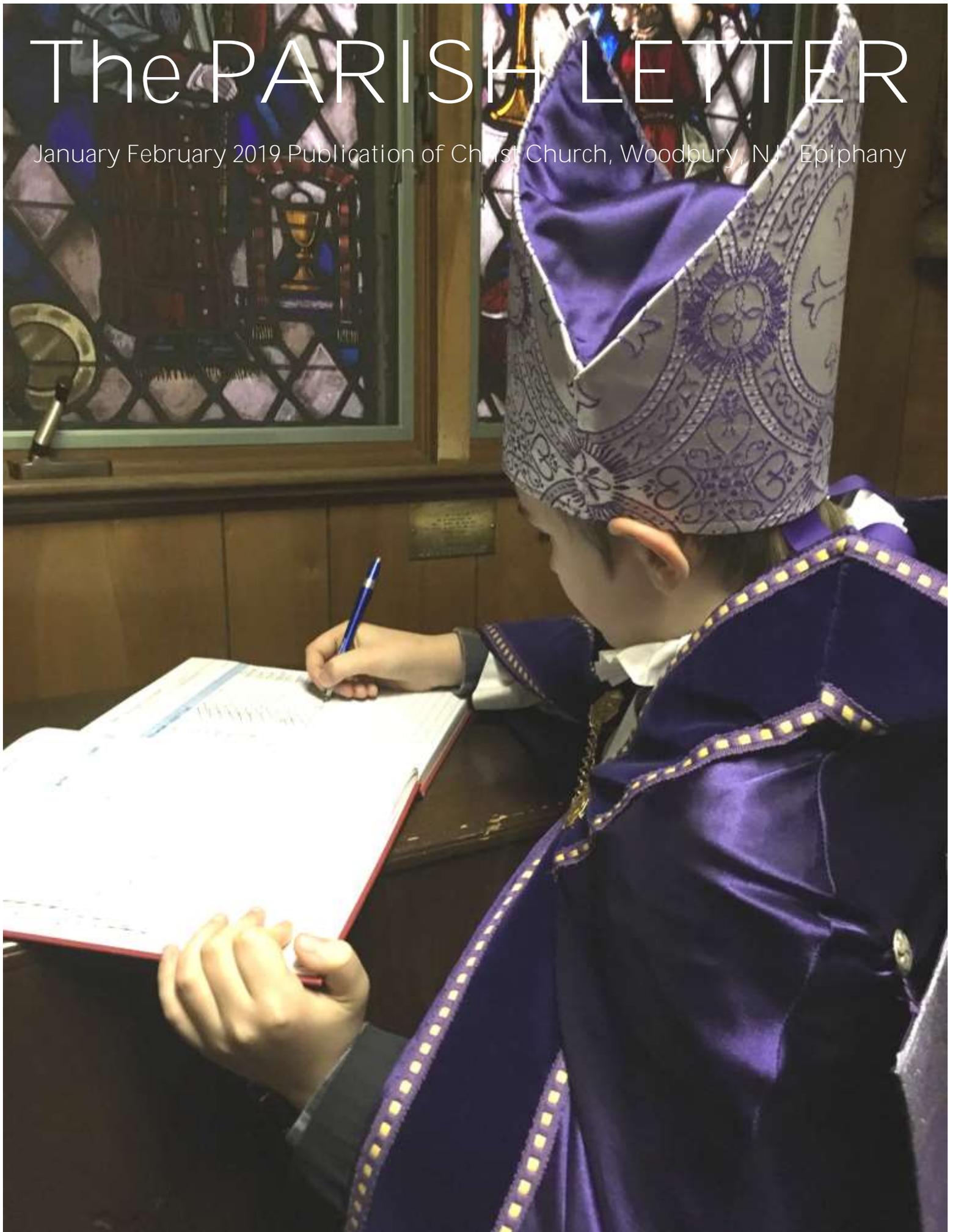


The PARISH LETTER

January February 2019 Publication of Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ Epiphany



From the Rector

*O Praise God in his sanctuary: *
praise him in the firmament of his power.*

*Praise him in his noble acts: *
praise him according to his excellent greatness.*

*Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: *
praise him upon lute and harp.*

*Praise him in the timbrels and dances: *
praise him upon strings and pipe.*

*Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: *
praise him upon the loud cymbals.*

*Let everything that hath breath *
praise the Lord.*

One of the most spiritually moving expressions of worship that I've ever had opportunity to experience was during Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral. The Choir had just returned from tour and so two trebles (boy choristers) fell asleep during the address while they sat in the choir stalls. The chorister mothers sitting opposite and next to us, were visibly embarrassed but could not awaken them from the opposite side of the chancel without making a disturbing scene.

When all was completed and it was time to retire for the evening, the cathedral Choir processed from the chancel back into the darkened cathedral chanting Psalm 150 *a cappella* (literally "in the chapel" or without accompaniment). As they made their way further and further into the recesses of the cathedral, the dynamics naturally diminished almost to a whisper. Before we could depart in peace, we were drawn into the very distant and almost inaudible phrase: *Let everything that hath breath * praise the Lord.* Then . . . silence.

At that moment, no one was thinking about dozing choristers, the audit concerns of a foreign tour, the need for major capital improvements of an 11th century Gothic cathedral, rents due from shop owners within the cathedral close, or even what classroom teachers may or may not be returning for the next academic year within the cathedral school. All was perfect in that time, in their voices, and within that consecrated space; a space that kings and queens have prayed in and where the feet and knees of pilgrims over many centuries have grooved massive stone steps. All was perfect.

That experience comes back to me whenever we translate from one calendar year to another. So much is going on and it is important that your rector, staff and Vestry not only remain out in front, but keep the main focus the main focus. Here at Christ Church Woodbury, that primary focus will always remain our worship of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All else will find its place in our common life together once we are in the **routine of meeting before the altar in interest of offering common prayer before God's throne of grace, hearing His most Holy Word, and making our Holy Communion.** It is not as if all other demands on our time and attention are not important, it is just that worship defines our very existence as Christians. When done well, the relationship shared between heaven and earth becomes clearly defined. Every expression we make into and on behalf of the world Christ came to redeem has its inception at an altar.



Because we organize ourselves under this priority, our parish leadership is not only found to be necessary but essential to our overall mission and calling. There can be no holy order at the altar if there is no holy order in all other aspects of our common lives together. We **don't ever want to consider the level of distortion** that will find its way to our parish if concern for education, finances, administration, maintenance, stewardship, hospitality, youth ministry, communications, pastoral care, and many other aspects of our common life together are not being managed in the right way and with the same degree of concern as we give to corporate worship.

Each year I have the privilege to establish and then work with the Parish Nomination Committee, I am humbled by the diversity and quality of leadership that this committee brings forward for your consideration and election. Each candidate brings to their respective areas of oversight a plethora of backgrounds and experiences in matters that serves us quite well. Each has the heart of a disciple and may even need a bit of encouragement to come forward. Which of course is the reoccurring example being held up throughout our scriptural tradition.

But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." (Exodus 4:10-12)

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit

will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. (Luke 1:34-36)

I invite you to enter into immediate relationship with our very promising future by entering into meaningful dialogue with our parish leadership. Many of them you have elected to their seats of



oversight and authority. When their names came before you for election, you were willing at the time of our Annual Parish Meeting to give them administrative and ministry oversight of this corporation on your behalf. In other words, you have asked them to organize our efforts and invite you into specific areas of ministry under their organizational leadership. The responsibility for our entire mission priority is still in your hands.

Ministry is not accomplished under duress neither is it accomplished by proxy. Nowhere in Holy Scripture are the apostles driven in their vocation by force nor do they turn over what has been entrusted to them to a group of apostolic surrogates. In the infant Church, the apostles did raise up deacons so that they themselves may be about the business of prayer, celebrating Holy Eucharist, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 6:1-4). Although they delegated certain authority, the apostles maintained absolute responsibility for it all.

We are all asked to consider the authority we have entrusted to others and the great responsibility we still maintain as those constituting the Body of

Christ. Outside of our Annual Parish Meeting, have you ever taken opportunity to hear from our parish treasurer? Do you have any idea what it is that may be keeping him up at night? What about our parish clerk? What does she accomplish each time she pushes away from her secular employment in order to stop by the parish office? You may have given them the authority but we all maintain responsibility.

As your rector, I am going to make a conscious effort to get our parish staff and leadership out in front of this parish in such a way that you recognize avenues to enter in, even if simply to ask questions, or share ideas. We take for granted that recognizable gateways for entering in are being communicated frequently. Each in their own unique way is preparing the foundational work for tremendous ministry to be accomplished. However their individual reach and influence can only extend so far.

Every time a leader invites others of our parish to join them in a particular ministry, the offering is recognized as being made to the glory of God *and* each minister is strengthened spiritually for having been in Eucharistic relationship with others as it is Christ intends. This is also how we raise up future leaders who have themselves become adept at exercising sacrificial hearts. We find this to be the case over and over again. It simply takes an invitation extended and that invitation to be accepted. All combined, that sounds like the basis of Holy Eucharist to me.

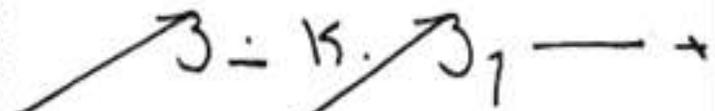
There is a steeped tradition at The University of the South, my school of seminary formation and education. Matrons are assigned to each undergraduate dorm in interest of not only educating but forming gentlemen (and now ladies). The practice started after the Civil War when many war widows were given housing, meals, and overall responsibility for instilling genteel manners. To this day, when a matron approaches your table in the dining hall, the entire table stands.

