



# CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNICATOR

Volume 19, No. 2

February 2012

## 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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## From the Rector

With the month of February, the church calendar brings the season after Epiphany to a close and opens the season of Lent. This season was used by the early Church as the time when converts to the faith entered their final preparation for baptism, and those who had been separated from the Church were given a path of return. I found a 2008 article from *The Alban Institute* that addresses the practice of developing Christians. These words are from Jeffrey D. Jones in his book, *Traveling Together: A Guide for Disciple Forming Congregations*.

It takes a community to form a disciple. The congregation exists to be that community. The Spirit present in that community provides the transforming power that makes disciples and encourages their continued growth. It is the community that carries the gospel story into the present so that it can be made real in the lives of disciples. It is the community that provides the variety of gifts that is essential to disciple formation. It is the community that offers the experiences of deepening, equipping, and ministering that form disciples.

One of the consequences of modernity was an operating assumption that classroom learning could provide most, if not all, a person needed to know to be a Christian. Content was what mattered—especially content that could be communicated within the confines of an easy-to-use curriculum. We opted for the modern belief that if people could understand the right things, they would then live the right way.

Recent secular scholarship has described the learning process that takes place in the lives of people, placing great emphasis on the social nature of learning and the importance of developing practices through which people learn. Think for a minute about how this is even truer for those seeking to live as faithful disciples. The knowledge it takes to do that certainly cannot be fully contained in a manual! It requires something more. Through the ages the church has recognized the reality of that “something more” by making storytelling, conversation, coaching, and apprenticeship an important part of the life of the community of faith. Indeed, the Bible itself relies on storytelling to convey its message about what it means to live as a faithful people. To form disciples today we need to be even more intentional about the practices that are needed. These practices fall into four areas: worship, prayer, moral formation, and life together.

(*continued on back page*)

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## Last Edition of the *Communicator* Coming in March

The March edition of the *Christ Church Communicator* will be the last, after more than 18 years of production. This publication began as a way to communicate with the parish during our search for a new rector in 1994. Since then it has grown and evolved and now includes upcoming events at Christ Church. In the past decade, we have developed a robust website with current content and added the weekly eNEWS. The content on both is continually updated to provide the latest news from our parish.

During the last year, the Communications Committee has been listening to parishioners and working hard at figuring out ways to improve communication within our congregation. We have listened and learned that many who receive the *Communicator*—whether in mailed or emailed versions—do not read this publication. Meanwhile, our weekly eNEWS continues to grow in content, and parishioners find it of high value because of its timeliness. The elimination of our monthly *Communicator* will allow the church staff to focus on this weekly communication, ensuring that the congregation receives the latest information on our programs and offerings.

In the months to come, you will see an enhanced weekly eNEWS; a new, interactive website; and a quarterly newsletter from our clergy. Additionally, we are exploring how to best utilize social media, both as an evangelism tool and as a congregational communication vehicle.

**If you have an email address, please make sure we have it** so that you receive the weekly eNEWS (email [slawtonfasic@christchurchde.org](mailto:slawtonfasic@christchurchde.org) or return the enclosed postcard). If you do not have an email address and are confined to your home and want to receive a copy of the Sunday bulletin, please let us know.

If you are willing to deliver eNEWS or the Sunday bulletin to homebound parishioners, please contact Sherry Lawton-Fasic or return the enclosed postcard.

Our goal is to improve communications while being good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us. If you have thoughts that you would like to share with the Communications Committee, please let Kay Keenan know at [kay.keenan@gmail.com](mailto:kay.keenan@gmail.com) or 654-5155.

*Kay Keenan*

## Family Ski Trip



Join in the fun at Blue Mountain Ski Resort on **Saturday, February 11**. A minimum of 15 persons is needed to receive the group weekend rate. 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, lunch, and snacks will be determined once we receive firm commitments. Those interested are asked to contact Hays Faulkner at [sixfaulks@mac.com](mailto:sixfaulks@mac.com), 757-0846 or Bryan Keenan at [bryan.keenan9@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.keenan9@gmail.com) ASAP.

*Hays Faulkner*

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## Green Show Pantry Shelf Canning

Back by popular demand, the Pantry Shelf canners will make orange marmalade on **Sunday, February 12** starting at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen. No experience is necessary, and lunch is included. Questions? Please contact either Maryann Younger at [mady@youngers.org](mailto:mady@youngers.org) or Chuck Durgin at [chuckdurgin@gmail.com](mailto:chuckdurgin@gmail.com).

