



CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNICATOR

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Christ Church Christiana Hundred

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Sunday Services

8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM

Weekday Services

Tuesdays

9:20 AM Intercessory Prayer

Wednesdays

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Thursdays

6:30 AM Holy Eucharist followed
by breakfast and Bible study

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When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring Christ to all,
To make music in the heart. — *Howard Thurman*

The emphasis of Christmas celebrations changes from time to time, but each time we conspire to put the "Christ" into Christmas. We treasure the true meaning and depth of this holy season. Through the season of Christmas at Christ Church, our worship and music, our fellowship and ministry seek to imbue the darkness of the world with the brightness of God's indwelling love. Christians embody Jesus, born in a stable long ago and reborn in our hearts as we accept him as Savior and Lord. In our baptism, we accept Christ and promise to live into his image. This is a daily Incarnation; God dwells within us as grace and power. We take up our cross and follow Christ Jesus in the work of Christmas with integrity and love.

This January we welcome Bryan Stevenson to speak to us about the Christmas work of justice for those incarcerated in U.S. prisons. (*See announcement on page 2.*) This January our monthly outreach collection is for the Clothing Bank of Delaware and the Latin American Community Center. This January we heed the call for a day of service in the community and volunteer on January 17.

Howard Thurman was an African-American Baptist minister and dean of Boston University's Chapel from 1953 to 1965. He was a spiritual advisor to civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr. He penned the poem above to remind us what God's Incarnation means each and every day. This January and February I am hosting a book study group I hope you will join. (*See announcement on page 3.*) We will read *Strength to Love* written in 1963. Of the book, Coretta Scott King wrote, "If there is one book Martin Luther King Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is *Strength to Love*. I believe it is because this book best explains the central element of [his] philosophy of nonviolence: his belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life." This is a classic for Christ Church to read, for our mission is to share in the beauty and power of God's transforming love. In the pages of *Strength to Love*, you will see how one Christian continued the work of Christmas.

Ruth Lawson Kirk

Epiphany Eucharist & Potluck Fiesta



Celebrate Epiphany with a special worship service in the Church and a potluck fiesta in the Parish Hall on **Thursday, January 6** at 6 PM. The Epiphany is a major Feast in the church year, celebrating the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem. In many cultures worldwide, and especially in Latino cultures—like the Dominican Republic—the Feast of the Epiphany is a bigger celebration than Christmas, marked by large fiestas, exchanging gifts, and fireworks. Our fiesta will include great food, a piñata, and a Three Kings cake (who will find the baby?). Bring a side or main dish to share. The offering from the service will support our friends in Jalonga. Don't forget to bring a White Gift as well! This collection of small toys and books wrapped in white paper (including the age and gender on the gift) is distributed to local outreach agencies.

Sign up for the Women's Retreat by January 8

Our 2011 Women's Retreat at Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach is from January 18-20. With The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly leading the retreat, we have planned an agenda that includes time for study, prayer, music, quiet, and reflection. Great meals, social time, shopping, and beach walking will not be forgotten either. The cost is \$175 and includes five meals and two nights of lodging, including linens. Please make your check payable to Christ Church, marked "Women's Retreat," and mail it to Ginny Gordon, 11 Gale Lane, Wilmington, DE 19807 by **Saturday, January 8**. Because of the Memorial House cancellation policy, we will not be able to refund your payment after January 10. Please **confirm your reservation** with Marty Rushlow at 654-8629 or mrush11246@verizon.net. *Marty Rushlow*



Epiphany Evensong

Join us for the service of Evensong from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1662* for the First Sunday after the Epiphany on **Sunday, January 9** at 5 PM in the Church. The service music will include the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* from *Collegium Regale*, Herbert Howells and the anthem, *Lo! Star-led Chiefs*, William Crotch.

Women's Dialogue Group

Paying attention to children, spouse, household, and career all place demands on a woman. How can she find God at the center of it all? Join Ruth Kirk and Jo Harney in an offering for women of the parish and preschool. The Women's Dialogue will meet next on **Monday, January 10** at 7 PM in the Commons Room. RSVP at rsvp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