That image of epiphany cuts deeply and in many different way; to include how we recognize each other as the tabernacle of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of the altar. That presence goes with us out the door and into the world He came to redeem. And because that is where it is true Christian leadership is needed from all of us, we should have need to stand when that presence approaches our table.

Thank you to all who lead us into the priorities of Christ's heavenly kingdom. And thank you to all who consider invitations to serve as opportunities to *do all in your power to support others in their life in Christ* (BCP pg. 303). You bring glory to God and honor the Church He came to redeem with your lives and ministries.

*Let everything that hath breath *
praise the Lord.*

In the peace of God, which passeth all understanding;



Fr. Brian K. Burgess



The Feast of St. Nicholas was a success and I would like to give a big thank you to all who helped!

Denise Burgess, Aimee Lyden, Jennifer Lewis, and Tori Wishnick for the delicious meatballs they supplied and to Chelsea Wright, John Lyden and Michele Schiffer for making the platters up to be served and thanks so much to the acolytes Kaitlyn and Jillian Johnson, Erin Lewis, Aaron Schiffer and Michael Lyden who helped to serve us at our tables.

Looking forward to Family game night on January 18th. Hope to see you there.

Kim Wright, Vestry Chair of Programs and Activities
kimwright71@comcast.net

Sacristy Notes

Eucharistic Vestments



The Alb

A long white linen robe reaching to the hem of the cassock, with straight sleeves. The alb is of Greek origin and is the oldest Christian vestment. It represents the white robe worn by our Lord, and is worn with a girdle of linen rope or a band about the waist, a reminder that our Lord was bound by a rope.

The Amice

An oblong piece of linen worn about the neck over the cassock. It was in the ninth century a hood, signifying the "helmet of salvation."

The Stole

A silk band, following the color of the season, worn about the neck of the priest over the amice and crossed in front, the ends passed through the girdle of the alb. It symbolizes the yoke of obedience to Christ.

The Maniple

A narrow strip of silk or linen, worn over the left arm of the priest, slightly above the wrist. Probably originally a napkin.

The Chasuble

The last vestment put on by the priest who is to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, and never worn at any other service. It may be of silk or brocade, following the color of the season, or of white linen. In the primitive Church it was a circular mantle, but now is elongated at the bottom both in the front and the back. It has no opening save for the head, representing the seamless robe of Christ. It is usually ornamented with orphreys (strips) about 2 1/2 inches wide, placed like a "Y" cross both in front and at the back; sometimes this "Y" is only in the back, and a straight strip called a "pillar" ornaments the front.



Edith Weir Perry, An Altar Guild Manual New York: (Morehouse-Barlow Co., 1960)



The group toured the Eastern State Penitentiary during the day on Saturday October 27. The prison was once the most famous and expensive prison in the world right here close to home but today it stands in ruin, crumbling cellblocks and empty guard towers. It homed notorious criminals like "Slick Willie" Sutton and "Scarface" Al Capone. It was amazing to hear what life was like in a prison of that size. After our tour we went to lunch at the cheesesteak "corner". There was a taste test of Pat's vs Geno's to see who had the best cheesesteak. Geno's won hands down.

In November the group hosted a Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday November 17th. They collected can goods for the GWCM Food Pantry. Games were played before dinner and good fellowship was shared. Before dinner each person said what they are most thankful in their lives, items like friends, family and our church was at the top of the list.

During December's meeting we had a special guest Sarah Novalsky who spoke to the group. Sarah is a graduate of our youth group program and she was kind to share her experiences with us after graduating high school. Sarah is a true gem and is involved with a number of outreach projects. You make Christ Church proud and thank you for all that you do.

Thank you to so many people that helped out the group during our meetings and events. Special thanks to Tara and Paul Mass, Kim and Rob Johnson, David Wishnick, Kate Baldwin, Sarah Novalsky and Shane Gosdis.

Upcoming events:

- January 12th- Dinner and a movie 4:00 PM
- February 3rd- Meeting and Coffee Hour Host
- February 10th- Team Building Fun 1:00 PM
- March 3rd- Meeting
- March 16th- Ronald McDonald House Breakfast 9:00 AM

If you are interested in helping with the youth group or would like to be our "special" guest at one of our meeting, please contact either Jane or Matt.

Jane Gosdis (856) 217-3037 or jane@gosdis.com
Matt Baldwin matthewbaldwin@comcast.net





Parish Office Visitor

Miss Amelia Curran stopped by the parish office in interest of selecting her own "cookies in a jar" as offered each Christmas by our Episcopal Church Women. Amelia is the daughter of Erin and Sean Curran and the granddaughter of Linda Rosser. Amelia spent the day in her Santa suit while accompanying her grandmother.



THE HOMILY:

This drawing was made by our own Miss Maya Sanchez on the First Sunday of Advent. Not only is the subject matter clearly stated, but the depth of what she saw and experienced around that selected subject matter is quite advanced for a second grader. Fr. Burgess has shared before how it is our children see, hear, taste and then process a great deal more than that which we often give them credit.

Case in point: at the very same time this child captured this image and experience of sacred time within her inquiring and discerning heart (BCP pg. 308), another mother of two spent the entire time on her cell phone texting and receiving texts through the Homily, Nicene Creed, Prayers of the People, General Confession, and (even) the pronouncing of absolution in the back rows of the church.



We are losing what it is that constitutes sacred, time and sacred space. Christ Church Woodbury holds firmly to the extraordinary responsibility of inviting and caring for contrite and humble hearts as well as spirits. Please leave your cell phones in the car. There is no emergency so pressing that others can't find you if truly needed. And in fact, as evidence through this drawing, our children are watching.

Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." (Isaiah 57:15)

Many Events

One Common Denominator

Perhaps because I usually attend the 8:00 AM Sunday service I always take notice of how so many acolytes can organize themselves. On the Sunday of Christ the King, I served as chalice bearer at the 10:00 Solemn Mass and saw their knowledge and skills on full display. Before and during the mass every acolyte, including thurifer and boat, knew exactly where to be, how to vest, and when to move. We welcomed guests from the Church of Saint Andrew that day and they were able to seamlessly join our procession because our Acolyte Masters have provided such clear and consistent guidance that the acolytes are not even fazed by changes to the normal routine.

The seating of the twelfth child bishop was held on the commemoration of Saint Nicholas of Myra. **This year's child bishop demonstrated great poise while in procession, at the altar, and most especially while delivering a compelling homily that easily captivated those seated in the pews.** If visitors had been told that our children do this every week, they would have had no reason to doubt it. Our Sunday School Superintendent and teachers have had a strong influence on building the religious foundations of the next generation of Christians.

At the Ceremony of Lessons and Carols our choristers had an opportunity to sing of the glory of God. The hours of rehearsal time with our Organist and Choirmaster ensured that their songs of praise and thanksgiving would be worthy of the moment. The service perfectly blended the efforts of children and adults to create an evening that emphasized the anticipation of Advent with Christmas coming into view on the horizon.

The support of the entire parish was essential at each of these services, but none would have even been possible without the commitment of parents. Parents bring acolytes early to mass and parents wait during chorister rehearsal. Thank you for raising up the next generation of Anglo-catholic Episcopalians. Their faith, their knowledge of music, and their knowledge of liturgy will sustain the church in the years to come. We should

-continues next page

never forget how blessed we are at Christ Church to have such a vibrant group of children and parents.

As the short season of Christmas draws to a close and we remember how blessed we are, it is appropriate to pray for the young people who inspire us.

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p.829)

Jeff Wenzel, Junior Warden
thewenzel@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING

January 13th following Dismissal of the 10:00 AM Mass in the
Upper Assembly Room
Child care will be provided.

It's a new year and time for a new commitment.

As 2019 dawns, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew invites all men of Christ Church to join us for our monthly meetings as well as our service projects for the good of the church and the wider community.

As members of the Brotherhood, our active chapter is a collective from all backgrounds, united in spirituality and purpose.

Our symbol represents three important areas: Prayer, Study and Service.

Our Prayer is being true to our faith. As men who believe in the ways and life of Jesus Christ, we work to set an example for others with prayerful attendance at Christ Church as well as serving our church in a variety of functions. We reverently offer our time and talents to make our church a worshipping as well as a welcoming place.

Our Study includes Bible Study at our monthly meetings where we often discover more about our fellow members but also the common link that brings us to worship at the foot of the cross, specifically at Christ Church in Woodbury.

Our Service takes on many forms. It can be flipping pancakes with the acolytes on Shrove Tuesday; serving up burgers and hot dogs at the annual Parish Picnic; or providing hands and backs to help our fellow parishioners.

So why do we choose the patron of St. Andrew?

Well, the story of Andrew is one of wonder and belief.

Andrew was among the first called, some say the first, along with his brother Simon Peter. He encouraged his **brother, who would become the "rock" upon which Jesus built his church, to hear the words and thoughts of the Messiah.**

According to John, it is also Andrew who kindles the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes when he tells Jesus about **the young boy who is there with two fish and five loaves of bread. Upon Jesus' word, the 5,000 are fed.**

How is Andrew remembered?

The feast of St. Andrew is the first of the feast days for Apostles of Jesus. It is the first on Nov. 30 of the Western church year. It is the day closest to Advent. This is a tribute to how important his role remains in the evolution, growth and continuance of the Christian church.

What became of Andrew?

Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. It is believed that relics of Andrew were brought to Scotland by a **missionary to a place called Fife, now known as St. Andrew's and best known as the site of the world famous golf course.**

The Brotherhood meets on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM and we invite all to join us. Our meetings are interactive and include Bible study, discussion of ongoing projects, any other projects we might consider and, of course, great fellowship.

Jim Atkins, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Treasurer and Vestry Chair of Communications
atkins82@aol.com

Details from the writings of James Kiefer updated in October 2015 for the web site, Unapologetically Episcopalian.



