



CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNICATOR

Volume 18, No. 12

December 2011

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: The Attitude of Advent

We are about to embark on the "most wonderful time of the year." You'll hear that 1963 Christmas classic piped into the stores, its lyrics waxing nostalgic about kids jingle belling and everyone telling you "be of good cheer." When you hear it, you may be stomping around the shops or standing impatiently in a line attempting to satisfy the desires of your loved ones with presents or creating the most perfect home decorations to set the scene for the holidays.

The Church offers another way to prepare for the most wonder at Christmas: worship and music, fellowship, service, and learning in the season of Advent. The aim is not to add to the "to-do" list in the most hectic time of the year but to shape the time and convey an approach to the mystery of Christ's coming.

Advent means "the coming." It marks both the birth of a humble Savior, whom God sent into the world to redeem it from the darkness of sin and death AND the second coming, when the majestic splendor of Christ will come again to judge the world and the peoples with his truth. In the first coming, we welcome God with us and shape our lives to be a cradle to hold him. For his second coming we prepare to meet the one who looks for actions and gestures that demonstrate a life lived in right relationship with God and neighbor—a life of compassion and mercy, peace and justice, generosity and joy. Both Advents call us to open the heart for God's presence and act out that presence in faith and charity.

Make time for quiet contemplation at the labyrinth to recall Jesus as our Emmanuel, "God with us." Attend *Messiah* and listen for the scriptures that describe our need for redemption and the salvation of God's advent in Christ Jesus. Come for the pageant so that our children have a good audience when they tell of the birth of our Savior. Join in the caroling as we bring the gift of the season's music to those unable to attend worship. Above all come and worship each Sunday, and invite friends and neighbors to worship with you to share in the work of praise and prayer and the strength we receive in the sacrament.

The scriptures and prayers we share through Advent will encourage your heart and shape your journey. Make room in your heart for the one who is to come.

Ruth Lawson Kirk

Once he came in blessing, all our ills redressing;
came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.
Still he comes within us, still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth convert us:
not in torment hold us, but in love enfold us.

Hymn 53, Hymnal 1982

Words by Jan Rob (1485?-1547)

Jennifer's Good-bye

Dear Members of Christ Church,

It is hard to believe that it is already time for me to say good-bye to you. Although our family is certainly excited about what God has in store for us in the next phase of our journey, we are also sad to be leaving Christ Church. We knew from the beginning that our time here would be relatively short—that is the reality of the life of a curate and her parish. But that does not make leave-taking easy. You all have been a wonderful church home for me and my family. We have felt embraced by you, and you will always have a special place in our hearts because you are the Church family that Simone was born into and baptized in over two years ago. We cannot thank you enough for all your love, support, and pastoral care to us as a family.

I am also grateful for your willingness to partner with me in ministry. Our time together has been very special and formative for me. I have learned a great deal about liturgy and music, about long-term mission partnerships, about engaging education and learning, about faithful stewardship, and about loving pastoral care. We have shared the joys of weddings and baptisms and the sorrows of death, divorce, and unemployment. We have restructured ministries, envisioned new life for Christ Church, and worked to make our parish a healthy, vibrant place. We have discovered along the way both the strengths that God has given us and the growing edges that the Holy Spirit is holding and shaping. I cannot express to you clearly enough how grateful I am for your willingness to engage me in mutual ministry over these two-plus years.

My prayer for Christ Church is that you continue to feel as sense of the Holy Spirit among you, that you boldly live into the tremendous potential with which God has blessed you, and that you continue to follow Christ's commission to share the good news and to serve the poor. God is doing great things in you, but God has even greater things in store for you. Go with God.

