz—*People's*

*Warden*

Olin Mittan

## From the Rector

Each year in Advent I wrestle with many issues circulating around my life and ministry. These distractions can and do take our eyes off the journey that lies before us. Friends and parishioners with life threatening issues, life changes due to age, tragedy facing the seafarers I minister to when their families and lives have been destroyed by natural events and the list goes on. Every day we face the challenge of focusing our hearts and souls on what is right for our lives and what is expected by ourselves and others.

As I read scripture I am reminded of several journeys that changed the course of the world and as a result, our lives as well. The first is a foundational journey taken out of obedience by Abraham when he loads up his son Isaac to offer him as a sacrifice to the living God. The second is a journey of a people led by Moses toward a promised land through death and desert. The third is a journey taken by two young people to present themselves to be counted and along with them three strangers from afar looking for answers to life's persistent questions. The fourth is the story of Jesus meeting the disciples in a small upper room after his resurrection where he tells them that he is going to prepare a place for them and they are confused as to where he was going. In all of these journeys there were things needed to be taken along that were necessary for the journey. Some are obvious and others not so.

Take Abraham and Isaac: they needed wood, a knife and a sacrificial animal. All three were there, Isaac however, was surprised when he was the one to be sacrificed. Now examine the people of Israel and their leader Moses: they needed food for a journey, clothes, belongings (they were moving), livestock, everyone in the family that had survived the Angel of Death and a faith that Moses knew what he was doing. Mary and Joseph set out to fulfill a census: they needed food and clothing to sustain them for their time away, they weren't prepared to deliver the baby it wasn't due yet so the "go" bag was not in their kit and they had a hope that the family would remember them and have space for them while they would be in town. The Kings or Wise Men were traveling from far away countries and well you can guess what things they needed in an age without airplanes, trains or automobiles. The trip was long and dangerous.

All of these journeys lead us to the ultimate journey that is before the disciples on that evening after the crucifixion. These men are scared and joyous at the same time, there before them stands the Lord, the one who was dead but now is alive! That in itself is a shocker. As they listen he tells them that he is going to prepare a place for them. But Thomas, as well as the others, wants to know where he is going so that he can prepare to

cont. p.2



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follow, what will he need to take etc. On this journey to the Father's house and the place Jesus would prepare for them they needed one thing - the promise found in the food of the meal they shared – the Eucharist or Communion. This is the food of faith, the nourishment of ages, the miracle and mystery at the center of all we believe and hold as true and eternal. On our life journey to our Lord's prepared destination we, like they, need this more than anything else.

As disciples of Jesus, we believe that the Holy Communion (Eucharist) is the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the food that sustains us, empowers us, unites us and forms us into a community of believers. This is our food for a journey into a promise made at the beginning of time to those who would listen and take the journey into eternity by faith.

In the liturgy there comes a point after having blessed the elements I say, "Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." and "The gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you." In those moments a miraculous mystery has taken place – Bread and Wine have been spiritually remanufactured into the Body and Blood of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

I am here to remind you, This is the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world, blessed are they who are called to the Supper of the

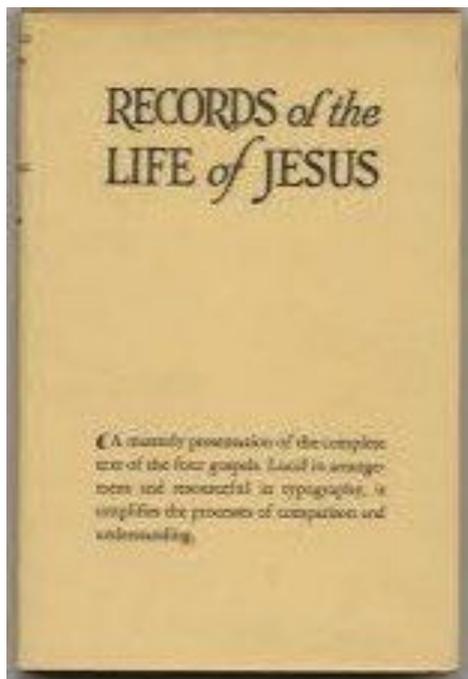
Lamb. God has entered the sanctuary in a new and wonderful way he is here present to lead us onward to our destination. He provides this eternal essence of Christ for our strengthening and our cleansing. He withholds nothing from us as he looks to have us follow him into his eternal life. Recognizing that our journey is in the process of moving toward that goal he anticipates our fear and worry as he tells us, his first disciples, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Mary, Joseph, three Kings and twelve fishermen, "I am with you even unto the end of the age!"

