

Christ Church Parish News

December 2016



Christ Church Parish

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The Holy Way of Advent



Just as we become surrounded with tinsel and all things holly and jolly, the church offers up Advent: a period of preparation and reflection that befits the increasing darkness

of shortening days. Mind you, I'd rather have the light and warmth, and sometimes I'd even like to pretend that all is jolly. But that's neither true nor is it the way to prepare for the celebration of Love born into human life.

We need advent to remind us that the grace of joy - appearing as a glimpse of sparkling light or a realization that love radiates even in the midst of pain - is so different from jolly. We know Christmas is coming, but cancer isn't leaving, grief isn't magically going away, and we still have our everyday challenges. If we live into the gift of space and time that a practice of advent affords, we just may find ourselves prepared to be surprised by joy as C. S. Lewis would say, surprised by the gift of a holy way in the wilderness.

There is great wisdom in this ancient practice. And so, as difficult as it can be in our context, I urge you to find moments of quiet reflection, to give yourself permission to say no to a bit of the frenzy, to prepare your heart for a *joyful* Christmas.

With blessings
and love,

Emily



I'd like to offer you this Advent prayer as we enter the season in anticipation of the birth of Christ.

Blessings to all,
Doug Smith, Senior Warden

All-powerful God,
help us to look forward in hope
to the coming of our Savior.

May we live as he taught,
ready to welcome him with burning love and
faith.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Christmas Music from Early America



This Christmas Eve our choir will perform Christmas music from early America before the service at 10:30 PM.

This special gift will include accompaniment by Richard and Anne Rolls, and Filbert Hong, who will play flute, cello, and violin, with our own Dr. Teddy playing harpsichord -- instruments which were popular in earlier times here in America.

The short program by composers such as William Billings, William Walker, Supply Belcher will make you feel like you are in Williamsburg or at Mount Vernon.

During the service, we will all join in signing our familiar Christmas carols.

Bring friends, neighbors, and family with you to church for a beautiful evening of uplifting music in celebration of the Holy Season.

Parish Life

- **Awesome Christmas:** Anyone who would like to help with decorating for Christmas please contact Kurt or Lauren Robinson (lerob76@verizon.net). Lights will be put on the outside bushes, the trees need to be put up, etc.
- Mark your calendars for **12th Night Service** and dinner afterwards hosted by Women's Fellowship
- **Lessons and Carols on New Year's Day**
- Parish Life is **looking for a coffee hour coordinator for January and February**. Please contact Gail Marks at gailtroussoff@gmail.com, or [301-455-5323](tel:301-455-5323)

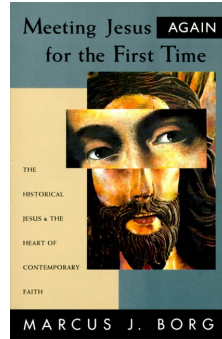


A Big Thank

You to all the parish members who made the Stewardship

Dinner successful. I especially want to thank my kitchen team who helped me prepare the meal; Jane Aylor, Sharon and Peter Bartram, Aime and Carl Keith, Randy and Walker Prindle, Kate Duchelle, and all those who baked beautiful desserts for us to indulge in; Vivian LaCroix, Sharon Bartrum, Tara and Ellie Flynn, Katherine Gagarin, Katie Wallace, and Diane Jung. And especially to all those folks who helped us set up and clean up Sunday night. I would be amiss not to mention Madison Chase for her music contribution that got us all out of our chairs and "dancing"! It was a BIG task, but a great party! It would have not been possible without your generous hearts and hands. The stewardship committee has a daunting task each year to encourage us to pledge to this beautiful church and community, and we thank them for their generosity of time and commitment. We are truly blessed to have Emily Guthrie as our spiritual leader and mentor, thanks be to God. Pamela Prindle

Book Group



The CCPK Book Group

will meet on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 7:30 PM in the Library to discuss Chapters 5 and 6 of Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time by Dr. Marcus Borg. The author proclaims that Christian life is "ultimately not about believing or about being good." Rather, it is about "a relationship with God that involves us in a journey of transformation." The CCPK library has a copy of the book for viewing. For additional info, please contact Jim Kennedy at jekennedy@mac.com

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Cookie Exchange Sunday, December 11th

The Women's Fellowship will host its 3rd Annual Cookie exchange. We will meet in the Undercroft after Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 11, 2016. Bring a dozen (or two or three or more) to share with parishioners who may be ill or home bound (and maybe eat some extras).