*Christ's Peace and Blessing,
The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly*

Jennifer's new address is:
1000 Washington Avenue
Plainview, NY 11803

The 58th Annual Green Show



The Green Show is **Friday, December 2** from 6 to 9 PM and **Saturday, December 3** from 10 AM to 2 PM. Come see Christ Church transformed into a shopper's delight. Let this special tradition get you ready for the holiday with fresh greens, flowers, hand-decorated wreaths, Christmas trees, homemade frozen meals, soups, canned goods, confections, and other gifts for family and friends. Christmas is a time of giving. Your purchases at the Green Show will make it possible for Outreach to assist over 30 community agencies, and you will be inspired by the joy and fellowship which permeate this weekend. We can't wait to see you!

Christmas Memorial Donations

If you would like to remember someone with special flowers or music at Christmas this year, please mail a check (made payable to Christ Church and marked "Christmas Memorials") to Christ Church, P. O. Box 3510, Wilmington, DE 19807 by **Friday, December 9**. You may also give online at www.christchurchde.org/giving/online.asp. You may list as many names as you wish and give any amount. Please list the Christian name of each person—i.e., John and Mary Smith, not Mr. and Mrs. John Smith—and be sure to include the donor's name as well. All memorials will be listed in the Christmas bulletins. Forms are available in the back of the Church, in the reception area of the Parish House, and online at www.christchurchde.org.

Quiet Time in Advent

With the completion of the Green Show in early December and Christmas approaching, are you seeking some quiet time to discern the spirit of Christ within you? On **Saturday, December 10** from 8:30 AM to 12 noon and on **Sunday, December 11** from 11 AM to 3 PM, a canvas labyrinth will be available in Parish Hall B for your prayer, reflection, and walking meditation. Weather permitting, the outside labyrinth will also be available for use both days, as will the Chapel on Saturday. All are welcome. Please come and savor the silence.

Betsy Field



Handel's Messiah

Christ Church presents
a joyous performance of
Handel's complete *Messiah*
with orchestra
on **Sunday, December 11**
at 3 PM in the Church.

A donation of at least \$25 per person is
requested to defray the cost of this performance.
Please make checks payable to Christ Church and
mail to P. O. Box 3510, Wilmington, DE 19807
to secure your reservation.

You may also pay online at
www.christchurchde.org/giving/online.asp.
Tickets will be held at the door.

Christmas Caroling Party

Join us as we bring the joy of the Christmas Season to
members of our parish who cannot easily get out to
celebrate. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 5 PM on
Thursday, December 22 to make Christmas cards.
Pizza will be served at 5:15, and the bus will leave for
our evening of caroling around 6 PM. We will visit
several members of our parish and should return to
the church by 9 PM. Carolers of all ages are welcome,
but please make a reservation so we can have plenty of
pizza—rsvp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379.

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve

- 2:00 PM Holy Eucharist/Crèche service
- 4:00 PM Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 PM Choral Eucharist

*Child care will be offered for infants and toddlers
at 2, 4, and 6 PM.*

Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 AM Lessons & Carols



There's Still Time to Sign Up for Foyer Groups



Oops! You forgot to sign up for a
foyer group! Well, there is still time.
We have extended the time period to
accommodate as many parishioners
as possible in this fun event. Signing
up for a foyer group is like giving
yourself a holiday treat, for you get fellowship, new
friends, and lots of entertainment. Being part of a
foyer group is a great way to get to know people at
Christ Church in a more informal setting.

A foyer group is a gathering of six to eight people
who meet together to enjoy food and fellowship. Each
member takes a turn hosting a meal with everyone
contributing a portion of the meal. Dinners can be
at home or out at a favorite dining spot or could be a
weekend brunch or lunch. It's all up to the group.
Everyone is encouraged to join—all ages and both
singles and couples. No special cooking or hosting
talents are needed! The new groups will meet from
January through November 2012. This past year,
many groups invited one or two other singles or
couples to join their next dinner. This allowed people
to expand their group and have people who were not
able to be involved in all of the get-togethers to
participate as guests.

**If you are currently in a foyer group and want to
participate next year, you must sign up again for
a new group!** Please sign up through the Church
Office at rsvp@christchurchde.org or 655-3379 by
Friday, December 23.

Cathy Welsh

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. All alumni of the
Dominican Republic trips are encouraged to come
and celebrate!