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the Word and my soul will be healed. These words invite me to have confidence that Jesus is inviting himself into my house and proposes to walk with me on my pilgrimage.

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany/Lent/ Easter/Pentecost the seasons of the Church Year, every year, are milestones dedicated to feeding us on the journey Christ called us to begin at the time of our Baptism. I pray that the distractions of life and culture will no longer pull you away from the miraculous mystery offered you in this food for your journey. Renew your faith today for the mystery of his presence will transform the journey before you.

I am your servant in Christ,

Fr Bill Rex ✝



## Friday Bible Study

A new bible study will start the third week of January 2017 on Fridays mornings. The date will be Friday, 1/20/2017 at 9am to 10:30am. The book "*Records of the Life of Jesus*" by Henry Burton Sharman, Ph.D. will be used. As there will be no homework required, these books may be used at the church. Please let me know if you are interested so I can see about a purchase of some books for that we might use. This approach has been used before here and at several other churches and has been well received. The group seeks an "open looking-at and talking-about" the Gospels. Questions break out about the readings and all have insights that can be shared with each other. Looking forward to your interest. We will start with the Genealogy for Jesus, and the Forecasts of Father of John, Mother of Jesus, Mother of John, and Joseph of Nazareth.

Nancy Yaskowski - [npyas@comcast.net](mailto:npyas@comcast.net)

"The virtue of angels is that they cannot deteriorate; their flaw is that they cannot improve. Humanity's flaw is that we can deteriorate; but our virtue is that we can improve." --- Chassidic teaching

## ***YOU ARE INVITED***

to **Second Saturday Neighborhood Night**



**When:** December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 pm



**What:** Soup and Song - Neighbors gathering for a simple meal and singing Christmas Carols

**Who:** All are welcome. Come and enjoy!

**Where:** Christ Episcopal Church

316 East High Street  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
610-323-2895

Entrance in rear off Queen Street parking lot

*Children join in  
the joy of  
making  
music!*



**Christ Episcopal Church  
2nd Annual Cookie Walk  
Saturday December 17,  
2016  
9:00 AM to Noon**

**Cookies for Sale by the Pound**

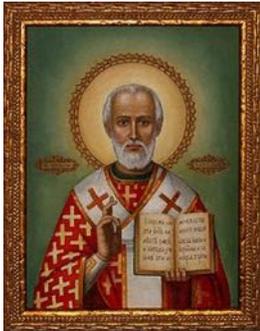
**Bakers Needed – Please deliver cookies to  
church by Friday December 16  
Please Include a Copy of Recipe or List of  
Ingredients**

**Questions: Contact Lisa Baro or Sharon  
Johnson**



## The Real Santa Claus

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, born during the 3rd century in the village of Patara in what is now the southern coast of Turkey. His parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. They knew Bishop Nicholas for his generosity in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



Under the Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled, and imprisoned. After his release, he attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 and anniversary of his death (Dec. 6) became St. Nicholas Day.

Through the centuries, many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were likely to wind up sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home, providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry, which led to the custom of children hanging stockings. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so, St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Another story tells of three students, traveling on their way to study in Athens. A wicked innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickle barrel. Nicholas, traveling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. That night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper. As Nicholas prayed, the boys were restored to life, and the innkeeper repented. And so St. Nicholas is the patron and protector of children.