*Maryann Younger*



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## Lenten Adult Christian Enrichment

Sunday morning Adult Christian Enrichment takes place from 10:00 to 10:50 AM in Parish Hall A.

### Preparing for Lent: What is Lent? – Sunday, February 12

The Christian liturgical year has six seasons, of which Lent is often the most widely observed. Join Russ Bohner for a discussion of the history and development of the Season of Lent—how it began, what it became, what it is today, and why it is so popular across many Christian denominations.

### Preparing for Lent: What is a Lenten Discipline? – Sunday, February 19

Many Christians observe Lent by fasting—giving up a particular food, drink, meal, or habit; or by taking on a personal discipline—a prayer practice, study, or service project. Join Russ Bohner for a discussion of the history, purpose, and practice of Lenten disciplines.

### Living Vows, Keeping Covenants – Sundays, February 26, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

As Christians, our lives are defined and shaped by the covenants we make and the vows we take. Join Ruth Kirk and Russ Bohner for a discussion of the meaning of covenants such as baptism and marriage and of the purpose and importance of keeping the vows that define these covenants. We will also explore topics such as God's participation in covenants, who is invited into and who is excluded from covenants, implications of keeping and breaking our vows, and questions surrounding same-gendered unions. All are welcome to participate in one, some, or all of these presentations.

### Holy Eucharist and Healthy, Honest Living – Wednesdays, February 29, March 7, 14, 21, & 28

Our Wednesday Evening Lenten Series begins with a Soup Supper from 6:15 to 7:00 PM each week in Parish Hall B. The Series runs from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Join Ruth Kirk and Russ Bohner for a detailed exploration of the words, actions, signs, and symbols of Holy Eucharist. We will examine each piece of the Holy Eucharist service and connect the elements of the service to our daily lives, discussing how the shape and content of Holy Eucharist invites, informs, equips, and empowers us to live healthy, faithful, authentic Christian lives. These presentations will loosely follow the book, *Liturgical Life Principles* by The Rev. Dr. Ian S. Markham. All are welcome to participate in one, some, or all of these presentations. *Russ Bohner*

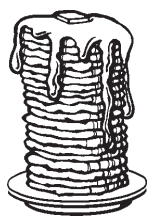
## Choral Evensong



The Christ Church Choir and The Rev. Ruth Lawson Kirk will sing the service of Evensong from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1662* for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany on **Sunday, February 19** at 5 PM in the Church. The service music will include the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* for *St. John's College*, Michael Tippett and the anthem, *Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars*, Jonathan Dove.

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## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee and the Dominican Republic trip youth. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday's meal is the last feast before Lent when folks abstain from eating meat, fat, sugar, and eggs. 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 21** in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$3 for children and \$8 for youth and adults. This is a fund-raiser for the June Mission Trip to the DR. Please reserve your tickets at [rsvp@christchurchde.org](mailto:rsvp@christchurchde.org) or 655-3379 to ensure we arrange for adequate supplies.

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## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday opens the season of Lent. We will worship on **Wednesday, February 22** 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; at 11 AM for the students at CCEP; 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.





## Art Supply Collection

During February we will collect art supplies for Survivors of Abuse in Recovery (SOAR) and our youth group's mission in Jalonga.

Requested supplies include: *paint brushes and rolled up canvases, washable markers, colored pencils, crayons, chalk, finger paints, Playdough, construction paper, easel paper, glue sticks, small dry erase boards, dry erase markers, and games.*

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.

## Christ Church Pictorial Directory

We are excited to announce that Olan Mills will help us create a new pictorial directory of our Christ Church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces, and it will be a useful tool for new people as they begin to worship here.

Please participate! We want our album to be as complete as possible. Remember, to get a directory, you need to participate. You may sign up during Coffee Hour through **Sunday, February 26**. Also, you may sign up at <https://signup.olanmills.com/familyinfo.aspx?chcontract=67262>. Please do so as soon as possible to get the appointment time that best suits your schedule.