The Holiday Spirit is Hitting the Tract Rack

As we enter into another blessed Holiday Season, keep an eye on the Tract Rack for a variety of booklets coming your way each week. Starting with insightful pieces “On Silence” and “Forgiveness” at Thanksgiving time and following every week with different Advent and Christmas related topics, you can ease your way into the holiday mood. Sometimes, however, the holidays are difficult when we are honoring the memory of departed loved ones or struggling with personal issues. Look for inspiring messages covering important life issues at the top of the rack, and feel free to ask if you don’t see what you need. Whether your spirit is joyful or misty, the magic and reverence of Christmas is both uplifting and inspiring. May you find a source of blessing in this little corner of 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 Illueca at (302) 897-3520. *Marta Illueca*

Upcoming Baptismal Service

Holy Baptism will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 8** at the 9 AM service. A preparation meeting for parents and godparents will be held on Saturday, January 7 at 10 AM in the Church. Contact Jane Rubini at jrubini@christchurchde.org or 655-3379 to take part in this service.

Annual Women’s Retreat

The Annual Women’s Retreat will be held **January 17-19, 2012**. The Rev. Celeste Cox from Christ Church, Dover will provide spiritual direction. If you have never attended, Memorial House in Rehoboth is an excellent setting and offers comfortable accommodations and delicious food. There is time set aside for quiet reflection as well as lively discussions, sharing, spiritual time in the chapel, and social time. Some of the shops are open, and the beach is great for an early morning walk. The cost is \$185 per person and includes five meals and two nights at Memorial House. Contact Ginny Gordon, gingor@aol.com or 654-8582, to RSVP.

National Day of Service CCCH 500 Parishioners Community Service Challenge

Monday, January 16, 2012

is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and the National Day of Service.

Our challenge is for 500 members of Christ Church to commit to participating in some act of community service on the National Day of Service. More information and resources will be announced.

Co-sponsored by the Adult Christian Enrichment and Outreach Committees

“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. “Stewards of Children” is the program selected by Delaware’s Attorney General and a host of organizations that care about the well-being of children. The goal is to train 35,000 citizens 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. In learning seven steps, we can make a difference.

Our rector has been trained and will serve as our facilitator. Our gathering begins with hospitality, with the program beginning promptly at 9:00 AM. The training focuses on empowerment and action through video, a workbook, and discussion. The video includes survivor interviews and commentary from experts in the field.

To register, please call the Church Office at 655-3379 or visit www.d2l.org. Select Delaware in “D2L Near You” and scroll down to select our training. All are welcome.

Ruth Lawson Kirk



Family Ski Trip

Please mark your calendars! A family ski and snowboarding trip is being organized by the J2A and has been scheduled for **Saturday, February 11**. We will head to Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Pennsylvania. We need a minimum of 15 persons to receive the group weekend rate, and there are reasonable packages available for first-timers. Currently, 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. In January we will ask those interested to make a deposit so that we can move forward with our plans. If you have questions, please contact Hays Faulkner at sixfaulks@mac.com, 757-0846 or Bryan Keenan at bryan.keenan9@gmail.com. This is a great way to enjoy winter and hang out with friends. Please join us!

Hays Faulkner

Memorial Garden Renovations

The Memorial Garden was dedicated in October 1994 and currently contains the ashes of 100 Christ Church members and their families. Have you noticed the recent activity around it? During the completion of the Labyrinth, some issues became apparent involving the plantings and the walls around the Garden. The beautiful plantings were dying due to root damage caused by rodents, and the walls and caps needed to be repointed. A subcommittee of the Buildings and Grounds Committee was formed in September and has approved the repointing, which has been completed, and a landscaping plan. The fall plantings are complete. More planting will be done in the spring.

We have recently exceeded the capacity of the bronze plaques in the narthex of the Church containing the names of those interred in the Garden. A temporary wooden appendage is in place. The committee is currently discussing options for future additions.