We will create lovely Cookie platters for delivery. If you can make cookies, assemble platters, deliver (or do all or some), please join us.

For RSVP's and for Questions, please contact Aime Keith at 202-230-6160 or akeith1966@verizon.net.

Christ Church is Alive with Joy and Making a Difference!

It took less than 30 minutes for our church family to volunteer to sponsor all 45 "Turkey Day Food Bags" for Arcola Elementary families who do not have the means to provide nourishing meals to their families during the Thanksgiving break. Even as we were preparing for our own family Thanksgiving gatherings, we were making a difference in the lives of 45 families!



As we give great thanks to the Lord for His blessings that we have shared at Thanksgiving with families and friends, we also look to great promise to come at Christmas time.

Traditionally Christ Church has reached out to our Arcola families as the Christmas tide approaches with a sharing of our bounty through providing gifts for some of the more needy students and also gathering pantry bags of food items to extend family budgets during the time the schools are closed and meal resources are not available.



Beginning December 1st, the "**Angel Tree**" gift wish list will be on display on the Outreach Table. This year's theme is ..."The Stockings were hung..." Parish members are invited to select a holiday stocking from the display and shop for that child, returning the *unwrapped* gift(s) in a gift bag no later than Sunday, December 18th.

We will also begin collecting food staples to prepare 50 bags of food for our Arcola families to help stretch their budgets during the school winter break when their children are not getting meals supplied at school.

SOCKS, SOCKS and more SOCKS!

Look down at your feet. Chances are you are wearing socks and you probably have many pairs of socks, assuming your dryer has not "eaten" just one. But, think of someone who is homeless. Living on the street is punishing to the feet and they often walk for miles every day. Clean, dry socks can help prevent infections, frostbite and other ailments, as well as providing a small measure of comfort. And believe it or not, **Bethesda Cares** gives out more than 2,500 pairs of socks each year?



faster than
any other
article of clothing
and are the
number one
clothing need
of the homeless

So, we are going to help **Bethesda Cares** help the homeless by *collecting* socks. Remember, when you're out and about, pick up a pair (or more) of socks for our tree and *make a difference!*

*God's blessings on you and your families this Christmastide
from the Outreach Committee!*



Adult Forum on Sunday, Dec. 4th



Following our 10 AM service on /December 4th, the Rev. Dr. Carol Flett, Ecumenical & inter-religious officer for the Episcopal diocese of Washington and Co-Chair of the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council will speak about her work and lead us in conversation about supporting our Muslim neighbors.

Please Join us!

Sunday Bible Study In the Library

Please join the 4:00 pm Sunday Bible study. We are studying 2nd Isaiah during Advent . Please feel free to drop-in any week. There is no prior preparation needed.



Contact Lee Puricelli at leepuricli@yahoo.com for more information.

2016 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



Many Faiths Joining together in Prayer

2016 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



2016 Thanksgiving Service Reception



Massed Choirs Giving Thanks in Song



Youth Group

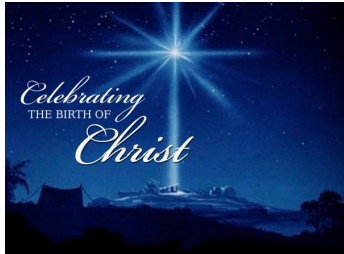


YOUNG ADULTS

The youth were very busy throughout November! Adventures included duck pin bowling, hiking Sugarloaf, and worshipping with the homeless at the Church of the Epiphany's Welcome Table.

December promises to be equally exciting! Their first lock-in of the year on Friday, December 9th, will kick off with caroling and card-making, and end the following morning with Grate Patrol on the National Mall.

Youth will also be wrapping gifts during coffee hour on the 11th and 18th to raise funds for their mission trip to Rutland, Vermont.



Finally, they'll take a well-deserved break from youth group on December 25th and January 1st to celebrate Christmas and New Year's Day.

Happy holidays!

If you have any questions, please contact Youth Minister Madi at youthminister@ccpk.org.