Reconstituted Building Committee



During their regular December meeting, In compliance with Article X; Section 1 of our parish by-Laws, and upon recommendation of Executive Committee, Vestry authorized the following parishioners in good standing to serve as the Building Committee in interest of bringing forward to Vestry a detailed listing of repairs and capital improvements in priority order that may be accomplished under the contractual oversight of a licensed and insured contractor in the State of New Jersey:



- Jim Bathurst
- Ed Ferrell
- Frank McGarry
- Susan Novalsky

Many of these pending projects are to be found in and around the 1855 rectory, the (1930's) Jackson House, and throughout our 1856 church. Do you realize that the original terra cotta pipes leading to the city sewer-line (pictured) is collapsing underground of the Jackson House? Rather than wait until each issue becomes exigent in nature, Vestry desires to put all into a master plan so that sound, well articulated financial decisions can be made while it is we have the time to thoroughly inspect each situation of need, devise a plan forward, and then discern the correct priority of things. Vestry also does not

want to be in position of having to schedule multiple visits from various contractors and trades. Electrical priorities, plumbing work, carpentry concerns, etc., can be accomplished within a well-planned order that invites one contract, a single permitting process, and the coordinating oversight of a single licensed and insured general contractor.

Please remember the many and various capital improvement needs of Christ Church when concerning yourself with charitable giving. As always, thank you for your faithful stewardship.



Change *without purpose*

Several weeks ago on the editorial page of a major Philadelphia newspaper appeared a suggestion that to enjoy a better winter "Let's Move Christmas celebration from December 25 to February 7." According to the writer this change would shorten the winter doldrums and "give you enough space to even enjoy another family gathering since Thanksgiving and New Year's Day both fall so close to the December 25 'designated' day of Christmas."

The writer further justifies this proposed change by stating: "We don't even know the year that Jesus was born. Historically several months have been given as his birth month. We use December 25 because when ancient Rome was Christianizing, it was trying to paper over the holiday Saturnalia, which was a week-long throw-down – the kind of bawdy drunken insanity that wouldn't have much of a place in a new Catholic reality."

The writer of this article also suggests moving Christmas Day to February 7 would afford a joyful celebration in the midst of an otherwise cold, dull and dreary month.

The article concludes by reminding us "The power of Christmas is vast and gravitational, and if we shifted it down a month its joyful radiation could better propel us through the dead of winter."

W-H-AA-T?????

We do know that shepherds were watching their flocks when the Angel appeared to announce the birth of Christ. And shepherds understandably didn't watch over their flocks in the dead of winter. Unless, of course, a miracle like the birth of the Savior of the world was taking place – and then time and place and date are irrelevant.

I suggest the writer of this editorial piece might take the time to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas – that Christ was born to save us from sin, by suffering death upon the cross – and in so doing made there a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice and oblation for the sins of the world. He did NOT come to party or relieve boredom or increase the coffers of materialistic vendors.

God help us all if the real meaning of Christmas has been reduced to this level of drivel.

Joan Mitchell
babayaga430@verizon.net

Community of the Resurrection



Upon invitation of Fr. Burgess, and approval of Brother Philip, CR, Prior of the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, England, Brother Steven, CR spent the morning of December 7th through the afternoon of the 8th as a guest of our parish and parish rectory. Brother Steven was here visiting family in Philadelphia and offered us time in interest of leading a wonderful Advent Quiet Day and spending time with Denise and Fr. Burgess. We look forward to having Brother Steven join us again next year in quiet, in anticipation, in Holy Eucharist, and in prayerful reflection.

Members of the United Methodist Community at Pitman Concert Choir attended A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols at Christ Church. Mr. Don Jenkins, director of the choir, made arrangements for a fifteen passenger van and for two CNA's to be with them on this evening of prayer, scriptural reading, Hymns and carols.

This United Methodist Community Choir rehearses three days a week and follows quite an extensive performance schedule throughout the year.



COOKIE SEASON knows no end



Christmas 2018 may be in your rearview mirror but the cookie season continues as we serve the men and women who come to our shores through **the Seaman's Church Institute. The SCI** of Philadelphia and South Jersey serves the spiritual needs, aiding and comforting the seafarers who come to our ports from all around the world.

One small way we can assist is through our Cookie Project in which we supply tins and/or boxes of homemade cookies to those aboard merchant ships moored at our nearby ports. A national service organization, the SCI has been in our region since 1843. In its first appearance, it was a 75-foot high, 600-seat church that floated on the Delaware River.

Today, the organization serves, without prejudice, the needs of those who work long hours on these ships from every place imaginable that come and go from our shores.

The mission does this from its new headquarters in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where their home base occupies one of the old houses fronting the river **once known as Admirals' Row.**

The cookies? They are taken aboard the ships by visiting clergy who will tell you the goodies are cherished and underscore their message of hope.

When Father Rex of SCI spoke to our parishioners **last year he spoke of the seamen's love of the** cookies that come aboard, noting that the goodies are more welcome than his presence. But, they do send a message that someone cares about them.

In addition, the SCI, with the help of numerous church and school groups from throughout the **region, put together a "ditty bag" of personal** items, such as toiletries, gloves, scarves, watch caps and more. They are distributed at Christmastime for these men and women who come from halfway around the world and spend up to 10 months onboard ship away from home and family. The annual goal of SCI is to distribute 3,000 ditty bags to the seafarers who will visit our ports between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Christ Church's ECW and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew intends to continue the cookie push into the new year. If you have any cookies to share you can pick up a cookie box on Sunday from Robin and Jim Atkins. Return it to us or the parish office and someone from the SCI will pick them up. Share the Christmas spirit with someone a long way from home.

Robin Atkins, Episcopal Church Women and Jim Atkins, Brotherhood of St. Andrew
atkins82@aol.com

ARCHIVES

Sunday, February 2, 1958

Sunday Service Sheet Announcements:

Christ Episcopal Church Woodbury, NJ

Holy Communion 8:00 A.M.

Church School 9:30 A.M.

Morning Service 11:00 A.M.

Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays at 11:00 A.M.

Family Eucharist on the second Sunday at 9:30 A.M.

The church is open daily for prayer, meditation, and rest

The Young People's Fellowship will meet this Sunday at 7:30 P.M. This will be the regular business meeting. Plans will be made for our trip to the Philadelphia Divinity School. Refreshments will be served at this meeting.

The vestry will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 6th at 7:30 PM in the Lounge of the Parish Hall. It is hoped that all the vestrymen will be present and on time.

Attention all men and boys. There will be another corporate Communion and breakfast on Sunday, February 16th. The service will begin at 7:45 A.M. rather than at the usual hour of 8:00 A.M. The service will be followed by a Continental Breakfast and we hope to have a very interesting and entertaining speaker. All the men and boys of the parish are invited to be present to take part in this very wonderful fellowship.

All women of the parish are asked to remember that the observance of the "World Day of Prayer" which is held under the auspices of the World Council of Churches in America, will be made at Christ Church on Friday, February 21st at 2:00 P.M. Inasmuch as we are the host church this year, we should have a good representation from our own parish.

Rector

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Williams S.T.D.
62 Delaware Street
Phone: TI 5-0190

Curate

The Reverend Robert J. Sykes, S.T.B.
38 W. Barber Avenue
Phone: TI 8-2946



LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

The men and women of Christ Church's new vestry huddle on the day of the parish elections and most likely consider the weight of their responsibility for the future of our church.

We do this in early January, but for me, it will be thinking about all that has come to pass in 2018.

It's the continuing completion of our Parish Hall construction project, even with all the fixes that come with any project so large.

I remain in awe of the work done by our construction committee steered by Jim Bathurst and Ed Ferrell and the complicated financial matters undertaken efficiently and carefully by Sherm Yeiter and his committee.

It all came together for me just weeks before Christmas as we sat for the first time as a vestry at the silver maple table in the Goodfellow Lounge. Vision became reality.

There were other telling signs such as the Oktoberfest celebration in our new space; the first paperwork from an outside group to use our new hall; and the celebration of our Child Bishop, Christopher Cranston, with a nationally known comedy performance by "One Funny Mother" Dena Blizzard.

But excuse me if I am melancholy as we say farewell to vestry members who became good friends during our time together.

Matt Seddon handled hospitality with a cool and never flustered attitude. He and wife Sophie are the

reason things ran smoothly whenever refreshment was needed for church functions. If ever asked if help was needed, his reply was "We got it under control". Cheers, Matt.

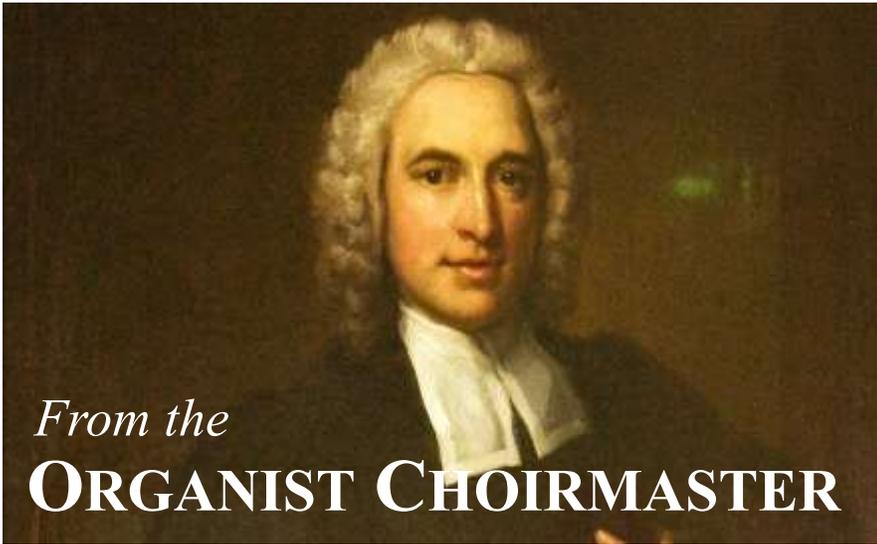
Frank McGarry was only on board for a short time and to fulfill a favor to our Rector and our Vestry, but his work on Buildings and Grounds was on point, thorough in his reports and honest in his recommendations. Thanks, Frank.

