



CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNICATOR

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February 2010

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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In the midst of a difficult economy, Christ Church strives to be faithful to God's mission and the principles and priorities that guide each vestry in funding the ministry we share. A church budget is a faith document; it demonstrates trust in God and in the company of believers who gather to be a community of faith. As the vestry considered the finance committee's budget recommendation, it was evident that estimates for income (drawn primarily from member pledges and endowment income) were below anticipated expenses. A small team of vestry members combed through the expenses to find any possible reductions.

At January's meeting, a long discussion revealed our commitment to the same priorities that make us who we are. We will maintain the tithe of pledges as a commitment to outreach and contribute the minimum asked of each congregation for diocesan ministry. We will fund the lay pensions and our capital expense accounts as recommended so that they can serve the purposes designed. Most program ministries will be maintained at 2009 levels, as will the salaries of our staff. We will make some reductions in administrative costs to conserve resources for programs.

The vestry remembered that 2008 ended with a surplus (added to contingency funds), and in 2009 the finance committee did not need to draw the additional 1% from endowment income to balance the budget. With pledges still being committed for 2010, the vestry passed the budget, allowing contingency reserves to be used should pledged income not match the needs for our ministry this year. The next action taken at the meeting was to approve a special offering for Haiti at all Sunday services on January 17.

To remind us of the church's purpose, our senior warden closed the meeting with two prayers, one for the people of Haiti, and the other, a poem written by The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman: "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."

We are all in this together, carrying out the work that demonstrates our faithfulness to Christ's mission on earth. As our gifts and energies combine, our parish shines with the light of love, reaching its way to the people of Haiti as well as to those who come in our doors. I look forward to serving alongside you.

The special offering for Haiti raised \$13,664 as of January 19. Contributions can still be made through Christ Church or to Episcopal Relief and Development. Call the Church Office or visit our website for more information.

Ruth Lawson Kirk

What's Next? Planning for the Future

If you are feeling your age and concerned about planning for the future, what's next? What is your stumbling block concerning planning ahead? Is it leaving your home? Getting rid of years of belongings? Knowing you won't live forever? Wondering how long you should drive? Managing your finances? In a quandary of how to proceed? Join us for a bowl of soup after the 11:00 AM service on **Sunday, February 7** to talk about "what's next?" Questions? Please call Helen Giammattei at 654-6364. So that we have enough soup and materials for everyone present, please RSVP to rsvp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379. *Helen Giammattei*

Choral Evensong

Join us for the service of Evensong from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1662* for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany on **Sunday, February 14** at 5 PM in the Church, featuring music from Byrd and Wesley.

Director of Friendship House to Preach and Present New Project on February 14

Following an educational program the Outreach Committee hosted for the agencies we support in the community, one participant wrote to thank us for "putting feet on your intentions." On **Sunday, February 14**, Bill Perkins, Director of Friendship House, will preach at our 8, 9, and 11 AM services. Every day, Bill and his wife, Marcy, put feet on Christian intentions to serve our neighbors as ourselves, to help those who need it most, and make continual personal sacrifice to do so. During the Adult Enrichment Hour, Bill and Marcy will present Friendship House's newest project—renovation of a house to expand their Women's Transitional Housing and Employment Program. Christ Church recently contributed a gift of \$100,000 toward the project with the intent of forming an ongoing partnership to help renovate the house as well as participate in the ongoing programs to mentor women transitioning from incarceration to a productive, independent life. Please join us to learn of the opportunities to participate in these efforts—be it as part of a "Done in a Day team," helping throughout the two-month renovation, signing up for dinner cooking teams, or training to become a mentor, job coach, or help with computer skills. Bill has also expressed the need for a project manager for the renovation phase; we are also seeking a parishioner as liaison to the partnership. If you are interested in more detail on these positions, please contact Russ Bohner. We invite you to take the next step in "putting feet on our intentions," by attending the presentation on February 14! *Barbara Cairns, Outreach Committee*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee and the J2A youth. We will serve in two seatings— from 6:00 to 6:30 PM and again from 6:45 to 7:15 PM on **Tuesday, February 16** in the Parish Hall. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Since Lent is a time of abstinence—traditionally of meat, fat, eggs, and dairy products—Shrove Tuesday's menu was designed to use up all the fat, eggs, and dairy products that would otherwise spoil during this period. Come carry on this tradition of food and fellowship. The cost is \$3 for children and \$8 for youth and adults. This is a fund-raiser for the youth's Holy Pilgrimage this summer, during which they will be tracing the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Please be generous! To ensure we arrange for adequate supplies, please reserve your tickets at rsvp@christchurchde.org or by calling 655-3379.

