



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*

This poem has become a January tradition for me. The Christmas season extends into the first few days of the month, reaching to January 6 when Christ Church gathers to celebrate the Epiphany. We treasure the true meaning and depth of this holy season. Through the season of Christmas, our worship and music, our fellowship and ministry seek to imbue the darkness of the world with the brightness of God's indwelling love.

The beauty of the liturgical calendar marks the baptism of Jesus on the first Sunday after Epiphany. This reminds us that 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 our parish has a challenge. Can 500 of our members engage in acts of community service on January 16? The holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a national day of service. That day I challenge you to set aside time to serve others, and let us know how or where you are serving. Our Outreach Committee, Adult Christian Enrichment Team, Children & Youth Ministry, and the staff are all taking up the challenge. See page 2 to learn what I am doing on that day. Plan to come that evening at 5 PM for a reception and an opportunity to tell others of your experience in service.

This year our parish has a challenge. Can we be bold in carrying out the work of Christmas? I believe God is calling us to strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus in acts of courageous service and to deepen our faith witness as an Episcopal congregation. Our financial challenges are also opportunities for us to demonstrate our dedication to this congregation's present and future ministry in and for Wilmington. This is not a time to shrink back but to join hands and step forward in faith.

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 **Friday, 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. Bring a side or main dish to share. The offering from the service will support our friends in Jalonga. All alumni of the Dominican Republic trips are encouraged to come and celebrate!

Sign up for the Women’s Retreat by January 7

Our 2012 Women’s Retreat at Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach is from January 17-19. With The Rev. Celeste Cox from Christ Church, Dover 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 \$185 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 7**. Because of the Memorial House cancellation policy, we will not be able to refund your payment after January 9.

Bryan Stevenson Lecture

Last year, Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, gave a powerful lecture at Christ Church on justice and the criminal justice system in America. Bryan’s message had a profound and lasting impact on those who heard him speak. We recorded Bryan’s lecture and will be showing it, with time for questions and answers to follow, on **Sunday, January 15** at 7 PM in Parish Hall A. Please join us for this important program. For more information, please contact Russ Bohner. *Russ Bohner*

Special Sunday Adult Enrichment Program

On **Sunday, January 15** at 10 AM in Parish Hall A, join Marcy Perkins and graduates of Epiphany House for this special opportunity to hear firsthand how the Epiphany House ministry, now 18 months old, is blessing women and helping them begin new lives.

Christ Church Service Challenge

Adult Christian Enrichment, Children and Youth Ministry, and the Outreach Committee are jointly issuing a challenge to our congregation—asking 500 parishioners to commit to some act of community service on the 2012 National Day of Service, the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on **Monday, January 16**. Service opportunities are available, for example, at Habitat for Humanity, the Delaware Nature Society, and through children’s schools, and Ruth Kirk will be offering a Stewards of Children training here at Christ Church. Other service opportunities are listed on the Christ Church website. Sign up on the posters in the back of the Church. To celebrate the Day of Service, join us from 5 to 6 PM in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Russ Bohner.

Russ Bohner

Stewards of Children Training

Participate in the National Day of Service on **Monday, January 16** by attending a training session created by the Darkness to Light Foundation from 8:30 AM to 12 PM here at Christ Church. This training is to raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse and to educate adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to such abuse. The goal is to train 35,000 Delawareans over five years to change the culture of denial, fear, and secrecy by raising awareness and empowering adults, changing darkness to light. This is important work in a region rocked by notorious cases of sexual abuse. I will serve as our facilitator for this session. Hospitality is offered at 8:30 AM, with the program beginning promptly at 9 AM. Please register through the Church Office at 655-3379 or rsvp@christchurchde.org. *Ruth Lawson Kirk*

Pilgrimage Fund-raiser at the Charcoal Pit



Our next Pilgrimage fund-raiser will be held on **Tuesday, January 17** from 5 to 8 PM at the Charcoal Pit on Concord Pike. 15% of our purchase proceeds that evening will benefit the 2012 Youth Holy Pilgrimage. Visit www.christchurchde.org/christianed/youthgroup.asp for the flyer you'll need to present with your bill.

Financial Town Meeting

Join us on **Sunday, January 22** at 10 AM and 3:30 PM in Parish Hall A for our parish's Financial Town Meeting. This is your opportunity to learn more about church finances and to share your feedback and questions with Vestry and other lay leadership. At 10:00 we have time for a brief review; at 3:30 we can provide more details and allow for more discussion. We look forward to working together to accomplish our mission, while being good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.



Epiphany Evensong



Join us for the service of Evensong from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1662* for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany on **Sunday, January 22** at 5 PM in the Church. The service music will include the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis in E-flat*, Charles Wood and the anthem, *Arise, Shine*, John Rutter.

2012 Grant Applications Due

The Outreach Committee has begun their 2012 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 27**.