Tara Mass undertook Mission with a passion. When you speak of the success of our two previous parish trips to Dante, Va., Tara was the vestrywoman who identified the possible problems and worked with Denise Burgess in getting our wheels on the ground. Safe travels, Tara.

Jeff Wenzel gave his time and talent as Warden. He organized everything from the move of treasures to safekeeping during construction to being the go-to guy for many of us (meaning me) when there was a question about projects, appointments or procedure. Bless you for your patience, Jeff.

At our annual meeting, we elect new faces to the vestry. They have big shoes to fill but I have every confidence that they will serve our church with conviction. They will learn soon we operate with one heart and be deeply grateful for the trust put in us. They will find they are a vibrant and dedicated part of this historic parish, standing on the shoulders of vestrypersons who have served with such devotion before us.

Jim Atkins, Vestry Chair of Communications
atkins82@aol.com



From the
ORGANIST CHOIRMASTER

*"One family we dwell in
Him, One Church, above,
beneath, though now
divided by the stream, the
narrow stream of death."*

Charles Wesley, 1759

With these few words Charles Wesley summed up a powerful chunk of theological truth. Whether here or in the glory of the heavenly kingdom, we are Christ's own. Our work here on earth is

to worship our God "in the beauty of holiness", with a clear understanding that "by faith we join our hands with those that went before".

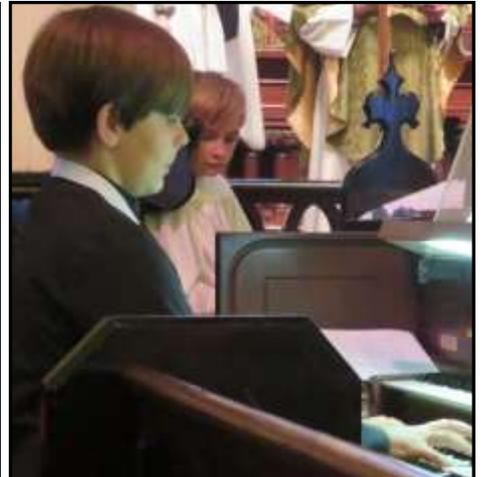
These truths are embraced more fully at Christ Church in Woodbury than in any other parish with which I have been associated as an Organist and Choirmaster. This past year saw a number of high water marks for our music program, most notably our wonderful RSCM Choir Camp for Choristers this past July and, just this past month, a glorious and exceptionally beautiful service of Lessons and Carols.

None of this would be possible without generosity, commitment and genuine love for God and their parish on the part of so many. I want to thank the our Rector, assistant Clergy, the entire Parish Staff, Parish Choir, our Choral Scholars, the Choristers and their parents, the Vestry and the whole parish family for all that you have done and continue to do that brings enrichment, joy and fulfillment not only to the musical life of Christ Church, but well beyond its walls.

A blessed New Year of peace and prosperity to those who call Christ Church, Woodbury, their home.

*"Jesus, by thou our constant Guide, then, when the
word is giv'n, bid Jordan's narrow stream divide and
bring us safe to heav'n."*

Sheldon Eldridge, Organist and Choirmaster
sheldoneldridge@comcast.net



NEW BISHOP OF ST HELENA IS THE FIRST TO BE CONSECRATED ON THE REMOTE SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLAND



Bishop Dale Bowers, the new Bishop of St Helena, has become the first to be consecrated on the remote island in the South Atlantic. The island has played an important part in the history of Anglicanism in the area now covered by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. It is the first part of the province to experience Anglican ministry; and is home to the oldest surviving Anglican church in the Southern Hemisphere. But its remoteness meant that a visit to the island required a weeks-long sea voyage – until an airport on the island opened in 2016.

The first Anglican chaplain to St Helena, a British Overseas Territory, was appointed in 1671. St James' Church in island's main settlement, Jamestown, is the oldest surviving Anglican church in the Southern Hemisphere. The Diocese, which includes a parish on Ascension Island, is the fourth oldest in the province of Southern Africa, after Cape Town, Grahamstown and Natal. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in June 2009.

The island is one of the remotest islands in the world, located more than 1,200 miles (2,000 kilometres) from the nearest landmass. It was the place of exile and death of Napoleon Bonaparte. The last visit by a metropolitan archbishop was more than 30 years ago and, Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba said, "has received less attention from the province than other dioceses."

In November, Archbishop Thabo, the Primate of Southern Africa, took advantage of the new airport to fly to St Helena with the Bishop of Matlosane, Stephen Diseko, Dean of the province; the Bishop of



Pretoria, Allan Kannemeyer; and the Archbishop's Chaplain, Mcebisi Pinyana; for the consecration of Dale Bowers.

The service, at St Paul's Cathedral in St Helena, was broadcast live on Saint FM, the island's radio station. An ecumenical lunch to welcome the delegation and honour the new bishop was hosted by the local Catholic Church. Bishop Dale is only the second of 16 bishops from the Diocese to be born in the island.

Writing in the monthly newsletter of the Diocese of Cape Town, Archbishop Thabo said: "Please pray for [Bishop Dale], for his, wife, Penny, his family and for the people and clergy of the diocese".

*-Anglican Communion News Service,
December 2018*



Episcopal Church Women Mission and Ministries



and Valentine Edible Novelty Sale

Sunday, February 10, 2019
following Dismissal of the
10:00 AM Mass in the
Upper Assembly Room

Free Will Offering

A Special Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Valentine's Bake Sale. Each year, because of your generosity, we have been able to contribute to many of the non-profit agencies who have asked for our assistance. Those agencies include Urban Promise, Mother/Child, Seeds of Hope, She Has a Name, Covenant House, and The National Life Center. We are grateful for your continued support.

ECW Souper Bowl

The NFL Super Bowl is a month away, but the *ECW Souper Bowl* will take place at our next meeting at 7:00 PM on January 15, 2019. Those who attend are asked to bring cans of soup that will be donated to the Great Woodbury Cooperative Food Ministries. We thank Jean Smith for bringing this idea to us.

Please bring your donations to the lower assembly room where we will gather for worship, our general meeting, refreshments, and a simple Valentine project for our home-bound parishioners. If an ECW member lives in your neighborhood, please check to see if a ride is needed to or from the meeting.

Those who are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to participate in the soup collection, may drop the donations off at the food baskets at the back of the church on the following Sunday, January 20th.

Doreen Mills, ECW President
bd48mills@comcast.net



RECOGNITIONS



- Thank you to Ericka Holland, Shaun Holland, John Lyden, John Burrows and Melinda Burrows for working so closely with our organist and choirmaster in interest of auditioning and securing our alto scholar. Many Sunday afternoons were spent interviewing and singing four-part motets with candidates who desired to be considered for the open seat. Because of their dedication, leadership and patience, we are pleased to welcome Darrah Maffettone to the Choir as our alto scholar. Please take a moment to welcome Darrah to Christ Church and to thank all those who take a leadership role in our choral music program.
- Thank you to Frank Gwalthney for attending the regular November meeting of Vestry in order to give a thorough briefing on our relationship with St. Anne's (CoE) Church in Totington, Bury, England, the historic home of Mr. Wood and the inception of our City's name. On behalf of Vestry, Father Burgess received a letter from their Vicar requesting that we "consider forging some formal link between our two parishes." Based on his previous participation with our local school district, Frank was kind enough to share with Vestry the history as well as the extent of the shared reach thus far.
- Thank you to Jim Bathurst and Steve Shomo for organizing our Brothers Andrew around a meet and greet in interest of drawing in the participation of other men of our parish. The evening was held at Eight & Sand micro-brewery on North Evergreen Avenue in Woodbury and invited presentations on the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the January 4th Epiphany retreat for men at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA, and various other items that simply seemed good for the order of things. Even though weather conditions of slushy snow and icy rain made travel a bit difficult, 10 men of our parish made it to this evening of introduction, fellowship and personal invitation.
- Thank you to Kim Wright for supervising and organizing the safe and secure operation of our parish nursery. She is always in contact with the parish office when it comes to notifying, updating, and securing needed resources.
- Thank you to our Vestry for their continued offering of locking and securing our buildings on Sunday afternoon. Extended programmatic offering invites an even longer day and their assistance keeps us from having to secure paid oversight of this very important (and often overlooked) function of our common life together.