Today he is venerated as patron of children, mariners, bankers, pawn-brokers, scholars, orphans, laborers, travelers, merchants, judges, paupers, marriageable maidens, students, children, sailors, victims of judicial mistakes, captives, perfumers, even thieves and murderers! He is known as the friend and protector of all in trouble or need

St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6th, was kept alive by the stories of his goodness and generosity. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged alms for the poor—and sometimes for themselves! In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. December 6th is still the main day for gift giving and merrymaking in much of Europe. For example, in the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on the 5th, the eve of the day, by sharing candies (thrown in the door), chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts. Simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.



**Bob Gross, Rector's Warden**

Adapted from "Who is St. Nicholas," <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/who-is-st-nicholas/>



## 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.

## STREETWISE

We have been considering how God acts to change the institutional church. One thing about which I am absolutely certain is that the Kingdom of God is not static. The institutional church is one manifestation of the Kingdom of God. A different manifestation is the emergent church.



We will consider emergent church in the near future. But first, for the sake of continuity, we need to address a pesky question. How are we to be sure that it is God's purposiveness that brings about new or different circumstances in the institutional church? Perhaps some church people are misguided or lacking in discernment. Perhaps they use their power and influence to go against the purposiveness of God.

In fact there is a current challenge that is vexatious not only in The Episcopal Church (TEC), but also for most, if not all, mainline protestant denominations. Is same-sex marriage consistent with God's purposiveness? Or is it a violation? At the most recent July, 2015 General Convention of TEC, both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies (lay persons) concurred that same-sex marriage stands within the will of God.

General Convention did not come to this conclusion in haste. The question was under study for some 30 years. Its theological basis pertains to the belief that our Loving God draws all persons into the sphere of His grace, not excluding homosexuals, but rather including them equally. I, myself view this as Good News.

The language used both in civil law and in the churches is "marriage equality." The rub is whether marriage equality fits the purposiveness of God's intentions. One line of reasoning is that a homosexual couple may live together in a celibate relationship; but should they become sexually active, they have made the choice to step outside the sphere of God's grace. The contrasting line of reasoning is that sexuality is a gift from God to be enjoyed by a cohabiting couple in order to bring them closer together in love. Still another line of reasoning is

that because same-sex couples cannot conceive and bear children, they ought not to indulge in sexual activity. There can be endless lines of reasoning. One more instance: many same-sex couples adopt children, nurturing them and raising them in a loving and supportive family environment.

Needless to say, this conundrum affects not only TEC, but also other protestant denominations. I can assure you that at least one protestant congregation in Pottstown meets regularly to ascertain its proper approach to same-sex marriage. And I can assure you that at least one other protestant church in Pottstown actively opposes same-sex marriage. This is a compelling concern of institutional churches that are protestant.

I remind you that I have shared at length my own exposure to and coming to terms with homosexuality while working at Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco. For me, our work there fit comfortably within the purposiveness of God. Yet I appreciate that others stand at odds to my position, troubled that TEC is in error, i.e., conforming itself to fit the civic position that our nation has taken, rather than the purposiveness of God.

Robin Robb, Deacon ✚

## E-Mail Scams

In this "shopping" season, you may be the subject of various on-line shopping scams. They look like ads from a legitimate source and may even be copied from real ads, but are actually seeking to separate you from your money, steal your identity, etc.

They may also look like service announcements, requiring a response. Below is an example, but note the sender address - not really from Fedex.

The best way to protect yourself is to **NOT** click on the email link, but go straight to the actual site (again, **not** what the email says.)

FedEx 2Day <max.morris@donten64.daiwa-hotcom.com> @  
We could not deliver your parcel, #00000327810  
To: Church Christ <church@christpottstown.com>  
Reply-To: FedEx 2Day <max.morris@donten64.daiwa-hotcom.com>

Dear Customer,

We could not deliver your item.  
Please, open email attachment to print shipment label.

Kind regards,  
Max Morris,  
FedEx Station Manager.



## The Blessings of Prison Ministry

SCI Graterford is a men's maximum-security prison outside of Philadelphia. I've been the Education For Ministry (EFM) mentor for the past nine years. EFM is a four-year course out of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. Currently there are 11 men enrolled in the seminar group, most of them serving life sentences. Some have been incarcerated more than 25 years.