Parents' Afternoon Out

On December 3rd, the youth will be hosting a parents' afternoon out from 2-5 pm in the undercroft. Drop off your children for an afternoon of fun activities while you get a head start on your Christmas shopping - or just take some time for yourself!

Free will donations will be accepted to benefit the youth ministry.

Were You There for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service?

Tuesday, November 22—What a wonderful prayerful Thanksgiving! People of so many faiths and traditions gathering here at Christ Church to give thanks to God in prayer and song. Literally hundreds of us praising God and thanking God for all the many blessings of this life.



An ENORMOUS THANK YOU to all who helped with Tuesday's Community Thanksgiving Service! So many people came together from Christ Church. So many thanked us for our warm welcome and hospitality. Special thanks to Teddy Guerrant for his extraordinary work communicating and harmonizing ALL those singers! Gail Marks led the Parish Life volunteers in organizing the reception and providing hospitality after the service. Virginia Blackman and a team of men and children assembled the luminarias to light the way for our visitors. Kate Duchelle led adults and children in creating seasonal centerpieces. Carol Jones, Helen Urquhart, Susan Atkinson, Peter Turner, Kate Duchelle, Virginia Sheard and Jane Aylor setup and decorated the Undercroft. Many, more brought food, helped cleanup or pitched in, including Sue Mitchell, Tina and Rusty Cleland, Suzanne Lawrence, Liz & Bob Quinn, Emily Barry, Marcia Coe, Amy Brown, Dianne Jung, Charles Serpan, Anne Fox, Katie Wallace, Kathy Cowan, Vivian LaCroix, Pam Prindle, Lauren Robinson, Nora

Buckley, Sharon Bartram and Virginia Blackman. Heartfelt thanks to our Choir, the Flower and Altar Guilds, the Vergers and Brad Christmas and the Ushers who corralled our visitors. If I missed your name, my apologies and also my thanks for your contributions. Well done all.

2016 Children's Christmas Pageant



This year's pageant will take place on Sunday, December 18th during the 10 o'clock service.

Children PreK-Grade 3 are invited to choose a costume (Angels, Shepherds, Blessed Animals) for our pageant tableaux.

Fourth- and fifth-graders are invited to read the Lessons recounting the stories of The Annunciation, the Nativity, and the Shepherds' Visit.

Pageant rehearsals will take place during both Children's Chapel and Sunday School on December 4th and December 11th.

Please sign-up and choose a costume on **December 4th in the Undercroft** at Children's Chapel. Please email Ann Enkiri if you have any questions: sundayschool@ccpk.org.

Music Notes



Christmas Eve was always a very special time for me as I grew up. I sang in the Junior Choir at St. John's Episcopal Church in College Park, Georgia, and we often went caroling, followed by cupcakes, candies, and other sweets in the church fellowship hall.

In my fifth grade school year I was sick with some kind of childhood bug that kept me at home, quite against my wishes. The junior choir decided to carol at our house just as Santa Claus was delivering an antique pump organ to our basement play room. My mother worried for years that I saw it go by in the truck outside (as it was tall, and would have been hard to miss) exactly as the choir was singing; however, I really did not, and was thrilled to find it downstairs the following morning. It was probably the foundation for my becoming a church organist.

I brought home the church bulletins every Sunday and re-enacted every service, playing all the hymns over and over on my Kimball pump organ with great delight. My parents were very patient, having to listen to those same Sunday hymns over and over again during the week! Sometimes before going to bed even now I will play beloved hymns on one of the three pump organs that live in my 116 year old house.

This Christmas Eve our choir is singing Christmas music from early America before the service at 10:30 PM, ably assisted by Richard and Anne Rolls, and Filbert Hong, who will play flute, cello, and violin, with harpsichord -- instruments which were popular in earlier times here in America (think Williamsburg and Mount Vernon). We are putting together a little program by composers such as William Billings, William Walker, Supply Belcher, and, during the service itself, we will sing anthems by later American composers Gilbert M. Martin, Liza Lehmann, and Daniel Kantor. I think it will all make for a lovely evening, and I hope you will bring friends, neighbors, and family with you to church. We will, of course, enjoy familiar Christmas carols during the service itself.