CCCH Hosts a Modern Prophet, Bryan Stevenson

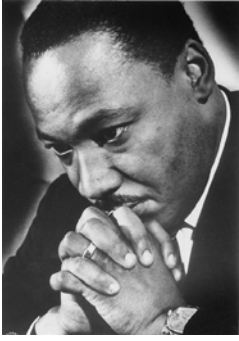


Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, will bring his message of hope to Christ Church this month. He has won acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and people of color in the criminal justice system. In his more than two decades of dedicated work in support of human rights and justice, he has assisted in securing relief for dozens of condemned prisoners, advocated for poor people, and developed community-based reform litigation aimed at improving the administration of criminal justice. By his life and example, Bryan Stevenson inspires us to step up as people of faith. A graduate of Harvard Law School and a MacArthur Fellow, Mr. Stevenson recently argued and won a landmark Supreme Court case that declared that sentencing children to "death in prison" (the practical result of life imprisonment of these children without parole) is unconstitutional. He is a powerful and inspirational speaker. Mark your calendars now so that you don't miss this event, where we will learn how we can bring hope to people broken by violence, poverty, and dysfunction. The presentation will be on **Thursday, January 20** at 7 PM in the Church.

Spiritual Dialogue in 2011

After a lag, the Spiritual Dialogue Study Group will continue! Although Sig Andersen has asked to step back from a leadership role, Jim Patton and Carl Kunz plan to gather those seekers on the Spiritual Journey who would like to continue in the work or join anew. We suggest the following dates from 2 to 5 PM: **Sundays, January 23, March 6, April 10, and May 22**. We have been meeting in our homes and will need a host for each date. If you have questions, please call either Jim (426-8312) or Carl (995-1561) and let Jim know if you plan to attend on January 23. *Carl Kunz*

Rector's Book Discussion: *Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King Jr.



Join Ruth in reading this collection of Dr. King's sermons, published in 1963. From the flyleaf of the Fortress Press edition we will have available for purchase from the Church Office (\$12), the book is described this way: "Many of Martin Luther King's deepest insights about life, good and evil, and Christian faith were forged in

the heat of conflict and struggle. In this luminous text, Dr. King brought together many of his most stirring pieces to address the perennial and perplexing questions of faith and social justice: Why does God allow evil? What can we do in the face of evil in the world? How can we confront the complexity of our own natures to meet the challenges of justice and peace? What can Jesus teach us about adversity, love, and freedom? Few texts from Martin Luther King Jr. or any other writer so powerfully evoke, as Coretta Scott King said, 'the love, truth, and courage to do what is right'—that is, the strength to love." Please RSVP at 655-3379 or rsvp@christchurchde.org.

- **Sundays, January 23, 30, February 13, and 20**
from 7 to 8 PM in the Rectory
- **Wednesdays, January 26, February 2, 16, and 23**
from 12 to 1 PM in Room 301 (bring a bag lunch)
Ruth Lawson Kirk

2011 Grant Applications Due

The Outreach Committee has begun their 2011 grant cycle. Non-profit agencies may request grant applications from Millie Miller in the Church Office or may download one from the church website at www.christchurchde.org. Completed applications are due by **Friday, January 28**.

Family Movie Night

On **Saturday, January 29** from 6:30 to 8 PM, families are invited to Family Movie Night at Christ Church. Popcorn, snacks, and lemonade will be provided. We will show *Toy Story 3* in Parish Hall A and *How to Train a Dragon* in the Commons Room. Come in your pajamas, bring your sleeping bag, and enjoy a family night together with your church and preschool family. RSVP at rsvp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379 so that we have enough refreshments for everyone.

Clothing Drive and Mitten & Scarf Collection



During the month of January, Christ Church will collect clothing to support the Clothing Bank of Delaware. Your donations of clean, good quality items can include **clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, children, and infants**. Also needed are good quality **linens, blankets, and comforters**. Please bring items in tied trash bags weighing less than 25 pounds each. Also, we will collect **gloves and scarves** for the Latin American Community Center until January 16. Collection bins are set up in the back of the Church and in the vestibule of the Parish Center near the circle drive. Tax receipts are available from the Church Office or from our website at www.christchurchde.org/outreach/monthlycollect.asp.

Newcomers Reception and Parish Tour

If you are new to Christ Church in the last few years or are interested in learning more about Christ Church, the Parish Life Committee invites you to join us for a special reception during Coffee Hour on **Sunday, February 6** at 10 AM in the Parish Hall. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the history of the church as there will be a tour of the Church, Parish House, and Chapel (weather permitting). We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to the Church Office at 655-3379 or rsvp@christchurchde.org.