Parishioners who have suggestions or questions may contact any member of the committee: Linda Boyden, Chairman, Bob Brandt, Keith Dawson, Beth Faulkner, Ginny Gordon, Margaret Higgs, Alice Ivy, Bob Richards, Vida Ruppe, and Jeffrey Schlerf, or Ruth Kirk.

Vida Ruppe

Outreach Highlights from October

On October 20, the Outreach Committee hosted an Agency Breakfast and Panel Discussion for local non-profit agencies which applied for or received 2011 Christ Church Outreach funding. This year's topic, "Building a Strong Volunteer Base," generated much enthusiasm among the 100 participants from the 49 agencies and churches represented. Sharing expertise on how to find and keep volunteers as well as how to help volunteers become effective advocates, fundraisers, and board members were Pam Cornforth from Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, Micki Edelson from Homes for Life Foundation, Christ Church parishioner Rick Gessner from ING DIRECT, and Rob Prestowitz from UrbanPromise Wilmington. Christ Church parishioner and social worker Lu Johnston served as moderator during the hour-long program which was preceded by a "networking" buffet breakfast. Due to its popularity over the past few years, the Agency Breakfast will become an annual Christ Church event held on the third Thursday of every October.

Tomoko Werbe



Labyrinth

According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, a tool is "something (as an instrument or apparatus) used in performing an operation or necessary in the practice of a vocation or profession." The *Free Online Dictionary* describes a tool as "a device used to perform or facilitate manual or mechanical work," and the *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes a tool as "an instrument for making (material) changes on other objects." While we may think of a tool as something hand-held, there are as many types of tools as there are many types of work that we may need to perform. The Labyrinth, then, as a meditative "tool" is a contemplative instrument used to perform spiritual work. When you walk the labyrinth, you engage in a dynamic form of Christian meditation which allows you to integrate your physical, mental, and spiritual natures in a deep contemplative exercise. Walking the labyrinth helps you achieve clarity and integrative knowledge about any situation or issue you wish to explore during the exercise. Beginning next month we will offer you interesting bits of historical and spiritual information to help you get acquainted with this "living spiritual tool." Our labyrinth has come to enrich our sanctuary at Christ Church by adding yet another very special and prayerful dimension to our beloved Christian Temple. We hope you will join us in this journey of discovery.

Marta Illueca

Study, Sup, & Serve Wrap-up

What is it like to be a woman behind bars? A group of women parishioners set out to discover some answers to this question and to reflect on their feelings and beliefs regarding women in prison by reading *A World Apart* by Cristina Rathbone. This second annual book discussion group was led by Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly and culminated in the group preparing and sharing an early Thanksgiving feast for the residents, alumni, and staff of Epiphany House in Wilmington.

Over the course of four weeks, participants discussed their thoughts and opinions as they explored both the stories of contemporary women spending time in prison as well as the treatment programs of women held in jail from an historical perspective. Our reviewers felt the stories to be illuminating as well as surprising at times. Frequently, feelings of anger, dismay, and outrage at the “system” were elicited by reading this book.

Weekly, Jennifer guided us as we studied our responses to the reading. We were continually reminded of many simple things for which we can be thankful in contrast to these women— daily interactions with family and with our children, expectations of nutritious food and safe shelter every day, and freedom of action as an individual. We were invited to reflect how this story might help us in our personal journey to a richer life with God. Finally, discussions were held to generate some ideas for future opportunities where we might serve the population in a local women’s prison.

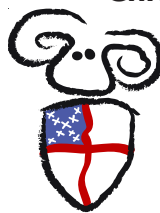
Our last activity together as a group took place at Epiphany House. After enjoying a meal with everyone at Epiphany House, we spent time in a sharing session. Each woman present shared her thoughts on what made her most thankful this holiday season. The stories and comments were heartfelt and moved by the Spirit and included comments like “each new day,” “my beautiful children,” and “thanks to the Lord.” It was an uplifting experience to realize this group of women struggled to begin their lives anew and were being successful!

Jamie Jones

“I was in prison and you visited me.”