Teddy

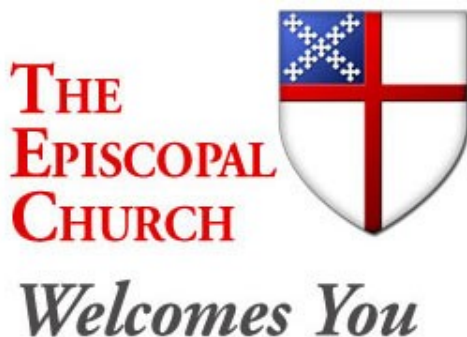
December Celebrations



Ethan Clausen 12/01
Charles Jackson Jr. 12/01
Prescott Bullard 12/04
Kay E Bondehagen 12/05
Aime Keith 12/05
Susan Atkinson 12/09
Carl Keith 12/12
Don Maloney 12/12
Charlie Flynn 12/13
Emily Barry 12/14
Ian Salow 12/16
Sarah W. Leung 12/17
Ellen Woodward 12/21
Doug Slotten 12/22
Cynthia Lett 12/24
Kathryn McKay 12/24
Thomas McKay 12/24
Robert Quinn 12/24
Allan Wallace 12/25
Helen Urquhart 12/31



Bill & Jan Croke 12/03
Frank & Suzanne Shaw 12/20
George & Joan Edler 12/22
Steve & Corry Hoffeditz 12/23



PrimeTimers

The Prime Timers will meet in the undercroft of the church on December 1 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. to view This video presentation of **Honor Flight, One Last Mission.**



This film is “a heartwarming documentary about four living World War II veterans and a Midwest community coming together to give them the trip of a lifetime. Volunteers race against the clock to fly thousands of WWII veterans to Washington, DC to see the memorial constructed for them in 2004, nearly 60 years after their epic struggle.”

Please RSVP to Nora Buckley at [301-564-0689](tel:301-564-0689) or nora-bee@live.com and let her know if you are attending and wish to order a lunch (\$10). **Open to Everyone!**

Episcopal Relief and Development Gifts for Life



Many of you find that this season is a special time to support Episcopal Relief and Development by giving a gift in honor of a loved one.

Unlike previous years, we don't have printed catalogs to pass out this year, but the ER-D Gifts for Life Program is still very active.

Please consider honoring your gift recipients by providing Gifts for Life through Episcopal Relief and Development. “By putting your faith into action, *Gifts for Life* empowers both individuals and communities all over the world to transform their lives. It is truly the gift that keeps on giving. With each gift you purchase, you'll receive a FREE gift card or E-card announcing you have made a generous gift in honor of a loved one and now you can share the news via Facebook and Twitter.”

Go to the ER-D website: www.EpiscopalRelief.org and click on the Gifts for Life notice on the left of the homepage.



December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:30 AM <u>Prime Timers</u> 4:00 PM African Women's Prayer Group	2	3 9:30 AM Flower Guild 2-5 PM <u>Parents Afternoon Out</u>
4 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Sunday School/Youth Group 11:15 AM Christmas Pageant Sign-up 4:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist	5	6 6:30 EFM 7:30 PM Zumba	7 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:10 PM Needlework Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 4:00 PM African Women's Prayer Group 7:30 PM Book Group	9 6:00 PM Youth Lock In	10 9:30 AM Flower Guild
11 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Sunday School/Youth Group 12:15 PM Women's Fellowship Cookie Event 4:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist	12	13 6:30 EFM 7:30 PM Zumba	14 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:10 PM Needlework Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 4:00 PM African Women's Prayer Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17 9:30 AM Flower Guild 2:00 PM David Robbins' Eagle Court of Honor
18 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Sunday School/Youth Group 4:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist	19	20 6:30 EFM 7:30 PM Zumba	21 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 M Potluck Supper 7:10 PM Needlework Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 4:00 PM African Women's Prayer Group 7:30 PM Book Group	23	24 9:30 AM Flower Guild 5:00 PM <u>Family Festival Eucharist</u> 10:30 PM <u>Christmas Music</u> 11:00 PM <u>Christmas Eve Eucharist</u>
25 CHRISTMAS 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Sunday School/Youth Group	26	27 6:30 EFM 7:30 PM Zumba	28 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:10 PM Needlework Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 4:00 PM African Women's Prayer Group	30	31 9:30 AM Flower Guild