THE CHRIST CHURCH BEACON

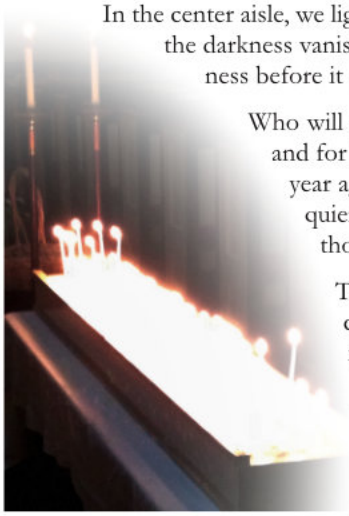
NOVEMBER 2019

Saints Alive!

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!" So begins one of the great hymns we'll sing in November when Christ Church has opportunity to remember the saints upon which our faith is built.

On All Saints' Sunday, at both the 9 and 11 a.m. service, we'll remember "those whom we love and see no longer," as we recite in the liturgy the names of those in the parish community who have died in the past year. And, we'll make some new saints, too, with baptisms, promising to pass on to our newest members the faith that has been passed on to us.

On All Saints' Sunday evening, during the Evensong at 5 p.m., we remember the saints of our own lives. In the center aisle, we light candles for them in the dark church, and as the church fills with light the darkness vanishes. That's what the saints do—they give us light to vanquish the darkness before it consumes.



Who will you light a candle for? I'll light one for my mom, for Rabbi Beerman, and for Paul. I'll light them for those who died in the Tree of Life synagogue a year ago, and in Emanuel AME Church in Charleston four years ago (the Requiem composed by Parker Kitterman that the choir will sing is dedicated to those victims and all the victims of gun violence).

The saints are those upon whom we stand to say, "no more." The saints call us to rise beyond ourselves and confront the evils that still divide, the ignorance that still destroys, and the fear that still corrupts.

And we stand on the saints on Sunday, Nov. 17, when we celebrate 324th year of our founding and God's providence in one celebratory, festive service. Details below.

Saints alive, indeed!

Timothy Safford





Anniversary Sunday November 17

ONE 10 A.M. SERVICE

Celebrating 324 years of God's Providence
Christ Church Philadelphia
Founded 15 November, 1695

Special Music!
A Virtual Tour of the Steeple!*
Special Reception with Donuts!**

**You can't climb the scaffold, so we'll bring the scaffold to you.* Photos courtesy of James Abbott.

***Right in the church! An opportunity for fellowship with both 9 & 11 a.m. communities*

"Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you belong, just as you are."





Sunday Nov. 3.
All Saints' Sunday, 9 & 11 a.m.

Baptism and Holy Eucharist, and recitation of those who have died since last All Saints. Names can be forwarded to Cecilia Wagner.

5 pm.

Evensong, with *Requiem for victims of gun violence* by Parker Kitterman

Sunday Nov. 3 & 24, 10:10 a.m.
Bridge Book Study

Join in the study of *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation*

Saturday Nov. 9, 9 a.m.
Activism/Sprituality Group

A community to support progressive justice work and activism.

Sunday Nov. 17. After worship
Sages Lunch with Tony Campolo

All are welcome, not just "Sages" to lunch with the renown activist and commentator.

Saturday Nov. 16, 9 a.m.
Sandwiches for St. Mary's

Prepare 300 sandwiches for St. Mary's program. Children encouraged to help!

Friday Nov. 22, 5:30 p.m.
Shelter Meals Begin

Serve those experiencing homelessness at the Men's Shelter at Old First Reform Church

Sunday Nov. 24
Christmas Gift Tree Begins

Claim the tags to purchase gifts for children and families in need, and the elderly, all served by Episcopal Community Services.

Wednesday Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist

A quiet, simple service to give thanks.

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Wednesday Noon Eucharist

A perfect midweek respite, this simple liturgy is no longer than 30 minutes and is in the church every Wednesday.

Fair Trade Coffee & Tea

Fair Trade Coffee and tea are for sale the first Sunday of each month. The proceeds of this special organic coffee support the work of the Episcopal Relief and Development programs.

Activism/Spirituality Group

This group of committed members meets on the second Satruday of each month. The next meeting is Nov 9, 9-10 a.m. in the Harding Room in Neighborhood House (just to your right as you walk in). We meet to support each person in doing their progressive justice work as is best for their lives and their concerns. Questions? Contact Susan Richardson.