- To our parish acolytes for keeping their vesting room so neat and organized. This is a privilege that many parish churches don't have to extend to their acolytes. Keeping this area neat and organized is a statement about those who are extended such a privilege and a thank you in return for such faithful stewardship.
- Thank you to Emily Piskun for allowing us the courtesy of using her very large home-decor basket for our Thanksgiving Day food drive. It's commanding presence immediately outside our oak doors invites greater participation, generous as well as thankful hearts, and communicates to our entire community the priority that this parish holds for mission.
- Thank you to Nathaniel Maggi for joining our organist in accompanying the Choir and choristers on flute. His contribution to our own John Burrows' anthem *King of Kings* made the offering quite beautiful. The Last Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King) was truly to the glory of God and to the benefit of the people He came to redeem.
- Thank you to Marley Venable and Maya Sanchez for their contribution of artwork to Fr. Burgess' office. Each offering is made under the impression of what it is they see and experience within our sacred space and sacred time together. Each girl is quite involved in our Sunday school program and their vision of the kingdom of God as having come now is evident of that particular embrace.
- Thank you to acolytes Joey Gallenthin and C. J. Moser for serving the altar on very important Major Feast Days of the Church Calendar that are observed on weeknights. Joey served as acolyte on the Eve of St. Andrew and C. J. served the altar for the Eve of the Conception of Mary. Their reverent presence added a great deal of orderliness allowing for a deeper experience of sanctity by all who made their Holy Communion.
- Thank you to Kim and Chelsea Wright for planning, organizing, and offering such a wonderful St. Nicholas Child Bishop Banquet. All was in perfect order for a night of celebration and fellowship. The operation this year had to run like "clock-work" in interest of welcoming off-Broadway comedian Dena Blizzard's performance. The acolyte with the basket of salad dressings making his way to each table as well as the Christmas ornament craft for the younger students were just two aspects of the evening that needed to be organized in interest of a successful night. Bravo!
- Thank you to our wonderful parish volunteers for answering the call to stand as docents during the 2018 Woodbury Garden Club Holiday House Tour. Although it was the rectory that invited the participation of those on the tour, many do express an interest in seeing inside the church. Sandra Sutton, Shirley Deal, Carol and Doug Hill took turns being present in pairs to make sure all was in order, that visitors were welcomed, that invitations were extended, and that questions were answered.
- Thank you to Jeff Wenzel and Denise Burgess for planning and offering such a wonderful dinner for the Advent Quiet Day retreatants on the evening of Friday in I Advent. The crocks of homemade soups, bread, salad, and fruit was exactly what this particular evening called for. Meeting for dinner after Mass and before the first of two reflections, this time together was spent getting to know our retreat leader as well as catching-up with fellow parishioners and those guests that came from other parishes.
- Thank you to David Wishnick and Ed Ferrell for assisting our facilities manager in erecting three levels of industrial grade scaffolding within the chancel of the church. This project is accomplished each time there is a need to change the flood lights in the arch above the chancel step. This is the highest fixture in the church and ladders will not reach to that height safely. Although we own the scaffolding, the antiquated three-pronged flood lights themselves are no longer in production and very difficult to find.
- Thank you to staff members John Marsden and Mariana Torres for again adorning our exterior iron fencing and period lamp posts with fresh cut evergreen rope and Christmas bows. They make this offering each year and take great pride in enhancing the exterior look of our parish for Advent and Christmas. Our entire community enjoys this expression of holiness, simply stated and quite elegant.
- Thank you to Matt and Kate Baldwin, Jeff Wenzel, and Jim Atkins for preparing, transporting and

setting up a serving line of hot cider on our front side-walk following the retiring Hymn on the evening we offered *A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols*. Although it was drizzling rain upon Dismissal, most of those who attended this beautiful service made the conscious decision to remain and enjoyed a time of extended fellowship. It is estimated that about 50% of those who attended this evening offering were from other parishes, churches, and denominations. Please take a moment to thank a Brother Andrew for their constantly concerning themselves with the evangelical expression that our parish makes.

- Thank you to Andrew Schiffer who accepted Fr. Burgess' invitation to serve as boat boy on the evening of Lessons and Carols. Only in third grade, Andrew rose quite beautifully and naturally to the demands of the occasion when called upon to do so. It appears to the casual observer that Andrew was born with the boat of incense and its spoon within his hands. And perhaps he was. Keep an eye on this one. Many already believe he may be harboring a vocation to the sacred priesthood.
- Thank you to Dr. Mark Nester who located and secured an antique nativity angel for our crèche. It appears from a 1958 post card image of the interior of our church to be very close to if not a match of one that was displayed on the wall next to the sacristy door where the current hymn board is located. This beautiful addition will be placed with our nativity once we decide on its appropriate and safe display.
- Thank you to Steve Lewis and Rob Johnson for serving so beautifully and conscientiously as our acolyte masters. Christmas is time with family and friends for many of us. It is also a time of addressing schedule needs for a multiplication of services. They bring glory to God with the manner in which they knit together such wonderful, reverent, and appropriate liturgical expressions of servant leadership. This is never easily done. They both accomplish their ministry with such patient leadership and pastoral attitudes.
- Thank you to Allene Ferrell and our stellar altar guild for so beautifully transforming our sacred space for Christmas. The holly, ivy, evergreen, candles, wreaths and crèche were placed in just the right way and precisely in the right amount to bring all our hearts and all our minds to the Christmas crib of Christ our Lord.
- Thank you also to Linda Rosser who serves on our altar guild as sacristan and who will often provide the necessary ivy, bows, and holly for such an elegant display. Only at Christ Church.
- Thank you to Denise Burgess for opening the rectory on Christmas Eve in interest of welcoming to the dining room table our organist and choirmaster, our four choral scholars, one very tired acolyte, our assisting priest, and our parish sexton. Each year dinner is served between the 7:00 PM Choral Eucharist and the 11:00 PM Solemn Mass. This year's gathering was complete; and it was truly a joy to share in extended Eucharistic fellowship with those who celebrate the Holy Nativity together in such a unique way.
- Thank you to Scotty Cranston who (also) came forward to serve as boat boy for the 11:00 solemn Mass at Midnight on Christmas Eve. Being only in second grade, Scotty is a natural and does an exceptional job following his big brother's example. Scotty is also one of our stellar choristers having received his cotta on II Advent, just in time for *Lessons and Carols*.
- Thank you to our Episcopal Church Women (ECW) for so reverently and graciously distributing tins of homemade Christmas cookies to our parishioners residing within nursing homes, adult congregant living facilities, or who may be home bound during Christmas. Many stories were shared later extolling how *they were visited* by a family, or a member of our ECW bringing them their own taste of holiday cheer. Our parish ECW is always out in front leading the way when it comes to our reach of mission and ministry.
- Thank you to everyone of our parish who consistently goes out of their way to keep our facilities neat, orderly, inviting, and ready for parish ministry. It only takes a second to put things away in the right order, in the right location, and at the right time. If you ever need assistance or a bit of direction, please do not hesitate to ask or to call in with a question. Many churches are a cluttered mess precisely because no one feels that they have the authority to throw an item out. When it comes to items found in the refrigerator or freezers, if you would not serve it to your family or the food item is beyond an expiration date, please throw it out. Dr. Salmonella, PhD., of the FDA thanks you.



In interest of our next mission trip to the coal mining region of Dante, VA, Fr. Burgess has secured the week of November 5th through 10th with Mrs. Anita Boyd of Grace House on the Mountain. Having already accomplished two successive mission trips to this Appalachian region of Southwestern, VA, we took a year to regroup, tell our story, and prayerfully consider our continued offering with and on behalf those who complete us.

Knowing that we will be arriving with a team of both youth and adults, Miss Anita and Jerry Boyd can now work with their board of directors in assigning us work projects that have been approved and deemed appropriate for our team. Grace House on the Mountain is a

ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Their facilities are most conducive to supporting groups traveling into the region under the priority of being sent into the mission field.

In the past, Christ Church has built handicap accessible ramps onto homes of the disabled, repaired entrance ways, and even finished a room on the back of a house that was added for a mother and her baby. In the evening we offer a community wide cook-out and distribute donated items that were collected in interest of extending an intentional reach from our altar. Beginning the eve of our departure, we gather three times a day for prayer; we share all meals together; we become the hands of Christ; and we grow in God's grace as we work, play, care for one another, and explore one of the most beautiful regions of our country.

The week that has been set aside as it is the week of the New Jersey Educators Association (NJEA) convention in Atlantic City. It is also the week of our General Election. These two calendar certainties usually allow our students up to three days off from school (and possibly four with a note from the rector). However, we will not know our departure date until we can identify the mission team and ascertain the tolerance employers are willing to extend as far as leave to the adults. We ask simply that you prayerfully consider your participation and begin planning ahead. We have a *tremendous* group of young adults who are willing to return as well as be considered for this travel team from Christ Church for the first time. We need spiritually strong, capable, mature, adult leaders to offer their time and talent for the success of our third trip to Grace House on the Mountain.

Our Lenten dollar envelopes will again be distributed through regular means this year in interest of funding this third mission trip to Southwestern Virginia in its entirety. We ask that you give generously.

Please speak to Tara Mass (our chair of mission) and to the many men, women, and youth who have traveled on our behalf in the past. Also, please consider joining the conversation now by visiting the website of Grace House on the Mountain (gracehouse.dioswva.org) and following them on Facebook. If not us, then who? If not now, then when?



Ah, retirement!

Like many of my fellow parishioners at Christ Church, I looked forward to that great "rite of passage" after my 40-year working career with all of the hopes and plans for the things that we just couldn't do while working. For me, retiring in 2016 meant more time picking up grandchildren from school, helping with errands for all of the still-working members of the family, and yes, even grabbing an extra hour of sleep in the morning. Sound familiar?

I first came to Christ Church with my parents and brother in 1959. Through the decades, I have considered myself to be so blessed by the many priests who have served this parish. I still remember old Canon Williams smiling at me as a 4-year old during a service. I grew up spiritually with the fine example and teachings of our dear Canon Rauscher and his 36-year tenure as our tireless rector. As an acolyte and Lay Reader, I learned even more about our faith through serving with Father Roger Hamilton, Father Sam Outerbridge and Father Douglas Anderson. Many of my fellow parishioners reading this will smile just thinking about those fine men. What a special and remarkable man Father Sullivan is, to bless his parishioners *by name* at the altar! To this day, I hold Father John Bird in such a special light, and for me, seeing him and MaryBeth in church every Sunday gives me a warm feeling about the parish family Christ Church really is to us.