- **Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21** – 2:00 to 9:20 PM
- **Thursdays, March 8, 15, 22** – 2:00 to 9:20 PM
- **Fridays, March 9, 16, 23** – 2:00 to 9:20 PM
- **Saturdays, March 10, 17, 24** – 9:30 AM to 5:10 PM

Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary Olan Mills \$25 gift certificate. You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing and will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled time, if you wish. If you do wish to purchase additional portraits, they come with Olan Mills' 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. This program is available at no cost to the church. Questions? Contact Mary Hunt at (610) 692-6698. *Mary Hunt*

## Vestry Nominating Process Continues



### Annual Church ELECTION

Input to the Vestry nominating process ends March 1. Any five qualified voters may nominate a candidate for election to the Vestry. Voting members 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. Vestry members are expected to be regular attendees of services and financial supporters of the church. They should be willing to make a commitment to attend monthly Vestry meetings and the annual Vestry Retreat and be prepared to make Christ Church a high personal priority for the next three years. The Nominating Committee (Wilson Anthony, Betsy Field, Martha Lankford, and Gina Pike) hopes to present a slate of at least seven people for the Vestry elections which will be held on Sunday, May 20. Nominations should be sent to the Nominating Committee or to the Church Office. Vestry Nomination forms are available in the Church Office and online at [www.christchurchde.org/aboutus/vestry.asp](http://www.christchurchde.org/aboutus/vestry.asp).

**The Christ Church Choir  
with full orchestra,  
under the direction of William Owen,  
will present  
J. S. Bach's Mass in B Minor  
on Palm Sunday, April 1  
4:00 PM  
in the Church**

## Vacation at Memorial House This Summer

The Parish Life Committee has reserved time for parishioners to enjoy fellowship at Memorial House—the Diocese of Delaware's retreat center in Rehoboth Beach—from **Friday, August 3 through Friday, August 10**. The former summer home of Felix du Pont, Memorial House is nestled in the pines section of Rehoboth, two blocks from the beach. Breakfast and dinner are included. For reservations and rates, please contact Kathy Moore at 656-5441 or [memorialhouse@dioceseofdelaware.net](mailto:memorialhouse@dioceseofdelaware.net).

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## Letty Downs Musician in Residence: John Rutter

### Saturday March 3

10 AM to 1 PM Open Rehearsal in the Church  
2 to 3 PM Lecture in the Parish Hall

### Sunday March 4

11 AM Choral Eucharist in the Church  
5 PM Choral Evensong in the Church

The eminent composer and conductor John Rutter will be this year's Musician in Residence at Christ Church. The Musician in Residence Program was endowed by the family of Letty Downs, who was an active lifelong member of Christ Church and Chairman of the church's Music Committee. The Musician in Residence Program brings a major figure in Anglican music to Christ Church each year to teach, rehearse, and perform with our treasured 18-voice all professional choir.

John Rutter was born in London in 1945 and received his first musical education as a chorister at Highgate School. He went on to study music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he wrote his first published compositions and conducted his first recording while still a student. His compositional career has embraced both large- and small-scale choral works, orchestral and instrumental pieces, a piano concerto, two children's operas, music for television, and specialist writing for such groups as the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and the King's Singers. His larger choral works: Gloria (1974), Requiem (1985), Magnificat (1990), Psalmfest (1993), and Mass of the Children (2003)—the chamber version of which had its U.S. premiere at Christ Church—have been performed many times throughout the world. He coedited four volumes in the Carols for Choirs series with Sir David Willcocks and, more recently, has edited the first two volumes in the new Oxford Choral Classics series, Opera Choruses (1995) and European Sacred Music (1996). From 1975 to 1979 he was Director of Music at Clare College, whose choir he directed in a number of broadcasts and recordings. After giving up the Clare post to allow more time for composition, he formed the Cambridge Singers as a professional chamber choir primarily dedicated to recording, and he now divides his time between composition and conducting. He has guest-conducted or lectured at many concert halls, universities, churches, music festivals, and conferences in Europe, Africa, North and Central America, and Australasia, and this will be his third visit to Christ Church.

## Benefit Concert for SOAR

On **Sunday, March 11** at 2 PM, Christ Church hosts Emily Samson Tepe, soprano and Barbara Prugh, trumpet in concert to benefit SOAR, Survivors of Abuse in Recovery. Paul Fleckenstein will join on organ with music for voice and trumpet, including arias by Bach and Handel and music created especially for this concert. SOAR is a statewide recovery program which provides counseling, referral, and education services to adult, adolescent, and child survivors of sexual abuse and assault. Suggested donation is \$20.