Intercessory Prayer Service

Approximately 63 years ago, Molly Downs was inspired by a study in a Bible class of the great physician Luke. Bible study pointed out to her the importance of intercessory prayer for the sick and those who cared for them. She, along with a dedicated group of Christ Church parishioners, began the weekly Intercessory Prayer Service on Tuesday mornings at 9:20 AM in the Chapel. Prayers were established by the founding group and are said for peace, grace, the church and clergy, families, our country, the sick, and those with special needs. Readers take turns leading these prayers each week. People are put on the prayer list for a variety of reasons by relatives and friends. This group has enjoyed the support, guidance, and sanction of the clergy. The Intercessory Prayer Group welcomes everyone to come and share a few minutes each Tuesday and perhaps become a reader. If interested, please call Betty Brandt at 998-7142. *Jeanette Carey*

First Call for Vestry Nominations



It is time to solicit input and nominations from the parish for the Vestry elections which will be held on May 8. We are seeking nominees who represent a broad spectrum of the parish in terms of age, gender, interest, and talent. There are two ways in which nominations can take place. First, the Nominating Committee will seek out members of the parish who would be willing to serve and who meet the criteria for serving on the Vestry. Second, the Bylaws establish that any *five* qualified voters may nominate a candidate for election to the Vestry.

The Vestry is the group of church members who oversee the temporal activities of Christ Church and advise on the church's overall ministry and programs. Vestry members are expected to be regular attendees of services and financial supporters of the church. In addition to being willing to make a commitment to attend monthly Vestry meetings (normally held on the second Thursday evening of each month) and to attend the annual Vestry Retreat (this year set for October 22, 23, and 24 at Memorial House), potential Vestry members should be prepared to make Christ Church a high personal priority for the next three years.

Voting members of the parish are defined as those persons who have been baptized, are at least 16 years of age, are regular attendees at parish services, and whose names have been entered for at least six months as pledging contributors of record to parish financial support.

By early-April, the candidates will be presented to the parish along with biographical and church activity data for each. While March 1 is the deadline for Vestry nominations according to the Bylaws, it would be terrific to have suggestions for nominees now from members of the parish. Vestry Nomination forms are available in the Church Office and online at www.christchurchde.org/aboutus/vestry.asp.

Quilt of Many Colors Thanks

We would like to thank Marion and Jim Godfrey and all who participated in making the "Quilt of Many Colors." We know that it was made with lots of love, good thoughts, and much time. We are absolutely ecstatic to be the winners of this beautiful quilt and are so happy to be a part of Christ Church's loving community.

Joe and Janice Stoeckle

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool



December has brought a great deal of excitement to the preschool! Our halls are filled with candy canes and wreaths; gingerbread houses are on display in the lobby; and the Pre-K Stars are eagerly anticipating their Christmas concert, complete with costumes and a lovely tableau. When Dr. D. visits each classroom for music, we can hear familiar children's Christmas songs wafting down the hallways, along with some new ones about shepherds and angels.

It is hard not to be swept up into the frenzy of Santa and shopping, but CCEP helps students to focus on the birth of Jesus as the real reason to celebrate. Crèches and angels in our halls and classrooms and the telling of the Christmas story in chapel and reading time are daily reminders of the miracle of the nativity. The children love to move the figures around in the nativity scene in our lobby. They listened with rapt attention to our rector dramatically relating how the angels appeared to the shepherds, standing on tiptoe, so as not to miss any part of the story. They are just as excited about the birthday of Jesus as they are about the gifts they're hoping for at home. Our families are grateful for this kind of environment where the true meaning of Christmas is emphasized. Our teachers are grateful that they can share this good news openly. What a blessing the school and its families are to each other at this time of year. We will sing our Christmas songs with joy throughout the season, recognizing the great gift of Jesus Christ.

Jo Harney

Weekday Worship at Christ Church

On Wednesdays, Eucharist is held at 9 AM in the Chapel, and on the first Wednesday of each month, a Healing Service is held in conjunction with the Eucharist. On Thursdays, Eucharist is held at 6:30 AM, followed by breakfast and Bible study. All are welcome to join these weekday worship offerings!

The Green Show



What a spectacular Green Show on December 3 and 4! Special thanks to the vice chairs and department heads for their dedication and hard work to make this fund-raiser such a success. Kudos to the countless volunteers, shoppers, and Christ Church staff for their participation, help, and support. Outreach will distribute all funds raised to our 2011 agencies. Thank you for the wonderful fellowship and service to others!

Allison Brokan

Children & Youth Ministries

All Children & Youth Ministry Enrichment groups meet each Sunday except on the first Sunday of the month. In January, there will be no Children & Youth Enrichment on January 2 (first Sunday) or January 9 (baptisms). Enrichment will resume on January 16.