And then, one day we were told that a gentleman named Father Brian Burgess would take the helm of our church family. Have you ever *really listened* to the weekly sermons that we are blessed with from Father Burgess? Each Sunday I find myself trying to give my wife (a faithful Catholic) a 5-minute "re-cap" of Father Burgess' messages to us. Our Sunday sermons are my favorite part of our worship together at Christ Church.

As soon as I retired, I was so happy to now be able to include our beautiful Wednesday 10:00 AM Healing Service in my weekly worship at Christ Church. No longer was I precluded from attending this unique service, which expressly invites the healing power of the Holy Spirit into our minds and bodies. What I also quickly

learned, was that Father Burgess prepares a *special sermon* uniquely crafted to either a specific historical commemoration in our church, or to honor the life and ministry of people who, through sometimes great personal sacrifice, served God and the Episcopal Church. Did you know that Father Burgess actually prepares several distinctly different sermons *every week* to better enlighten and inspire our parish? Well, like many of you, I did not.

From attending the Wednesday Healing Services, I have come to so much look forward to the special sermons regarding church history and our Anglican heritage. Earlier this summer, Father Bird spoke about the origin of the Nicene Creed. Although I have recited the words of the Creed every Sunday for decades and have always thought about the spiritual meaning of the phrases, Father Bird enlightened us about how the Creed was written to affirm the divinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all to be recognized and worshipped as the Holy Trinity. This prayer, originating in the region of Nicaea (part of modern day Turkey), was the first profession of our faith to do so. I think about that now every time our congregation reads the Nicene Creed together on Sundays. I also remember Father Bird teaching us at a Healing Service exactly what a "collect" was! Of course I have heard the term all my life, but his description of how a collect is a "*collective* prayer offered to God by all present" cast a whole new significance to the prayer that the celebrant reads prior to the Epistle and Gospel.

One Wednesday a few months ago, I served on the altar to assist a visiting priest, Father Laquintano from Pennsylvania. I even remember learning from his sermon about the interior architecture of churches, and how it was influenced by the upside-down shape of the hull of a boat. Did you know that? We know from the Gospels that boats became the setting for many of Jesus' most important moments with his apostles. I was so amazed when Father Burgess, in a later sermon, taught us how Jesus many times spoke to the crowds from a boat slightly offshore (Matthew 13: 1-2), because it was known even in those times that one could use the enhanced acoustics of the wind and sea to be better heard by a large crowd on the shore.

I continue to be amazed at the amount of research and preparation done by Father Burgess in his Wednesday sermons. It is important for me to remind my fellow parishioners that he displays this care for us whether there are five or twenty-five people present. Every Wednesday I now find myself excited to hear his sermons that may highlight the life and legacy of a recognized Anglican saint, a martyr for God and their faith, or a historical lesson about the evolution of the Episcopal Church.

When you feel comforted, enlightened, educated or inspired by a sermon, consider it to be a wonderful added blessing to our services. I know that I do. Let's face it - many parishes just don't have it as good!

Jack Ennis, Acolyte & Lay Reader
acousticshadow@verizon.net



March 5th

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Evening Prayer at 5:00 PM
Pancakes Served at 5:30 PM

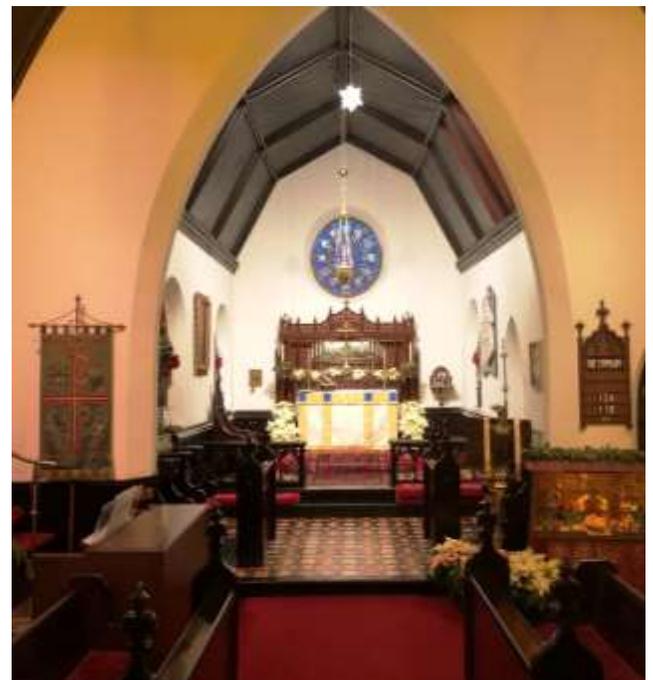
THEN AND NOW



The picture of the interior of our church on the (left) was the image captured for the front of a color post card copyrighted in 1958 by Custom Studios of New York City.

Within that picture, our choir, organ console (and pipes) *reredos*, relocated pulpit, and sacristy door are in place. We can even see with clarity the original brick pavers that were once the floor of the Nave.

In addition, the gas lamps are now electrified and still in their intended place along the chancel archway.



Notice the Nativity angel to the right of the eagle lectern affixed to the wall. Dr. Mark Nester found one that appears to be an exact match if not very close in size and design. It was purchased from an antique collectors association conference and brought to Christ Church for display within our Nativity. Due to Dr. Nester's interest in preservation, his love for our parish church; and in light of his generosity, that match was accomplished this year. Thank you!

FIRST HOLY



COMMUNION

As a parish we are looking forward to preparing the next class of students for the sacramental milestone of receiving their First Holy Communion. **This year's observance will be on Sunday, June 16** during the 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist - the day we observe the Feast of *Corpus Christi* (The Body of Christ). In preparation, our second grade Sunday school class studies tenants of the Anglican tradition and the symbols of the Church to include Eucharistic symbols and their meanings.

If you have a child or grandchild that would benefit by preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in this special and most reverent manner, please contact the parish office (856-845-0190) or myself to arrange for their class participation. If your child or grandchild is advanced beyond the second grade, please contact us as well so that alternate arrangements for instruction may be considered.

First Holy Communion classes begin during the month of February.

Mrs. Michele Schiffer,
Sunday School Superintendent
schiffer-_4@verizon.net

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6TH

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
at 10:00 AM

Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
(w/Incense) at 7:00 PM





BLOOD DRIVE

Dr. B. Dawson Shoemaker Memorial Blood Drive

There is always a need for blood. Did you know that your gift of one pint of blood can potentially help 3 persons? Did you know that cancer patients are now the largest group of people that will benefit from your blood donation? Did you know that you are eligible to donate blood every 57 days? Did you know that it only takes about one hour of your time to save a life?

Your help is needed to make this year's drive a success we need donors. The annual Christ Church Blood Drive in memory of B. Dawson Shoemaker, MD, will take place on January 31 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM. It will take place in the Parish Hall. For many years Dr. Shoemaker served his medical and Christ Church communities with an untiring effort of caring and compassionate concern. The American Red Cross Blood Drive is a means by which Christ Church can show the same concern that Dr. Shoemaker showed to others. We need donors! You may sign up online, beginning now, at www.redcrossblood.org, by calling Mary Beth or Jim Bathurst at 856-686-0559, or send an e-mail request to jim5001@verizon.net We also need "bakers" to make cookies for the day of the Drive. Donors are thrilled when they can partake of home-baked items.



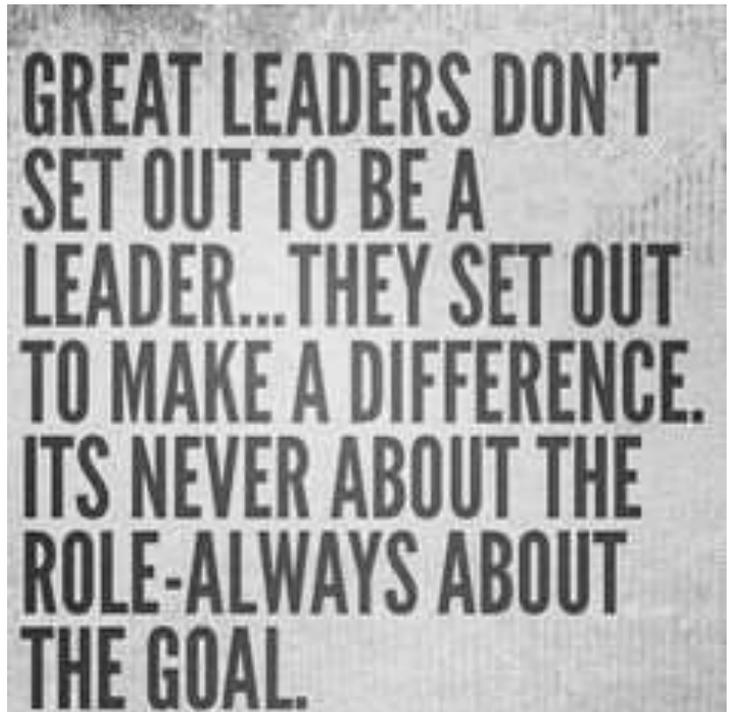
2019 Candidates for Office Election

Warden
Kate Baldwin

Endowment Trustee
John Redfield

Vestry
Sophie Seddon
David Hanson
Cyndy Gallenthin
Jane Gosdis (1 yr. term, if required)

Convocation
Convention Delegates
Don Moser
John Preole
Cheryl Rheiner
Robertta Shomo
Dennis Sims
Jim Wenzel



On December 11, 2018 the Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce (GWCC) presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries (GWCM) to purchase food for their Food Pantry which provides food, clothing, toys and assistance to those of our community who find themselves in need.

Pictured (l to r) are John Campbell, GWCC Executive Director; Kathy Stackhouse-Cunningham, Pantry Coordinator; our own Ed Ferrell, GWCC Ministries Treasurer; and Jeff Morris, GWCC 1st Vice President.