I became involved when the previous mentor became gravely ill and was unable to continue his mentoring. He had been the mentor of the group that I was in 20 years ago. When I visited him just before he died, I asked him if he thought I could mentor the group. He began to cry and I had my answer.

I called and made an appointment to speak with the group, which was a challenge in itself. Nothing is easy in a maximum-security prison. After securing the necessary clearance, I walked down a long hallway into the heart of the prison. Although a guard was at my side, I was very nervous and frightened. What had I gotten myself into? We were walking through the general population. It was extremely intimidating. This is a maximum-security prison, not a county jail.

The previous mentor, Rev. Warner, had spoken so fondly of the men in the group, but at this point, I wasn't sure. As I entered the chapel, excitement and anxiety were battling each other. As I stepped into the small, dark, ugly room, the 14 men in the group rose as one and greeted me with smiles and handshakes.

That was the beginning of one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences that has blessed my life.

I have come to realize that these men are not what they did, but whose they are – mighty men of God.

Each Monday morning, I enter into a little piece of the Kingdom. The EFM course is difficult. It is not for "baby Christians," but for those who have a mature, active faith. The men come to the class prepared and anxious to share what they have mined from their study.

Before I knew and understood these amazing men, I thought, "Yeah, sure – people go to prison and find God." Hearing their stories over the past nine years, I find that to be absolutely true.

For anyone considering a ministry with prisoners, prepare to be surprised, Prepare to have your heart broken. Prepare to be blessed beyond your imagination.

Virginia Slichter

Below is the EfM roster if you would like to send Christmas or birthday cards. Send them care of SCI Graterford, Box 244, Graterford, PA 19426. Be **sure** to include their name and number. Use white envelopes only with no stickers or sparkles.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>
Warren Summers	DA0832	2/24/71	Alan Presbury	CJ1167	9/22/71
George Hoger	EX6348	4/15/60	Kevin Meredith	AP9108	2/6/56
Jorge Cintron	DL2404	8/16/79	Eugene Myrick	DJ5425	
Jermaine Weeks	FR1584	4/20/75	Aaron Wheeler	BZ2590	
Calvin Floyd	AM7138	7/11/48	Wayne Battle	AY6117	
William Hull	AS0932	1/3/67	Charles Holley	JL4455	
Terry Kline	HW8779	9/6/85	Anthony Gonzales	CU1609	
Bobbie LaBarr	DY1088	4/5/79	Gary Fitzsimmons	BL2424	
Amir Cartair	CP3734	10/19/69	Shantee Latham	HX4233	
David Sheppard	CK5085	3/27/65	Edward Hudak	BI0265	
Andre Davis	BM2438	6/7/49			
Johnahan Kress	JA5435	3/11/82			

**Seek God's Will On Future Directions of Ministries at CEC**  
**Advocacy & Mission TF Calls Congregation to Prayer and Fasting**

The Rationale:

Our Advocacy and Mission task force (A&M) came together a few years ago at Christ Episcopal Church – not because we sought to develop such activities, but because we sought to clarify our call within the changing environs of Pottstown and the surrounding area. The Pottstown Cluster was an outgrowth of former Rector, Fr. Penny's tireless work and the Monday Meal (also an outgrowth of his efforts) has long been a ministry we serve faithfully. Our thrift shop has been in service for going on half a century. More recently the Car Show hot dog sales and our sheltering ministry to those seeking a warm, dry and hospitable place to sleep along with nourishment to carry them into the next winter day, have been embraced and developed heartily. But even with our willingness to identify and define changing needs and to address them as best we can, it occurred to us in our discussions that what we've been doing has been largely reactive to situations and not necessarily a result of the church coming together to seeks God's will for and His words to us. To that end, we have gone to Scripture to see how, in the past, God's people have sought to know his specific will for them. This in the fervent hope we might emulate their practices.