Family Movie Night

On **Saturday, January 28** from 6 to 8 PM, families are invited to Family Movie Night at Christ Church. Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be provided. We will show *Tangled* and *Cars 2* in Parish Hall A and the Commons Room. Wear your pajamas, bring your sleeping bag, and enjoy a family night together with your church and preschool family. Please RSVP at 655-3379 or rsvp@christchurchde.org so that we have enough refreshments for everyone.

January Clothing Drive & Mitten/Scarf Collection

Christ Church is collecting 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* as well as good quality *linens, blankets, and comforters*. Please bring items in tied trash bags weighing less than 25 pounds each. In addition, we are collecting *gloves and scarves* for the Latin American Community Center. Collection bins are set up in the vestibule of the Parish Center near the circle drive and in the back of the Church. Tax receipts are available for your donations from the Church Office or you may download one from www.christchurchde.org/outreach/monthlycollect.asp.

Family Ski Trip

A family ski and snowboarding trip to Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Pennsylvania is being organized by the J2A youth for **Saturday, February 11**. We need a minimum of 15 persons to receive the group weekend rate, and there are reasonable packages available. The approximate cost for adults is \$47-\$52, and the cost for those under the age of 21 is \$35-\$43. The cost of transportation, as well as lunch and snacks, will be determined once we receive firm commitments. This month we are asking those interested to make a deposit so that we can move forward with our plans. To express your interest, please contact Hays Faulkner at sixfaulks@mac.com, 757-0846 or Bryan Keenan at bryan.keenan9@gmail.com. *Hays Faulkner*

Civil Unions in Delaware

Beginning on January 1, 2012, a new Delaware law goes into effect that allows for civil unions for same gender couples. Bishop Wright informed the Diocesan clergy that his existing policy regarding the blessing of civil unions for same gender couples still stands. This policy states that the Bishop will support the ministry of blessing the union of same gender couples only where an educational process has been carried out, where there is substantial agreement among congregational leaders for this ministry, and where the congregation has developed a policy to guide this pastoral practice.

The clergy and vestries of Episcopal congregations in New Castle County are gathering on Saturday, January 28 at St. James Church, Millcreek to discuss blessing civil unions of same gender couples. This conversation is an opportunity to listen to and talk with other Episcopalians about this topic. Following this discussion with our neighbors, the Christ Church Vestry will discuss this topic at the February meeting. In Lent, the Sunday adult enrichment series will be "Living Vows." In this series, Ruth and Russ will explore the meaning and purpose of Christian vows and how our vows shape our lives and households.

Ruth Lawson Kirk

Who is Jesus?

As we mellow down from the Christmas Holiday roller coaster and prepare to observe the feast of the Epiphany, we may find a lingering question in our hearts... "Who is Jesus?" This month at the Tract Rack we focus on a short, simply written booklet that ponders this very question and brings into context the core of Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God who "loves us no matter what." Take a minute to read this message and share it with someone who might need to be uplifted or who may need to better understand your Christian life. Read it by yourself, read it together with a friend, or pass it on to others. The message is short, direct, and powerful. Spread the message; it *IS* about the good news of Unconditional Love. May this New Year bring you and your loved ones closer to the realization of the Unconditional Love of God. The Tract Rack is located on the right wall as you enter the Church, and new titles are placed in the lower rack. For questions or comments, contact Marta at (302) 897-3520.

Marta Illueca

The Christ Church Labyrinth



Last month we introduced the concept of the labyrinth as a "spiritual tool." When we are learning to use a tool, it is useful to look at its component parts and how to make it a good fit for us.

So let's take a look at the center of the Labyrinth. The central area toward which the single path takes us is a place of centering, perspective, and receptivity. In it we stand on a beautiful six-petaled rosette with one central stem...this is really a 7-fold pattern (6 petals + 1 stem = 7). In our Christian tradition, 7 is a very symbolic number: we have the 7 days of creation, the 7 sacraments, and some of our most beloved prayers can be divided into 7 affirmations or petitions (e.g., the Hail Mary and the Lord's Prayer according to Luke's gospel). Many people, when walking the labyrinth, will take a bit of extra time for prayer or quiet meditation at the center. Others may try a technique to make it a dynamic experience by praying each statement or petition from a 7-pattern prayer like those mentioned and let it flow while slowly stepping around the rosette and its stem. Then there is silence, of course: "*Be still and know that I am God.*" If we prefer, we need not spend any effort when standing at the center.

Next month we will continue our reflections on the sacred path of the Christian Labyrinth, its geometry, and symbolism. Please email or call with questions or comments, illum2006@verizon.net or (302) 897-3520.

Marta Illueca

The Green Show



What a spectacular Green Show on December 2 and 3! 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 2012 agencies. Thank you for the wonderful fellowship and service to others!