Matthew 25: 36

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool



The Preschool has been a busy place for the past month! We celebrated Morning with Dad on October 19 and experienced the excitement of having dads and other special friends visit our classrooms to participate in activities with their children.

On November 9, we welcomed Bishop Wright and his friends from Scotland, Bishop Douglas Cameron and Pat Cameron. The children were excited to sing songs for the bishop and to make special gifts for him. They also had lots of questions about his special ring and necklace. On the same day, we held a Parent Association meeting in which Ruth Kirk shared a labyrinth experience with many of our parents. I spotted a few of them walking the labyrinth again by themselves later in the day. It was a beautiful day for an introduction to this special place.

On November 10, we celebrated Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Lots of visitors from across the country joined us for classroom activities and crafts, stories and songs. In our reception following, Jo Harney presented a Smart Board lesson, and many grandparents were eager to try their hand at the Smart Board after breakfast. We also learned that some grandparents traveled over a thousand miles to be here, and some less than two miles! We had two very tall grandfathers and two very short grandmothers. The Parent Association did a lovely job of decorating, preparing, and serving a delicious breakfast. Many grandparents purchased books to supply our classrooms and library.

We conducted two food drives in November in conjunction with our chapel theme of “helping others.” First, we collected items for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Baskets Project which were assembled by members of Christ Church and other congregations on November 20. Then we conducted a food drive to benefit the Food Bank of Delaware and its Backpack Program. We carried our food gifts to the altar for a blessing by Ruth Kirk on November 22 before delivery to the Food Bank.

We are also happy to participate in the Green Show in several ways. We collected and sold gently used fine children’s clothing, created original Christmas cards with preschool artwork, and joined together for an evening of soup-making, all to benefit the outreach agencies supported by the Green Show. Our families understand that closing the school for a week is for a great cause and are happy to support this ministry of Christ Church.

Jo Harney

Children & Youth Ministries

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- St. Nicholas Celebration – **December 4** at 10 AM
- Pilgrimage Preparation – **December 4** at 6:30 PM;
December 16-17 retreat at 7 PM
- Dominican Republic Youth Trip Orientation –
December 11 at 1 PM
- Rite-13 class Ice Skating party – **December 11**
- Christmas Pageant – **December 18** at 5 PM
- Day of Service for Youth and Families – **January 16**
- Senior High Wintercamp, Glen Spey, New York –
January 20-22
- Nightwatch & Urban Adventure – **January 27-28**
- Movie Night – **January 28** at 6 PM
- Youth and Family Ski Trip – **February 11**
- Minute to Win It Game Night – **February 11**
- Junior High Wintercamp, Glen Spey, New York –
February 24-26

St. Nicholas Celebration

The children will gather on **Sunday, December 4** at 10 AM in Parish Hall A for activities and a celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas. Traditional gingerbread bishops, Advent chains, a special St. Nicholas story, and a visit from St. Nicholas himself will be offered.

J2A Holy Pilgrimage Preparation

Preparation has begun for the J2A class Holy Pilgrimage in the summer of 2012. The group will meet on **Sunday, December 4** from 6:30 to 8 PM in the Lower Youth Room. There is a mandatory retreat **December 16-17** here at Christ Church as well.

Dominican Republic Youth Trip Orientation

Our next youth mission trip to the Dominican Republic is scheduled for June 16-23, 2012. It is open to all current 11th and 12th graders. An introductory meeting outlining the requirements for the trip will be held on **Sunday, December 11** at 1 PM in Parish Hall A for youth and their parents. This is mandatory for those planning to go on the mission trip.

Junior High (Rite-13) Mission Trip

Deposits are due by **January 1** for the Junior High Mission Trip to Harrisburg.

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 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. Youth, their families, and friends are invited. Please RSVP to Lynne Jensen, ljensen@christchurchde.org or 655-3379, to participate.

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. Permission slips and money are due by December 18.