Ash Wednesday



There are two appointed days of special observance when the church asks her people to worship, fast, and pray: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Ash Wednesday opens the season of Lent. We will worship on **February 17** in the Chapel at 6:30 AM for those who wish to come before the workday; at 9 AM for those who drive best in daylight; and at 4 PM in a service shaped for children. The Christ Church Choir will sing at the 7:30 PM service in the Church for a solemn choral celebration of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. All services will include communion and the imposition of ashes made from the palms of the previous year. Please join us for one of these occasions for worship.

Lenten Quiet Day

A Quiet Day will be offered in the Chapel on **Saturday, February 20**. During the morning, there will be meditations with time for silence and reflection, led by the parish clergy. To benefit from this experience, please plan to attend the entire Quiet Day, beginning at 9 AM and concluding with noonday prayers. To sign up, please contact the Church Office at 655-3379 or rsvp@christchurchde.org.

Christ Church Lenten Series



Soup Supper at 6:15 PM
Lenten Series Program at 7:00 PM
Programs for adults and youth!
Child care available

Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, & 24
Look for more information coming soon!

February Outreach Collection

During the month of February, we will collect *personal care products* for AIDS Delaware. Collection bins are located in the back of the Church and in the Parish Center near the circle drive.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

If someone asked me, "Do you read the Bible?" my reply would be guarded. I have read the Bible but did not really understand its meaning. The verses were stilted, the context unknown, and the lesson a mystery. In the Bible stories, God reached out in dramatic ways: burning bushes, parting seas, and angels that wake you in the middle of the night. VERY DIRECT STUFF. I began to wonder—how does God talk with us today? What does God want to share to help us complete our lives? Every Thursday morning at 6:30 AM, Ruth or Russ and a growing number of parishioners meet to celebrate the Eucharist, eat breakfast, read scripture, and share insights into the passages. Some of the topics that arose from a passage have been: "Have you ever considered your faith as a sacrifice?" "What would you be willing to give up to keep your faith?" and "What does 'Sing to the Lord a new song' really mean?" The Bible takes us on a journey of discovery, where the smallest passage can have real meaning to a current issue in your life. So give yourself a gift...a peaceful morning with God and the fellowship of friends...and 6:30 AM in the winter only FEELS like the middle of the night...but in the spring...it's magical!

Bob Siegnwarth

Caregiver Resource Library



Books to help those giving care to others are available for borrowing from the Caregiver Resource Library in the Commons Room of the Parish House. Books can be found on the lower right side of the bookshelves. Parishioners are welcome to donate new or used books to the collection. Those who need to use them are welcome to borrow them at any time. Among the presently available titles are: *Digging Out: Helping Your Loved One Manage Clutter, Hoarding, and Compulsive Acquiring; Talking to Depression: Simple Ways to Connect When Someone in Your Life is Depressed; A Family Caregiver Speaks Up; Carepooling; and When Your Aging Parent Needs Care*. There are also some pamphlets available in a rack that is normally kept in the Commons Room as well. This library was begun by Martha Lankford years ago. Some books have been paid for by Christ Church, and others have been donated. Members of the Caregivers Group often share ideas they have found especially helpful when they meet someone with a particular need for advice or help. However, they are certainly there for anyone in the parish who needs them—not just attendees of the Caregivers Group. Contact Marion Godfrey, mariongodfrey@yahoo.com or 658-5151, with questions or requests for specific caregiving topics.

Marion Godfrey

Thank You!

I want to thank all of you who attended and were praying for my priestly ordination on January 9 at Trinity Episcopal Church. The worship service was incredible, filled with the Holy Spirit. I was truly humbled by the experience, and having so many Christ Church members there meant a great deal to me. You have become a very important part of my journey in Christ, and the ordination was a lovely time to honor that relationship. I look forward to serving in my priestly ministry with you. Specific thanks to Maryann Younger, who helped coordinate the reception efforts on behalf of Christ Church, and to all of those who contributed food, beverages, and labor. Thanks to those who participated in the ordination service as well. Look for photos on the Christ Church website. They capture some of the spirit of the day. Thank you and many blessings!

Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly and family

Stewardship 2010: The Best Gift of Christmas

No matter what you found under the Christmas tree, the best gift ever given is the gift of God's great love as revealed in Jesus Christ. Like some gifts, that love is sometimes put away and ignored for other shiny new presents that attract our attention. When God's gift is opened and embraced, we find our hearts expanding with compassion, expressed in love for our neighbors and love for God. We begin to pattern our life in ways that exhibit God's gift of Jesus in all relationships and situations. It is evident we are servants of God. We give. We give to our Church because we love God and want to support the worship and service of God in our congregation. We want a place for others to come and receive the same blessing we find. We give to express our gratitude for the gift of Jesus.

In worship last Christmas, you opened again the best gift you will ever be given. Have you written your "thank you" note? The stewardship committee encourages you to consider your annual pledge as a commitment of time, talent, and treasure as that act of gratitude. In addition to the 492 members or households recorded in last month's *Communicator*, the following members have made their pledge for 2010. We are grateful for 55 new pledges and for all those who increased their pledge above 2009. If your name isn't listed in the last issue or below in this *Communicator*, we have not yet heard from you about your plans for 2010 or we may not have your information correctly recorded. Please contact Shannon Tusso in the Church Office, 655-3379 or stusso@christchurchde.org, to see your name here next month. We're still counting on you! *Ruth Lawson Kirk*

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Abramczyk
Mrs. Connie Alegranti
Miss Lily Allingham
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allingham
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Attix
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Axt
Mr. & Mrs. Henry I. Brown III
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony R. Cucuzzella
Mr. Terence Dinneen
Mr. & Mrs. W. Harding Drane Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Bradford du Pont Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Gilday
Mr. & Mrs. W. Bruce Griffin
Ms. Debra Layton Harvey
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Hobbs III
Mr. & Mrs. Carl G. Krespan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Laird Jr.
Mr. Brian D. & Dr. Andrea L. Marvin
Mr. & Mrs. W. Barksdale Maynard

Mr. & Mrs. Ian McConnel
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Parsells
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Schlerf
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Scott III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Siegarth
Ms. Laura Snead
Mr. & Mrs. George A. Stetson
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Warburton



Did You Know...

...that CCEP has reached an important milestone this year? It is now paying Christ Church for the full share of its use of space, utilities, office staff, etc. In the first three years of its existence, CCEP benefitted from generous support from Christ Church, as it was required to pay for only a portion of its use of these resources, with the portion increasing each year. Now in its fourth year and on solid footing, CCEP is proud to be able to bear the full responsibility of this \$90,000 cost. The school is grateful for its mutually beneficial partnership with Christ Church and optimistic about its future.

Carol Mongan

Student Quote of the Month:

Mom: "What did you learn in school today, Jack?"

Jack: "Mom, it's not a *learning* school; it's a *doing* school."

Save the Dates!

Outdoor Classroom Dedication with Bishop Wright:
Earth Day, **Thursday, April 22**
Spring Gala & Silent Auction: **Friday, May 14**

Go Paperless!

As part of our ongoing efforts to cut costs, 2010 will bring additional opportunities to go "paperless" at Christ Church. Already, the *Christ Church Communicator* and Sunday *Bulletin* can be downloaded from the church website. Folks who serve in roles such as Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, and Ushers receive their schedules and relevant information via email. Many committees communicate with their members via email. Each week, everyone with an email address in our database receives our eNEWSletter. **If your email address is not on file in the Church Office, you may register it by sending an email to slawtonfasic@christchurchde.org.**

Remember too that our website is an excellent way to stay up to date on the latest news and events here. Check out the church calendar, view photos from recent events, pay your pledge online, or look up an address or phone number of a fellow parishioner. Questions about where or how to access features on our website? Contact Sherry Lawton-Fasic at slawtonfasic@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

Children and Youth Ministries

Sunday Morning Children's Enrichment

In January we began a new addition to the Sunday morning children's programs. "Chapel Chat" is a time for the clergy, staff, and children to gather in the Chapel to explore different aspects of worship, God's story, and spiritual disciplines in a group setting. The Godly Play classes met with Russ and Lynne for an exploration of Baptism. Gathering around the font, the children participated in an interactive Baptism lesson including a sprinkling of Holy Water. The 3rd-6th grade classes gathered later that same morning and asked Jennifer questions about her Ordination. The children were blessed by Jennifer, and the session ended with a special presentation of glass stones that the children dipped in Holy Water to remember their ministry of Jesus too.