Children's Ministry

Godly Play takes place at 9 AM for 3-year-olds through those in 2nd grade. The children will explore Baptism and parables during January. After Godly Play, the children go to the Chapel for pickup or Godly Play Enrichment at 10 AM.

During Godly Play Enrichment, the children search for God sightings in their lives and all around them, exploring the Fruits of the Spirit, singing and building community through games and activities. Yoga and Spanish activities are also offered. Pickup from Godly Play Enrichment is in the Chapel at 11 AM.

The 3rd through 5th grade classes meet at 10 AM and use a lectionary-based curriculum called "Living the Good News." Each Sunday morning through discussion, games, and activities, the groups explore the scriptures from the 9 AM service.

Children's News

The **St. Nicholas Celebration** on December 5 was a wonderful new custom for Christ Church. The children decorated cookies, made 3D cards, and heard a wonderful story about St. Nicholas read by the rector. There was also a special treat in everyone's shoes and a visit by St. Nicholas himself!

Thanks to everyone—especially to Sandy Durgin—for their help and support of the **Christmas Pageant** on December 19. The White Gifts will be donated to the Latin American Community Center.

Come in your pajamas, bring your sleeping bag, and join us for **Movie Night** on **Saturday, January 29** at 6:30 PM, featuring *Toy Story 3* and *How to Train a Dragon*. Popcorn, lemonade, and snacks provided!

Bring your family to a **Kids' Music Experience with Pete Moses** on **Sunday, February 13** at 4 PM—especially for children 2 to 10 years old. Pete Moses, a local singer and recording artist, will engage the children in song and movement for a fun, exciting family experience. Following the show will be pizza and lemonade.

Jessica Hunt, one of our wonderful **child care and nursery staff**, graduates from the University of Delaware in January. She will leave us in September to begin law school.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Enrichment is offered at 10 AM.

- Rite-13: 6th and 7th grades Room 214
- J2A: 8th and 9th grades New Youth Room
- YAC: 10th, 11th, and 12th grades Youth Annex

Youth News

The J2A group will move into their **new youth room** this month. The room, located under the Rectory next to the Youth Annex, has been newly painted and set up for a January move-in. The Rite-13 class will move into Room 214.

YAC made and sold **macaroni and cheese** as a fund-raiser for Haiti and the Dominican Republic trip and donated \$300 to each!

The **St. Agnes Choir** is open to girls in 6th through 12th grades. They will meet for rehearsals on **January 9 and 16** from 4 to 5 PM in the Chapel. The Choir will sing on January 2 and 23.

The **Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic** is scheduled for June 25-July 2. On **Sunday, January 9** at 6 PM there will be a potluck fiesta dinner for those youth and their families to commit to participating in the trip. All paperwork is due at the January 9 dinner. Look for opportunities to help support our trip and our friends in Jalonga. This spring we will have collections of baseball equipment and medical and art supplies. Charcoal Pit and Grotto Pizza family fund-raiser evenings are scheduled as well!

Confirmation will be part of the J2A class for 8th and 9th grades and part of the YAC class for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades on Sunday mornings at 10 AM. In addition to the Sunday morning program, there will be a required confirmation retreat April 1-3 at Camp Arrowhead. Confirmation will be on **Sunday, June 12** at 10 AM. Questions? Contact Lynne Jensen at 655-3379 or ljensen@christchurchde.org. **Please let Lynne know if you would like to be confirmed.** Permission slips and details about the retreat will be sent out this month.

Every three years, the Episcopal Church gathers 9th through 12th grade youth for a week of fun, worship, fellowship, and service. This year, the **Episcopal Youth Event** will gather in Minnesota. A delegation from Delaware will depart by bus on June 21 and return on June 28. This is an opportunity to meet Episcopal youth from all over the world! Interested? Contact Lynne Jensen for details. *Lynne Jensen*

From the Christ Church Register

- Burial Office for John Ham Noyes on November 27.
- Burial Office for Matilda Faulkner on December 2.
- Burial Office for Stephen Martin Hanson on December 11.

From the Prayer Ministry

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us, a time of welcoming your graces and gifts, a time for forgiving freely and unconditionally, a time for growing in virtue and goodness. Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. *Amen.*

a prayer for the New Year

Editor's Note

Please address your suggestions and comments on the *Communicator* to: slawtonfasic@christchurchde.org; P. O. Box 3510, Wilmington, DE 19807; or 655-3379. **The deadline for articles for the *Christ Church Communicator* is the 18th of each month.**

Sherry Lawton-Fasic

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