Movie Night

On **Saturday, January 28** from 6 to 8 PM, we will show *Tangled* and *Cars 2* in Parish Hall A and the Commons Room. Bring a sleeping bag and wear your PJs! Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be provided. 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.

PAST EVENTS:

Trunk 'n Treat

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic evening at Trunk 'n Treat! There were 20 trunks decorated, and over 200 people joined in the fun and fellowship! Thanks especially to Kathy Seeman, Julian and Nina Turner, both Martha Hollers (mom and daughter), Lynne Jensen, and Russ Bohner for making this event such a great success.

Chris Hayden's Visit

Chris Hayden shared his inspirational story of faith, perseverance, and hope with the youth of Christ Church in November. Chris was born without a right arm and without an elbow on his left arm. Throughout his life, Chris has never let his disability stand in his way. With strong family support and a strong faith in God, Chris has been able to overcome much in his life. His positive, hopeful outlook on life touches all those who meet him. Chris was a member of his college rowing team, and he is now working in Washington, DC. We hope that Chris will come back to Christ Church to share his story with the entire parish.

Lynne Jensen

From the Christ Church Register

- Burial Office for Rogers Van Vorst Waugh on October 7.
- Marriage of Heidi Victoria Nielsen and Brad Christopher Tumej on October 9.
- Burial Office for Carole A. Willis on October 21.
- Burial Office for Trevor Allen Dodd on October 29.
- Burial Office for Leora Denney MacBride on November 1.
- Burial Office for Elizabeth Righton Brandt on November 4.
- Baptism of Hunter Matthew Gilday, son of Brian and Corbin Gilday; Caitlyn Elizabeth McGinley, daughter of William and Laura McGinley; Elliston Blessing Ritz, daughter of Barry and Kendall Ritz on November 6.
- Burial Office for Elizabeth C. Bubeck on November 10.
- Marriage of Madalaine Elizabeth Chatburn and John Lawrence Mieczkowski on November 12.
- Burial Office for J. Richard Tucker on November 21.

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

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Each year Christ Church presents a traditional Christmas pageant enabling children 3 and older to enter into the joyous celebration of Christ's birth. Preparations for this year's Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 18** have begun! Your family won't want to miss it.

Rehearsal: We will have **one dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17**. The cast will assemble at 10 AM for costume fittings. Rehearsal is from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Casting: We have no limit on the number of sheep, angels, shepherds, and townspeople. Costumes are available on a first come, first served basis. If we do not have enough costumes or if they are too big, we may ask parents to help make a simple costume or attend to adjustments.

Notes: We ask that photographs be taken either during the dress rehearsal or after the finale of the Pageant. If your child sings in the St. Nicholas Choir, he/she will be singing at both the rehearsal and Pageant and, therefore, should not take on other roles.

White Gifts: The Pageant includes the collection of small toys and books wrapped in white paper (including the age and gender on the gift) which are distributed to local outreach agencies.

The general guidelines for Pageant roles are as follows:

Cherubs	3- and 4-year-olds
Sheep	3- and 4-year-olds
Townspeople	5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds
Shepherds	8 years and older
Angels	8 years and older

Other roles: Readers, Joseph, Mary, Gabriel, the kings, pages, and Baby Jesus are determined by the characteristics required for the part and the sizes of the costumes.

Saturday, December 17

10:00 AM	Costume fittings for all
10:30 AM –	Dress rehearsal for everyone
12:00 PM	in the cast

Sunday, December 18

4:15 PM	Pageant cast arrives
5:00 PM	Pageant begins
	Potluck supper immediately follows the Pageant in Parish Hall B

Questions? Contact Sandy Durgin, Director, at 652-4033 or scdurgin@comcast.net.

2011 Christ Church Christmas Pageant – December 18

Please return to the Church Office by December 12.



_____ would like to be in the Pageant as a _____
Name and Age

_____ would like to be in the Pageant as a _____
Name and Age

_____ would like to be in the Pageant as a _____
Name and Age

Parent's name _____ Phone _____

I would like to help with the Pageant this year.