10 AM Children's Enrichment

The children in Enrichment at 10 AM will begin in Parish Hall B with games and then move to the Commons Room to discuss and watch a *Veggie Tale* DVD.

UrbanPromise Workday

Christ Church youth and adults are invited to participate in a workday at UrbanPromise, 2401 Thatcher Street, Wilmington, DE 19802 on **Saturday, February 6**. The group will leave Christ Church at 8:30 AM and return around 2 PM. UrbanPromise is a ministry to children and youth in the inner-city neighborhoods of Wilmington and includes a school, StreetLeader Program, and summer camps. The mission of UrbanPromise is to equip children and young adults with the skills necessary for spiritual growth, academic achievement, life management, and Christian leadership. To lend a hand, please contact Lynne Jensen (655-3379, ljensen@christchurchde.org) or Betsy Field (654-4199, ewfield@verizon.net). This event will count toward service hours for high school requirements. *Betsy Field*

DR Youth Mission Trip 2010

Plans for the June Dominican Republic trip scheduled for June 19-26 have begun! The trip will be open to rising 11th and 12th graders and those who have just graduated. There will be an orientation meeting on **Sunday, February 7** at 1 PM in Parish Hall A with trip details and expectations. Those traveling to the Dominican Republic will be expected to participate in service, fund-raising, team-building, and a pre-trip retreat. *This orientation is mandatory to all going on the trip.* Parents are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact Jennifer or Lynne at 655-3379.

J2A Pilgrimage Preparation

Please keep those youth preparing for their pilgrimage in your prayers while they continue planning their travels to Italy, with a special emphasis on following St. Francis. The next Charcoal Pit Pilgrimage fund-raiser is scheduled for **Monday, February 15** from 5 to 9 PM at the Concord Pike location.

30-Hour Famine

30-Hour Famine is a worldwide movement of students who are serious about serving God and fighting hunger—all on an empty stomach. For 30 hours, participants get a taste of hunger by not eating—something more than a billion people around the world experience every day. Eight other Episcopal churches will be joining Christ Church to participate this year. The students begin fasting after lunch and gather in the Parish Center on **Friday, February 26** at 7 PM for games, fellowship, and worship. On **Saturday, February 27** they will go out into the community and participate in service projects in Wilmington including a Homeless Walk, service at the Food Bank, Clothing Bank, and Saturday Hospitality for the homeless. The fast will end with Eucharist and a simple supper at 5:30 PM on Saturday. Parents are invited to join us for the Eucharist and supper. Pickup will be at 6:30 PM. Arrangements can be made for those who cannot fast. 30-Hour Famine counts toward school service hours too. All money raised will go directly to Haiti to help feed those affected by the recent earthquake. Contact Lynne Jensen to register (ljensen@christchurchde.org, text 373-5625, or message her on Facebook).

Rite-13 Mission Trip

Those who are rising 8th and 9th graders are invited to participate in this year's Rite-13 Mission Trip. The cost is \$350 per person. *Commitment and deposit of \$50 is due by March 1.* The group will leave Christ Church on **Sunday, June 20** at 2 PM to arrive in Harrisburg, PA. While there, we will partner with local organizations and programs that seek to address the very basic needs of residents in places like children's camps, senior centers, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. Evening activities are designed to give participants insight into the lives of local residents and the culture of the area. Our group will have the opportunity to enjoy the city of Harrisburg, spend time with the community, and spend time together as a large group. On **Friday, June 25** the group will leave Harrisburg to arrive at Hershey Park for the day. We will arrive back at Christ Church by 7:30 PM that evening. *Lynne Jensen*

From the Christ Church Register

- Burial Office for Barbara Watkins Board on December 22.
- Burial Office for Jeannette M. Corlett on January 8.
- Baptism of Simone Grace Andrews-Weckerly, daughter of Scott and Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly; Liam James Ayers, son of Jason and Allison Ayers; and Kathleen Curtis McKenna, daughter of Douglas and Kathleen McKenna, on January 10.

A Prayer for Our Journey Through Lent

Most holy and merciful Father: we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone...Restore us...Accomplish in us the work of your salvation...By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.

from the Ash Wednesday Litany

Editor's Note

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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