The Sages--All invited to hear evangelical scholar Tony Campolo

Conservative evangelicals are among the most powerful voting blocs in the nation. Often, they judge not their candidates religious views or moral standing, but whether the candidate can deliver on policies and judges that reflect their theological world view. However, there are shifts, especially around climate change, foreign policy and women's issues in light of #MeToo. Tony Campolo is one of the most distinguished leaders in the evangelical world, and always has keen insight into religion and politics. The former professor at Eastern University will share with us his thoughts on what is happening within the evangelical community in the current political climate. Open to all, not just "Sages." Note: This gathering will follow the 324th anniversary service at 10:00 and the reception at approximately 11:30 for an early lunch. Let Palmer Hartl know if you will attend.



Sandwiches for St. Mary's Shelter

Come join the crew making 300 sandwiches for the shelter at St. Mary's on third Saturdays. This is a great activity for kids and teens. Next on Nov. 16, 9-10 a.m. Questions? Contact Grace Layne.



Alexander Bruce @sketchPHL

CHRIST CHURCH MUSIC

REVOLUTIONARY. SPIRIT.

On **November 3 at 5 p.m.**, the Christ Church Choir will present its first Choral Evensong of the 2019-20 season, in a special All Saints Day Service of Remembrance. Featured will be Parker Kitterman's *Requiem*, written in 2015 in response to the Charleston church shooting and in memory of all victims of gun violence. This uplifting piece was described in a recent review as "producing a seamless fabric in which plainchant, modern classical, and jazz styles not merely coexist but come together to proffer a whole greater than the sum of all their individual parts."

On **December 8 at 5 p.m.**, we offer our annual service of **Lessons and Carols for Advent**, followed by a pasta supper, to which all are invited. This year's music features several new carols, including one by our own singer/composer Peter Christian, as well as familiar favorites like "O come, O come Emmanuel."

For the first **three Tuesdays in December at noon**, we will host a series of free half-hour organ recitals, sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.

Dec. 3 Sean Burns; **Dec. 10** Andy Heller, **Dec. 17** Mark Bani.

On **December 24, at 8:30 p.m.**, we offer special prelude music to our **Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist**. The featured choral work will be Johann Pachelbel's *Magnificat in C*, along with other beloved carols and hymns for the Christmas season.

All of this special music is underwritten by **Memorial and Thanksgiving gifts** made to the Music Program at Christmastide and Eastertide, when the names of those remembered are published in programs. Look for the Memorial and Thanksgiving Gift envelope in the pews and the mail. Or, contact Cecilia Wagner with your memorial name(s) and arrange for the contribution electronically or by check. Memorial and Thanksgiving gifts for Music are usually $100, but any amount is welcome.

When the road goes one way, and you have to go another:

"We Make the Road by Walking" by Brian McClaren

A Bridge, Hybrid Class and Book Study led by Susan Richardson

This past Sunday at the Bridge fall book study (10:10 at the 2nd floor Kitchen Table), the reading was Abram's call to what would be a long, winding journey on a road that didn't just have an uncertain end – it didn't even exist until he and Sarai started walking. And the funny thing? As people around the Kitchen Table talked about exactly those moments in their own lives, that distant story became vibrant and alive. And the moments they talked about were pretty powerful. It helps to share a "non-road."

Upcoming dates are Sundays **Nov. 3 & 24 and Dec. 1**, culminating in an Advent mini retreat on Saturday **Dec. 14,** 1 to 3 p.m., for those who have been in the Sunday meetings. For questions or RSVP, please contact the Rev. Susan Richardson. The book can be found on Amazon.

Shelter Meals Resume

From November through April, Christ Church prepares and serves a monthly meal at Old First Reformed Church (4th and Race streets), hosting a winter shelter for men struggling with homelessness. The first date of this year's season is **Friday, Nov 22**. Volunteers are needed. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., by 8 you'll be on your way with a full belly and fuller heart. Contact Annie McAteer.

Baptism and Confirmation

Do we sprinkle water, pour it, dunk our heads in it, dunk our whole bodies? And do we do it for cleansing, for adoption, for salvation, for community, for conversion? Over the centuries, we've seen all these things and more.



Which makes it exciting every time we gather as a community around a baptisand to show our connection with questions, more than answers, and with how "baptism" keeps finding new ways to look in each face, each life, each journey.

And so goes confirmation: it's claiming a voice, it's equipping a life, it's membership (in some denominations), or can "seal the deal" on baptism. When each person feels drawn to it, it will be a different tool in the hands of their life. Priests can baptize, but it takes a bishop to confirm.

Bishop Gutierrez makes his visitation to Christ Church on **Sunday, Feb. 23, at 11 a.m**. And will baptize and confirm. For anyone interesting in having this rich history be part of their own history, please contact the Rev. Susan Richardson.

As well, baptism is offered **Nov. 3** (All Saints' Day Celebration), **Jan. 12** (Epiphany), **April 12** (Easter), and **May 31** (Pentecost).