Barbara has been called “the finesse player who captured the audience with her playing” by the International Trumpet Guild Journal and has appeared as a guest artist with many of the Philadelphia area's top musical organizations. You may have heard her beautiful playing at our Christmas Eve and Easter services. Barbara's website is [www.trumpetsinger.com](http://www.trumpetsinger.com).

Emily Samson Tepe, soprano, returns to Christ Church after singing in Europe for seven years. Described as “The absolute brightest shining star of the evening” by Smålandsposten, she traveled to Sweden in 2004 on a Fulbright Scholarship to study Scandinavian classical music.



Trained in New York, she performs her own music under the name of IVA. A lifelong member of Christ Church, Tepe sang as a child at Christ Church with Bill Owen in the children's choir. Emily's website is [www.ivavoice.com](http://www.ivavoice.com).

Paul Fleckenstein is the Organist and Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. Noted for the diversity of his musical activities, he has performed extensively as solo organ recitalist, conductor, piano and organ accompanist, and organ soloist with orchestras.

**Leap Day Party:  
St. Michael's Annual Scholarship Fund-raiser**

Ever wonder what to do with that extra day the calendar gives us every four years? The Board of St. Michael's School & Nursery invites you to leap to the University and Whist Club on **Wednesday, February 29** to attend our annual scholarship fund-raiser at 5:30 PM. This year's party honors our longtime friend and supporter, Bob Scott. With a froggy theme (get it, leap year?), the event promises to be lots of fun while raising money to support our students. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, supper, a wine tasting by Moore Brothers, and valet parking. A silent auction will tempt you with a fabulous trip to St. Lucia, tickets to the phantastic Phillies, golf outings, and much more! Order tickets online at [www.stmichaelsde.org](http://www.stmichaelsde.org), call St. Michael's at 656-3389, or purchase tickets from Steve Boyden at the February 5 Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall. However you get your tickets, we will jump up and down to see you there! The cost is \$85 per person. University and Whist Club is located at 805 N. Broom Street in Wilmington.

*Susan Casscells*

**Financial Town Meeting**



On January 22 our Senior Warden, Ted Cover, reviewed the 2012 ministry budget developed by the Finance Committee and the Vestry. His presentation will be added to the website later this month as a reference for members. The Vestry's intent is to increase parish giving so that we can restore our funding for ministry to 2011 levels. Several great ideas were received in the comments of our members, and the Vestry will review them at their February meeting. As Ted mentioned, a narrative budget is being prepared to help all members be more aware of the financial management of our congregation. Look for that communication in the coming month.

As a result of the meeting, some members have increased their pledge or contribution for 2012. We look forward to reporting updated information through the eNEWS and on our website. Thank you!

*Ruth Lawson Kirk*

**The Five Foundation Stones of Prayer**

The Book of Common Prayer tells us that "Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words." Furthermore, "Christian prayer is response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit." (BCP, p. 856). Every new year we revisit old habits and make resolutions. As Christians, it is very important to take a look at our prayer life and find ways to enliven and enrich what is essentially a very intimate line of communication with our Lord.

For the first quarter of 2012, we will present you with special tract titles on praying, starting with "*The Five Foundation Stones of Prayer*" which includes **petition, intercession, confession, adoration, and thanksgiving**. In reading it, you will find there are as many ways of praying as there are ways of expressing love and thanksgiving or asking for forgiveness or a special grace. In praying, we nurture our soul through our very own personal relationship with God.

I look forward to your feedback on this series of booklets, and I hope you remember that every time you stop by the tract rack, you are part of an important ministry in our church. 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, comments, or requests, please call Marta at 897-3520. *Marta Illueca*

**From the Christ Church Register**

- Baptism of the following on January 8: Kathryn Sophia Axt, daughter of Stephen and Kathryn Axt; Grace Spotswood Jackson, daughter of John and Johanna Jackson; Stellan James Kolazas, son of Andreas and Lauren Kolazas; James Anthony McCuskey, son of Andrew and Jean McCuskey; Richard Colton Riale, son of Richard and Lauren Riale; Jackson Daniel Spruance, son of Daniel and Kathryn Spruance; Honey Elizabeth White, daughter of Bruce and Ryan White.
- Burial Office for Nancy Read Albright on January 13.
- Burial Office for Susan Ann Menard Nycum on January 21.
- Burial Office for Robert Wier III on January 21.

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## Children & Youth Ministries



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Family Ski Trip

See page 2 for details on this trip scheduled for **Saturday, February 11**, sponsored by the J2A youth.