Beth Duncan

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool



The Delaware Stars program is a voluntary quality rating system for early childhood education providers, administered by a consortium of organizations including the Delaware Early Childhood Council, Department of Education Office of Early Care and Education, Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Child Care Licensing, Children and Families First, and the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. Christ Church Episcopal Preschool has been a member of this program since early 2010. We recently underwent a rigorous on-site assessment in which all aspects of the learning environment were evaluated—from furniture arrangement to teacher/child interaction to health and safety standards and much more. The faculty and staff were thrilled with an excellent score, which allowed us to move to a three-star rating. This honor was granted as a result of much preparation and improvement related to teachers' professional development, a high-quality learning environment and curriculum, relationships with families and the community, and the management and administration of the school. This puts CCEP into an echelon of the best preschools in Delaware. The teachers and staff are already hard at work on earning the fourth star!

Jo Harney



Bishop's Visit to CCEP

First Call for Vestry Nominations



Annual Church ELECTION

It is time to solicit input and nominations from the parish for the Vestry elections which will be held on May 20. 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 26, 27, and 28 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.

From the Andrews-Weckerlys

Dear Christ Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful send-off. We were blown away by your efforts, the kind wishes, and the time together. Thank you for the beautiful home communion kit. I will think of you every time I make a home or hospital visit. And thank you for the gift certificate—it will be a relief to have vestments that fit my petite frame! We cannot thank you enough for the blessing of our time together. It has been a privilege to serve you, to get to know you, and to journey together with you these past couple of years. You will always have a special place in our hearts, and you will remain in our prayers in the months and years to come. May God bless and keep you, now and always.

Jennifer, Scott, and Simone

From the Christ Church Register

- Marriage of Charlotte McClelland Grassi and Brooks Moore Aukamp on December 17.
- Burial Office for Ann Mayfield Porter on December 19.

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

The Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Ruth Lawson Kirk, Rector
rkirk@christchurchde.org

The Rev. Russ Bohner, Senior Associate Rector
rbohner@christchurchde.org

The Rev. Canon Carl Kunz, Jr.,
Pastoral Associate

Keith Dawson, Business Administrator
kdawson@christchurchde.org

Nadine DiLorenzo,
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Jo Harney, Head of School
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David Hearn, Assistant Organist
Linda Hopkins, Housekeeper

Lynne Jensen, Minister for Children & Youth
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Michael Sayer, Administrative Associate
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Don Somers, Sexton

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Children & Youth Ministries



CHILDREN'S EVENTS:

- Family Movie Night – **January 28**, 6 to 8 PM
- Minute to Win It Game Night – **February 11**, 4 to 6:30 PM

Family Movie Night

On **Saturday, January 28** from 6 to 8 PM, we will show *Tangled* and *Cars 2* in the Parish Center. Bring a sleeping bag and wear your PJs! Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP at rvsp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

Minute to Win It Game Night for 3rd-6th Graders

Come join us for a night of friendly competition as we offer a night of fun and games adapted from the popular TV game show—Minute to Win It. Pizza and snacks will be served. Join in the fun on **Saturday, February 11** from 4 to 6:30 PM and win special prizes while testing and showing off your skills! RSVP at rvsp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

Christmas Pageant Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas Pageant this year, especially Sandy Durgin for her amazing leadership!

YOUTH EVENTS:

- Dominican Republic Commitment Supper – **January 8**, 6 PM
- J2A Holy Pilgrimage Meetings – **January 8 and 29**, 6:30 to 8 PM
- Rite-13 Serving Breakfast at Friendship House – **January 15**
- Day of Service for Youth and Families – **January 16**
- Nightwatch & Urban Adventure – **January 27-28**
- Family Ski Trip – **February 11**

Dominican Republic Commitment Supper

The Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic is scheduled for June 16-23, 2012. On **Sunday, January 8** at 6 PM there will be a potluck supper for those youth and their families to commit to participating in the trip. All paperwork and a deposit are due at this dinner. Please RSVP at rvsp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

J2A Holy Pilgrimage Preparation

Preparation has begun for the J2A class Holy Pilgrimage in the summer of 2012. The group will meet on **Sundays, January 8 and 29** from 6:30 to 8 PM in the Lower (YAC) Youth Room. Please contact Lynne Jensen for more information.

Day of Service for Youth and Families

Christ Church is challenging the parish to have 500 people join together for a National Day of Service on **Monday, January 16** to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday. The youth of Christ Church, families, and friends are invited to join alongside the street leader youth from UrbanPromise to share in a workday together from 9 AM to 12 noon at UrbanPromise. To participate, please RSVP to Lynne Jensen, ljensen@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

Nightwatch & Urban Adventure

The J2A class will head to New York City on **January 27-28** for Nightwatch and an Urban Adventure at St. John the Divine.

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS:

- Senior High Wintercamp, Glen Spey, New York – **January 20-22**
- Senior High Happening – **February 17-19**
- Junior High Wintercamp, Glen Spey, New York – **February 24-26**

Lynne Jensen