Food Pantry Ministry

EVE OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Friday, February 1st

Evening Prayer - 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist - 5:30 PM

Communicants are invited to bring candles from home for the rite of blessing



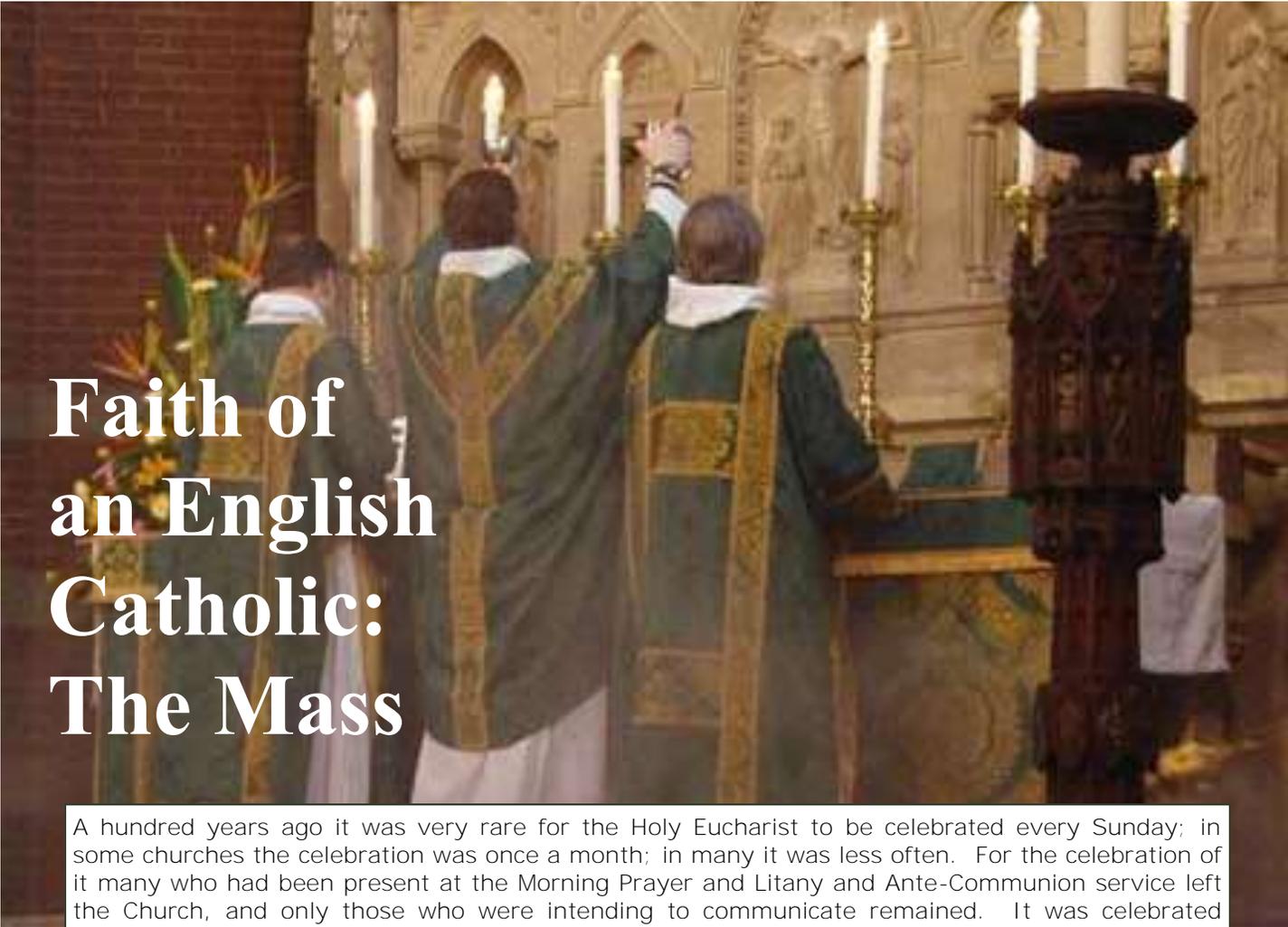
A dorning the Church

White flowers, red berries, and greenery abound
Causing you to stare, and look all around
The Altar is brilliant, the candles so bright
The sights each beautiful, especially on Christmas Eve night
The windowsills glow with candles and greens
The feeling sets in, the setting serene
The Pulpit adorned with nature's rich gift
Creating a peace within, causing spirits to lift
The wreaths are hung in each window with care
Just take in a breath, there's the smell of pine in the air

Well we wouldn't be able to behold such a beautiful sight
If not for the Altar Guild making the holiday setting, look just right
You don't usually see us as the Altar Guild takes their place
Preparing and adorning the church into a beautiful sacred space
The surroundings create a special feeling in your heart
This is the true feeling of Christmas, this is the best part
The Altar Guild members work very hard and are never bored
Creating a space worthy of celebrating the birth of our Lord
Thank you to all the Altar Guild members and others,
who gave of their time
Creating the visions that stick in your mind
The talents of many are the secrets to success
In creating a space so beautiful, this I must confess.....

***A special "Thank You" to each member of the Altar Guild for
their time and talent commitments to Christ Church***

Allene C. Ferrell, Altar Guild Directress
aferrell14@gmail.com



Faith of an English Catholic: The Mass

A hundred years ago it was very rare for the Holy Eucharist to be celebrated every Sunday; in some churches the celebration was once a month; in many it was less often. For the celebration of it many who had been present at the Morning Prayer and Litany and Ante-Communion service left the Church, and only those who were intending to communicate remained. It was celebrated without external signs of dignity. To all this the Anglo-Catholic church of to-day supplies the greatest possible contrast. The word Mass is freely used. Mass is celebrated, or there are more Masses than one, every day. The solemn High Mass, or, when ministers for that are not available, a Mass sung without deacon and sub-deacon, is the chief service on Sundays. In addition to this, when there are sufficient priests, there are Low Masses at various times. While communicants are many, there are many also who are present without at the time communicating. Everything that can add external dignity and beauty to the service is used.

This great difference has been reached through a great long process. . . .

During the different stages of this process the reason for the changes which have been made has been always the same. Behind ceremony there has been doctrine. The Eucharistic vestments - the amice, alb, girdle, maniple, stole, chasuble - afford a convenient instance. The use of them has been restored, partly because it was believed that this use was in obedience to the directions of the Book of Common Prayer, and partly because these vestments illustrates the continuity of the present English Church with the pre-Reformation English Church, but much more because they were felt to be an outward sign that in fundamental doctrine the Church of England to-day is at one with the rest of the Catholic Church in the past and in the present.

From: The Faith of an English Catholic by Darwell Stone, Principal and Librarian, Pusey House, Oxford; and Anglo-Catholic Theologian (London: Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., March 1926), Pg. 34 and 35

Answer to Laymen's Questions

Why is so much emphasis placed on the Prayer Book rather than the Bible, where it is written, "All Scriptures are written for our learning," for doctrine, for reproof, etc.?

The emphasis is placed on the Book of Common Prayer because the Book of Common Prayer defines and promulgates the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church. The Holy Scriptures do not formulate the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church. For instance, you will not find the Apostles' Creed as a formula in the Bible, nor will you find the Holy Communion service. Everything that the Book of Common Prayer teaches is founded on Holy Scripture, and large portions of Holy Scripture are contained in the Book of Common Prayer. There is no conflict between the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible, but in this Church emphasis is placed upon the Book of Common Prayer because it formulates for our daily use what is proved by the Bible.



From *Answers to Laymen's Questions* by The Right Reverend James P. DeWolfe, Bishop of Long Island (1942-1966). New York: Morehouse-Barlow Company, 1959

Parish Travel Journal....*find out where we've visited*

John and Melinda Burrows
attended
St. Paul's Parish
Washington, DC
and
Church of the Atonement
Chicago, IL

Denise Burgess
attended
Christ Church
New Bern, NC

Jim and Robin Atkins
visited
The Chapel of the Four Chaplains
Philadelphia Navy Yard, PA





Christmas Eve Services at Christ Church * Solemn Mass at Midnight



Reflection on my term as

Vestry Chair of Mission

December 2018 marked the end of my Vestry member term. Over the past six years, I have had the opportunity to represent Christ Church Woodbury and work with many dedicated leaders of this parish.

Thank you to everyone who has allowed me to contribute at the Vestry level. We are such a thriving parish and have accomplished so many positive projects from our own building renovation to traveling in the mission field. I very much enjoy being on Vestry and encourage others to say yes when asked to participate. The term goes quickly and the knowledge and work accomplished is very gratifying.

Thank you to our Executive Committee for their focus and time in leading us.

As always, thank you to Father for his dedication, focus and drive that he brings to every meeting and to our parish.

Happy New Year!

Tara Mass, Vestry Chair of Mission
taramass@comcast.net

Mission and Outreach

During the Year 2018 Christ Church Woodbury participated in many different articulations of mission and outreach. The accumulated response was to the glory of God and befitting faithful stewards.

Scheduled Collection of Donations:

- Multiple food drives for the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Food Pantry operating through the Colonial Manor United Methodist Church.
- Collection of self-care items for the clients of the street ministry *She Has a Name* in Camden, New Jersey
- Collection of children pajamas for Grace House on the Mountain to distribute throughout the coal mining region of Dante, West Virginia.