New Grant for the Preservation Trust



The Christ Church Preservation Trust is delighted to announce a $300,000 grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage to commission a new performance work by pioneering postmodern choreographer David Gordon. For our Neighborhood House program, he will create a multi-city experience by connecting live performers with a simultaneous video stream of performers in Manhattan. David Gordon was one of the founding members of the Judson Church performance movement in New York City in the 1960's.

If you missed our Fall Fete Dinner at the foot of the Steeple on Church Street, it was a gorgeous fall evening with delicious food prepared by High Street and Panorama Restaurant served under the stars. The Trust honored the work of Charlie Moleski and Janice Woodcock for their professional services leading the capital project construction team for the Organ, Tower and Steeple Restoration. The work on the Steeple continue apace. Next week the freshly gilded Bishop's Mitre weathervane will be reinstalled at the top of the spire.

Gifts for the steeple can still be made at www.RestoringAmericasSteeple.org

Desserts and Volunteers needed for Parish Supper

After the Lessons and Carols Service on **Sunday December 8**, we will have a delicious pasta supper in the Great Hall and we need your help. Can you donate a dessert, unload supplies, assist with the cooking, serving or cleanup? Contact Cecilia to offer your assistance.

Christ Church Thanksgiving Tree 2019

The Thanksgiving Tree project provides a direct connection between our Christ Church family and those who could use help in making their Christmas holiday more joyous. This annual ministry offers us the opportunity to anonymously meet the wish or need of a child, family or adult in this season of giving. All are invited to select a tag from the Thanksgiving Tree in Neighborhood House on November 24, 2019 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day).

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) remains our major partner in identifying those who will be the recipients of our gifts. Approximately 600 children and 250 elderly are served by ECS through this annual gift drive. Your unwrapped gifts must be delivered to Neighborhood House by the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8.

As you make your commitment to fulfill someone's wish, please remember to pray for both the person to whom your gift will be given and for the work of the program that is providing both care and support.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

At Christmastide, Christ Church gives glory to God by being a place of great beauty. We fill Christ Church with beautiful flowers, blazing poinsettias and fragrant greens. This beauty is made possible through memorial gifts. Flower & Music Memorial envelopes are available in the pews. Or, contact Cecilia Wagner. Please submit all Memorial names by December 16.

Parish Birthdays

Blessings to: **1**

Did we miss your birthday? Please contact Cecilia Wagner in the church office.

Contacts

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Shelter Meal: annekmcateer@gmail.com

GETTING TO KNOW . . .

Wayne Christman

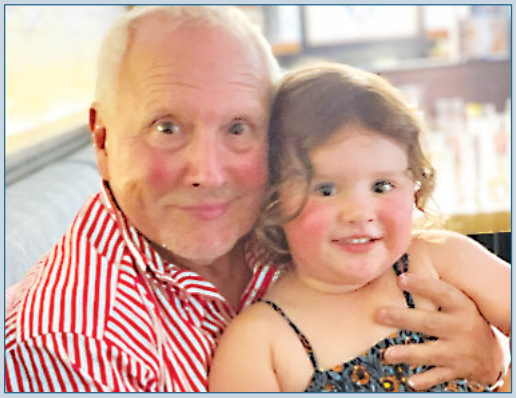
Wayne Christman and his wife, Janet, started attending Christ Church in 2005. They moved to Old City in 2014. Wayne is in his second term of serving on the Vestry. He managed the St. Mary's sandwich mission program for several years before placing it in the capable hands of Grace Layne. You can also see him processing most Sundays at the 11 a.m. service as he sings in the Christ Church choir. He has two grown children and two young grandchildren who, thankfully, live nearby.

Wayne writes:

"Starting to worship at Christ Church was a new experience for me as the liturgy was somewhat unfamiliar from my Baptist/Presbyterian roots. I quickly found it to be a most intimate way for me to worship, including the sacraments and the preached word.

Before I began singing in the choir, I ushered for several years. Both have brought me a deeper understanding of the meaning of worship. I also had opportunities to delve deeper into my faith in a community setting.

The last few years with Janet's illness and her passing have shifted the ground under my feet. The one constant that has held me firm has been Christ Church - the community with whom I share worship (even if I do not know you all by name), and the Spirit in this place sustains and continues to challenge me."



Wayne with his granddaughter Ellie

> ***The one constant that has held me firm has been Christ Church***

The Beacon is published seven times yearly by Christ Church Philadelphia, 20 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. All submissions, announcements, address changes and subscription requests should be directed to Cecilia Wagner, cwagner@christchurchphila.org or 215.922.1695, ext 21.

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20 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

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