Consistently, throughout both Old and New Testament writings we saw that two elements appeared repeatedly – and inseparably: prayer and fasting.

What we found:

In times before Jesus, 'the' people often fasted when their leader wanted God to hear their prayers, such as: In times of war or at the threat of it; when loved ones were ill or threatened; whenever seeking God's forgiveness; when faced with impending danger; and when seeking God's will (all this as a people, rarely as individuals except iconic figures). The sought result of such fasts were twofold: to be humbled by afflicting their bodies and souls and that such humiliation would be pleasing in God's sight, probably because they realized their prideful nature and turning from the Lord lay at the root of their distress (my conclusion). Circumstances that lead to unsuccessful results for those fasting were if there was a lack of sincerity as shown by the absence of real repentance or a merely ceremonial expression, a sort of a nod and a wink at one's true culpability.

And then came Jesus:

With the entrance of Jesus into the world many things became clearer – not the least of those were prayer and fasting. As contrasted with the Old Testament practices, both prayer and fasting were now for every believer.

The strongest indication, as I read it, that prayer and fasting are now for all believers (and seekers too I believe) are Jesus' own words. He speaks to us saying, "when" you fast, wash your face and smile and "when" you pray. "If" is out of the picture. Period. Fasting and prayer are now required, not elective.

So where does this leave us in our quest:

In a really good place, it seems to me. God has blessed us over and over again. We are assured of His love for us and of His willingness to use our parish in His plans for the area in which He has planted us. What we are not yet clear about is the next steps to put us on the road to our next calling. What we can be clear on is that if together we seek his will by concerted, consistent prayer and fasting, we will learn His will for us just as certainly as did the church at Antioch (in Acts 13:2) when the Spirit spoke unexpectedly with instructions: *"Set apart Barnabas and Saul (also called Paul) for work to which I have called them."* 3. *So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

But how can I help, I've never fasted before and don't know where to begin?

**cont. next page**

God has not brought any of us this far just to drop us now. The key to this, especially since we are largely a mature congregation, is to keep it simple and not do anything rash. Fasting is really more about the heart than the belly, just as prayer is really more about the heart than the words.

Pick something that will not compromise your health, something you enjoy, and determine what the bounds of your fast will be. Keep it simple; no sweets for a week beginning on \_\_\_\_\_. Then do it. Each time you do not take a sweet when tempted to, pray to God for the strength to make this small sacrifice. Thank him for the gift of all the sweets you've enjoyed throughout your life and thank Him for the blessing of Jesus' sacrifice for you. Then you could give thanks for being called into Christian fellowship by Jesus sacrifice on the cross. Try to think of three blessings in your life for which you do not often give Him thanks and thank him for them. Pray to Him for our church's future ministries to be revealed to us. Do any or all of this and anything else that comes to you from the Lord.

It is very helpful to have a partner with whom you can talk when embarking on a new discipline. Or maybe 2 others and you could get together once a week or so to check in with each other and see how you are each doing.

There's nothing about fasting and praying that is not open to all of us. It is not reserved for anyone. No one is 'better' at spiritual exercises than anyone else. We are all God's children and equally loved.

Give this a try if you feel called to try it. There are members here who have experience with this discipline. You may know someone who does. Ask if you are interested. It's not something we talk about much, but it could become a very important new ministry in our congregation – like many others that preceded it. Everything in this life has to start sometime. Maybe God is telling us the time to begin fasting with prayer at Christ Church is now.

*Warren Holohan.*

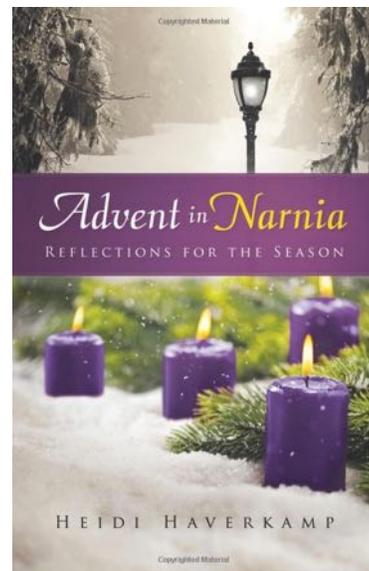
*For further information try Arthur Wallis' very helpful little book, **God's Chosen Fast**, published by Christian Literature Crusade, Fort Washington, PA 19034.*

## Monday Night Book Study

The Monday Night Book Study has begun a new series, *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.