Monetary Contributions:

- Grace House on the Mountain, a Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, St. Paul, West Virginia = \$200.00
- Seeds of Hope Ministries in Camden, New Jersey = \$300.00
- The Mission Church of St. Andrew's in Camden, New Jersey = \$500.00
- The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Annual In Gathering = \$250.00
- The Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries = \$1600.00
- The University of the South, School of Theology in Support of Theological Education = \$390
- The Diocese of New Jersey - Designated for Aged and Infirm Clergy = \$272.00
- The Diocese of New Jersey - Designated for Widows and Orphans = \$335.00
- The Diocese of New Jersey - Designated for Theological Education = \$300.00
- St. George's Mission Church in Pennsville, New Jersey = \$471.54

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!



From the Parish Register

Burials

Alys Martin

November 1, 2018

Lloyd "Tom" Lucas

January 10, 2019



Transfers In

David Hanson

From St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
Camden, NJ

Changing Light Bulbs in the Chancel



The Sunday school children of Christ Church participated in "Epiphany Shoes" on The Feast of the Epiphany. Left outdoors before the processional, the children were gifted fresh fruit, candy and other treats by the Magi on their way to worship the Christ child in Bethlehem of Judea.

*And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.
(Matthew 2:12)*

A Recent Acquisition



Christ Church has inherited eighty-six 1940 Hymnals in tremendous condition. Largely a source for our Choir and choristers, the remaining will be neatly stored away in the event they are ever needed. The 1940 Hymnal is considered by many church musicians to be the "high water mark" of Anglican music in the Episcopal Church USA. Many of the Hymns we have come to know and love are either not in our current Hymnal (1982) or have been so edited that the intended theology simply does not communicate as strongly through the congregation as the author of the text intended.

The Hymnals came from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Washington, New Jersey. On Monday, December 3rd, Father Burgess and David Wishnick made a trip to St. Peter's to collect these Hymnals and transport them back to Christ Church. St. Peter's was founded in 1881. Mrs. Mary Papaserge ensured that we were met and that the Hymnals were reserved for our use at no charge. If we did not take them, the parish of St. Peter's was going to throw them in the dumpster.



Sanctifying Life, Time and Space



Each year, the community support that stands behind our offering of special services increases greatly. Thanks in large part to organizations like Main Street Woodbury and the Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, our region knows of many invitations to experience Christ Church in different and unique ways.

This picture was taken at Ciconte's Italia Pizzeria in Gibbstown. When you recognize area businesses supporting our mission, we ask that you please consider supporting their business. Also, a few words of appreciation from their clientele goes a long way in increasing that level of support.



CHORISTER ADVANCEMENT AT CHRIST CHURCH



Saddle Up

put on your boots and mosey on over for a

COUNTRY WESTERN JAMBOREE

We're celebrating MAD HATTER 2019

A Two-Step Progressive Dinner

Save the Date: February 23, 2019

\$20.00 per person

SO COME ON
Y'ALL



Name: _____
(Couples will attend dinner at the same host home)

Phone: _____ Email _____

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for _____ people attending

_____ We would be happy host dinner in our home for 4-6 people

_____ We would be happy to bring a bottle of wine for dinner.

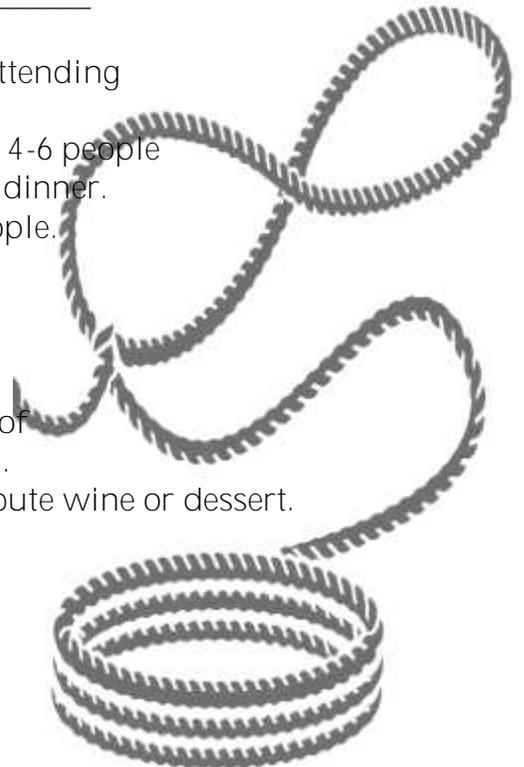
_____ We would be happy to bring dessert for 8-10 people.

Regrettably, I/we cannot attend, but would like to donate in some way.

_____ Please accept the enclosed donation in interest of
The Christ Church Summer Chorister Program.

_____ Although I cannot attend, I would like to contribute wine or dessert.

Please return this form by January 20th to:
Christ Church
Attn: Denise Burgess
62 Delaware Street, Woodbury, NJ 08096



VOLUNTEER

Thank you to all of our Parish Office Volunteers who have assisted over the last two months.

Our volunteers keep tasks running smoothly every week and we couldn't do all we do without you!

Rosemary Carrigan Carol Hill Barbara Banff Thel Brown Linda Rowe

Thank you Linda Rowe for helping out with post card mailings and distributing Lessons and Carols posters.

Thank you Fran Fulgham for helping distribute Lessons and Carols posters and for all the errands he does for the church office.

Thank you Carol and Doug Hill and Shirley Deal for being hosts at the Woodbury Garden Club Holiday House Tour. For the three hours the church was open, about 50 people visited our church, many for the first time and in awe of its beauty

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019!

**Sandra Sutton, Volunteer Coordinator
(856) 845-0190**

Parish Game Night

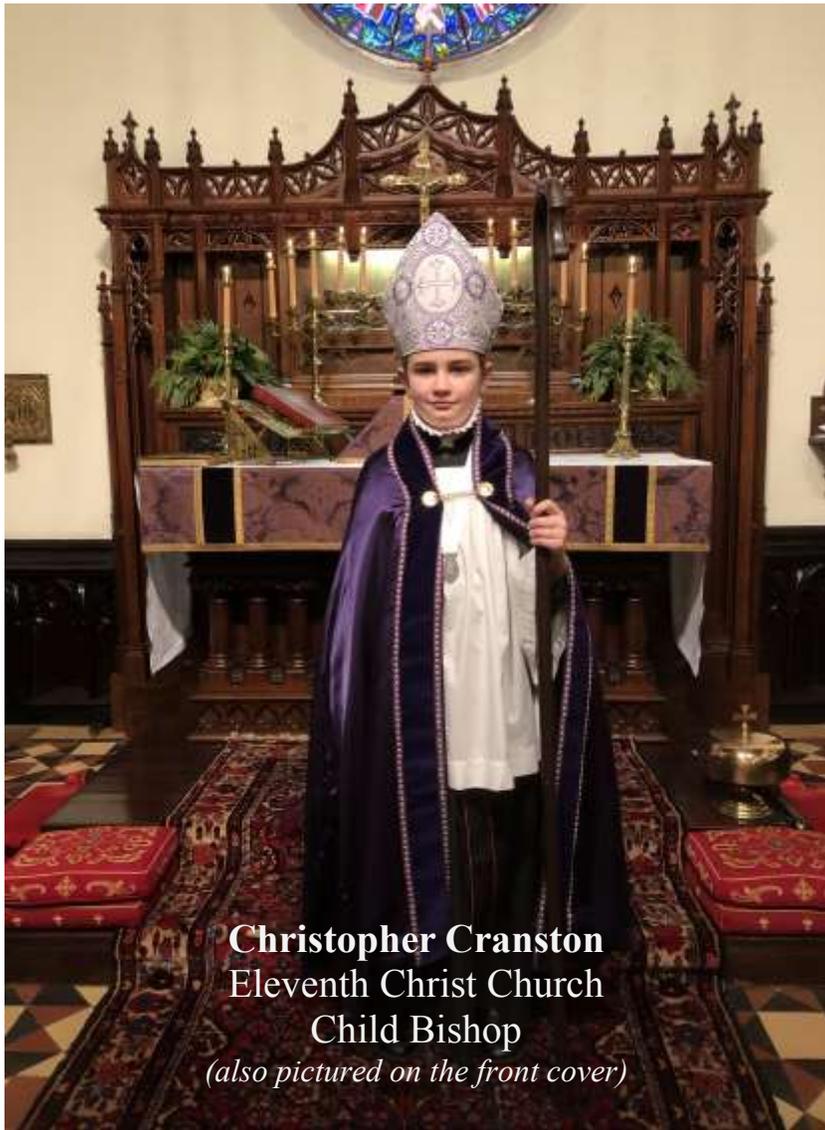
Now that things are settling down after our very busy December, I'd like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to our up coming Family Game Night.

This fun filled night out will be held on January 18th at 7:00 PM in our parish hall. Please join us for fellowship, fun and of course food (snacks and drinks provided). Look forward to seeing you all there.

Kim Wright, Vestry Chair of Programs and Activities
kimwright71@comcast.net

Bring family, friends and neighbors to an evening of fun, fellowship, laughs and refreshments.





Christopher Cranston
Eleventh Christ Church
Child Bishop
(also pictured on the front cover)

CHRIST CHURCH

62 Delaware Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Phone: 856-845-0190
office@christchurch.woodburynj.org

Parish Staff

The Very Reverend Father
Brian K. Burgess
Dean and Rector

Mr. Sheldon Eldridge
Organist and Choirmaster

Ms. Marietta Hutchison
Parish Administrator

Mr. John Marsden
Facilities Manager

Mrs. Michele Schiffer
Sunday School Superintendent

Mrs. Mariana Torres
Parish Sexton

Ms. Jennifer Allbright
Parish Nursery Sitter

Ms. Susann Kaback
Parish Preschool Teacher

Mrs. Sandra Sutton
Volunteer Coordinator

The Eve of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

Thursday, January 24th

Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM

Ends Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

St. Matthias, Apostle

Monday, February 25th (tr.)

Evening Prayer 5:00 PM

Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM



Our own Dot Finnemore
at 96 years young.