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

Join us for some 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 [rsvp@christchurchde.org](mailto:rsvp@christchurchde.org) or 655-3379.

#### Junior High Wintercamp

CCCH youth will participate in Junior High Wintercamp in Glen Spey, New York from **February 24-26**.

#### Dominican Republic Youth Trip

The Youth Mission Trip to the DR is scheduled for **June 16-23**. There are 16 youth and 4 adults participating this year.

During February, we will collect fine art supplies to take to the DR for the artists in Jalonga. Rolled up canvases (for easy travel) and paint brushes are needed.

#### J2A Holy Pilgrimage

The J2A Holy Pilgrimage has been postponed until the summer of 2013. The youth will concentrate on this summer's Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.

#### Junior High Mission Trip

Twelve of the Rite-13 youth are registered to participate in the Junior High Mission Trip to Harrisburg this June.

### PAST EVENTS:

#### Breakfast at Friendship House

Thirteen members of the Rite-13 class served breakfast at Friendship House on January 15. It was a cold January morning, and the dining room at SsAM was full. Look for pictures from the event in the Church and on our website!

#### National Day of Service

Many youth and their families served at various sites throughout the city for the National Day of Service on January 16, including UrbanPromise, the Latin American Community Center, Gilpin Hall, Ministry of Caring, and the Food Bank of Delaware.

#### Nightwatch

Several youth participated in Nightwatch in NYC the weekend of January 27-28.

#### Senior High Wintercamp

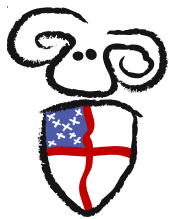
Max Holdsworth and Lynne Jensen participated in Senior High Wintercamp with others from the Diocese of Delaware in January.

*Lynne Jensen*

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## Christ Church Episcopal Preschool



Christ Church Episcopal Preschool is now accepting applications for new students for the 2012-2013 school year. We offer programs for children aged 18 months, 2 years, 3 years, and 4 years (Pre-K) with small class sizes and exceptional teachers. We offer priority consideration to parishioners of Christ Church. The deadline for our first round of admissions decisions was January 27 with letters of acceptance mailed on February 15. A financial aid program allows us to offer aid to families with demonstrated need, with a maximum award of 50% of the cost of tuition. If you would like to consider CCEP as an outstanding educational choice for your child or grandchild, please call the school office at 472-0021 to schedule a tour and to discuss our programs. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors that CCEP educates, honors, and nurtures children in the Episcopal tradition.

*Jo Harney*

**From the Rector** *(continued from page 1)*

This “lifelong process of discovery and change” is what discipleship is all about. It is the way disciples are formed. It is the task of the community of faith. It is accomplished as that community provides opportunities for deepening, equipping, and ministering in the practices it adopts.

As we move into the season of Lent, I encourage you to participate in this community and all the offerings we have to deepen faith, equip disciples, and minister in Christ’s name. Plan to attend Russ’ ACE presentations this month. Bring yourself and your children to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21. At 5:45 I’ll lead the children on a hunt for “Alleluias,” and we will take them to the Chapel and “bury” the Easter Alleluia to prepare for Lent. At 6:45 we will burn the fronds from last year’s Palm Sunday service to create the ashes for Wednesday. Attend worship on Ash Wednesday. We have a special service for our preschool children and a 4 PM service most appropriate for children. Youth and adults can also attend worship at 6:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 7:30 PM. When Holy Week comes, we have children’s worship on each of the special days to share the story of Christ’s passion in ways they can understand. Worship and prayer are two powerful ways we are shaped as Christians in this community as the Holy Spirit empowers us.

*Ruth Lawson Kirk*

**The Parish Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Ruth Lawson Kirk, Rector  
[rkirk@christchurchde.org](mailto:rkirk@christchurchde.org)

The Rev. Russ Bohner, Senior Associate Rector  
[rbohner@christchurchde.org](mailto:rbohner@christchurchde.org)

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

Keith Dawson, Business Administrator  
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Nadine DiLorenzo,  
Saint Nicholas Choir Director

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Linda Hopkins, Housekeeper

Lynne Jensen, Minister for Children & Youth  
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Millie Miller, Senior Administrative Associate  
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Walt Morris, Sexton

William Owen, Organist/Choirmaster  
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Jane Rubini, Administrative Associate  
[jrubini@christchurchde.org](mailto:jrubini@christchurchde.org)

Michael Sayer, Administrative Associate  
[msayer@christchurchde.org](mailto:msayer@christchurchde.org)

Don Somers, Sexton

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Please Provide Us With Your Email Address

The March edition of the *Christ Church Communicator* will be the last. (See article on page 2 for details.) In the months to come, Christ Church will offer an enhanced weekly eNEWS; a new, interactive website; and a quarterly newsletter from our clergy. Please provide us with the information below so that you receive the latest information on our programs and offerings.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the weekly eNEWS by email at the following address(es):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am homebound and would like to receive the Sunday bulletin.