Hi! I'm Megan Brickel, a junior at Pottsgrove HS. I've recently been selected by my director to be in a three-week concert tour of Europe with an honors band under American Music Abroad. I am an A/B student who has studied the clarinet since the 4th grade and have the honor of being the first chair player in my high school concert band.

I am excited to be a part of the Silver Tour in July 2017. We will be touring Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France- performing concerts along the way. I am looking forward to making awesome memories with new friends in this once-in-a-lifetime adventure!!

The cost is around \$5,000, a sizable amount for a high school student, so I am hoping that you will help sponsor this opportunity for me. Your donation would mean the world to me! I would be most thankful for your help. We have set up a *GoFundMe* page, link below, or we can take a check payable to my mom, Jennifer Brickel, 246 Micklitz Dr, Pottstown PA 19464. If you'd like more info, check out [www.americanmusicabroad.com](http://www.americanmusicabroad.com).

<http://www.gofundme.com/megans-ama-fundraiser>

Megan

## Search Committee

The search committee has received our first applications for Rector of Christ Church, and will be giving them prayerful consideration as we meet this month. We ask the congregation to be praying daily for the committee as we look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this work.

**Stephanie Laidig**  
Search Committee Chair

## 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.

## Blessing of Choir Robes

The choir has new additions to their robes - red stoles to match appropriate seasons. They were provided by the William Lawrence Memorial. Bill was a long-time choir member.



## NEED SOME HELP!!!

Our newsletter editor needs a bit of help. If you would be willing to proof-read the newsletter while it's being written, please let me know. I'd like 2-3 more people. All you need is an e-mail address and a few minutes each month.

Bob Gross - Editor, abecedarian@verizon.net



Christ Church Chronicles  
Volume 7 Issue 10, November 2016  
316 E. High St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

# Advent Quiet Day Seeking God through Prayer

**December 3, 2016**  
**8:30am-3:00pm**  
**Suggested Donation: \$10**

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**316 E. High Street**  
**Pottstown, PA 19464**



### Speaker: Barbara Brown

*From her teen years, Barbara was drawn to prayer. That interest grew and developed in her 39 year ministry as a Campus Staff Member with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship. For Barbara's last 15 years with Inter Varsity, her job assignment was in Prayer and Spiritual Formation. She ministered in conference settings, on campus and with staff peers. As a retiree, Barbara continues to be involved in prayer ministry. She has been invited to regional and national Inter Varsity conferences, to be on the Spiritual Director team at Sojourner's Leadership Summit, is active in prayer at All Saints Episcopal Church and she works on a couple of personal prayer projects each year. Barbara's prayer ministry draws from conversational, charismatic and contemplative streams of prayer with a focus on reconciliation and social justice.*

**Please call the church office:**  
**610-323-2895 (Monday through**  
**Thursday between 8:30am and**  
**noon) to let us know if you plan to**  
**attend.**



## Our Gang

Our Gang has enjoyed a lot of activity this Fall. In October, the group took a ride on the Colebrookdale Railroad taking in the autumn splendor of October followed by dinner at the Greshville Inn. We had 22 people on the trip. Everyone said they had a good time!



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

with various activities as promised. This is a commitment made to the church that while most of our activities are social, we promised to the church our help with the Bazaar when we are able.

In December, we are looking forward to attending Steel River's Christmas Show, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Nineteen have signed up for that. That also will include dinner afterwards.



## Greening of the Church

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 18th after the 10:30 service when our Altar Guild provides us with everything we need, greens, flowers, poinsettia plants, 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 Advent 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. As always, you are encouraged to bring a dish or dessert.



## 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.



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