I would like to deliver eNEWS or the Sunday bulletin to homebound parishioners.

Christ Church Christiana Hundred  
P. O. Box 3510, Greenville  
Wilmington, DE 19807-0510

Christ Church eNEWS  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred  
P. O. Box 3510, Greenville  
Wilmington, DE 19807-0510



## The Christ Church Labyrinth

This month we continue to reflect on the symbology of the labyrinth, focusing on its center, delineated by the figure of a rosette. In the last newsletter we made suggestions for praying at the center of the labyrinth with certain prayers composed of seven petitions or affirmations corresponding to the six petals and the stem of the rosette. In Lauren Artress' book *Walking a Sacred Path* (Penguin Books, 2006), we can find a reference to a little-known secret to the labyrinth's symbology, which is the 13-pointed star which may be superimposed over the central rosette. The number 13 for us Christians is reminiscent of Jesus and his 12 disciples. This alternative geometry lends itself to additional meditational exercises with prayers that have an equivalent number of affirmations, like the Anima Christi ("Soul of Christ") and St. Francis' beloved "Lord make me an instrument of your peace." At every petal of the rosette, you may reflect on two consecutive lines of this type of prayer, and the stem may serve as the point for opening or closing the prayer. More information on using the labyrinth for meditation or prayerful contemplation will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

*Marta Illueca*

## Samuel Crawford Brincklé

Jeffrey Schlerf and his mother Joanna Moncure Glenn are direct descendants of Samuel Crawford Brincklé, the first Rector of Christ Church Christiana Hundred. Samuel was born in 1796 in Dover, the third son of Dr. John Brincklé (great grandson of Captain John Brincklé, a member of William Penn's First Assembly) and Elizabeth Gordon (descendant of Caesar Rodney). After Samuel graduated from Princeton, he served as Pastor of St. David's in Radnor. He married Julia Rumsey of Maryland.

After 14 years at St. David's, Samuel served as Pastor of Grace Church and then St. James Church in Philadelphia. While he was at St. James, it became an Episcopal church. In the mid-1840's Samuel's brother John, a Philadelphia cotton merchant, purchased a 100-acre tract of land in Wilmington and built a home he named Gibraltar. Soon John would invite Samuel and family to live with John's family. John eventually sold Gibraltar to Samuel.

Samuel's move to Delaware for his ministry had origins in his friendship with the first Bishop of the Delaware Episcopal Church, Alfred Lee. During the first half of the 19th century, there was growing interest in religious faith in the Brandywine Mills area. In his mission to cultivate this interest, Bishop Lee asked Samuel to preach at the Brandywine Manufacturers' Sunday School. In 1848, Samuel began regular sermons at the school, marking the start of what would eventually become Christ Church.

There were some challenges along the path to establishing an "official" church, but Samuel was a strong-willed individual. He initially encountered resistance from within the Church hierarchy (including from the Rector at Trinity Church) to the congregation becoming an Episcopal parish. By 1851, the Church had become an Episcopal parish, and the name which Samuel advocated—Christ Church Christiana Hundred—was adopted. Construction of a beautiful new church building would follow a few years later. While Rector, Samuel and members of the congregation, including Alexis Irénée du Pont, had spirited debates regarding church doctrine. Samuel was a "Low Churchman," the prevailing point of view in the first half of the 19th Century.

Samuel Brincklé served as the Rector of Christ Church until his death in 1863. While Rector he resided at Gibraltar, where later generations of Brincklés lived until 1909. Samuel and his wife had eight children. Their youngest son William was a Civil War veteran and CEO of Wilmington Bank.

In honor of their ancestor, Jeffrey, Erin, William, and Alexander Schlerf and Joanna Glenn gave to the Labyrinth fund for the garden terrace at the Labyrinth's entrance. Jeffrey is a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the great, great, great, great, great grandson of our first rector.

*Jeffrey Schlerf*