

# **The Bellringer**

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81**  
**Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081**  
**(860) 267-0287**  
**January, 2012**

**A welcoming community committed to worship, mission and Christian formation in today's world**

## **A Message from our Wardens**

### **Presiding Priest**

The Rev. Dr. Randall Balmer

### **Assisting Priest**

The Rev. Dr. Catharine Randall

### **Officers**

George Seitzer, *Sr. Warden*

C.W. Currie, Jr. *Warden*

Barry Edmonds, *Treasurer*

Betty Fuqua, *Parish Clerk*

### **Vestry**

Bud Briere

Willie Fuqua

Jerry Graham

Paul Hunt

Donna Hryb

Dick Napoletano

Patti Stannard

### **Choirmaster & Organist**

Barbara Brundage

### **Youth Director**

Kendra Dickinson

### **Parish Administrator**

Susan Skoglund

### **Sexton**

Roberta Edmonds

### **Office Hours:**

*Tuesday: 3 pm - 5 pm*

*Thursday: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm*

*christchurchmiddlehaddam.com*

*ccmhadmin@gmail.com*

What a wonderful December we had here at Christ Episcopal Church! The Greening of the Church was held on December 3, and it is always such a good way to get into the holiday spirit! Thank you to Jerry Graham, the Hunts, Napoletanos, and Seitzers for their efforts. We also thank Don and Phyllis Martin for once again donating the lovely Church Christmas tree.

The Vestry and Officers' *Tree Trimming Party* on December 6 was a lot of fun, and we're planning to do the same next year! Our *Take Down the Tree Party* is scheduled for January 3.

It was good to see all the children in Church for the Christmas Pageant on December 18. Thank you to Kendra Dickinson and all the children, parents, and volunteers whose efforts brought it all to fruition.

The Christmas Eve Carol Sing and Worship Service was festive, with wonderful music played and sung, led by our Choirmaster Barbara Brundage and joined by our talented Choir and soloists Dick and Linda Napoletano. The evening was further enhanced by our guest musicians: Ted Brundage on violin, Jim Shugert on trumpet, and Kristin Shumbo on flute. Thanks to everyone for making this time of year so special at Christ Church!

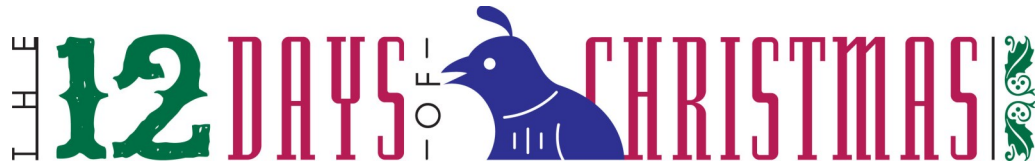
The stone wall that runs along Long Hill and Middle Haddam Roads will not be repaired until Spring due to Winter's rough weather. And, now that winter is upon us, do not forget to check your e-mail or the Church's outgoing voicemail message to make sure that your event or Church services have not been cancelled due to inclement weather.

Please don't forget to put January 22, 2012 on your calendars for Christ Church's Annual Meeting. We are also hoping to add some new members to our Vestry during the meeting.

Have a Happy New Year.

**George Seitzer and C.W. Currie**

# THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

This week, I found out: From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- \* The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- \* Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- \* Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- \* The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- \* The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- \* The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- \* Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- \* The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- \* Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- \* The ten lords a-leaping were The Ten Commandments.
- \* The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- \* The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So, there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me, and I found it interesting and enlightening; now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.

*Bud Briere*



# *Christmas*

Flower Offerings

**Given in Memory of:**

Jan Lootens  
Norman and Gladys Edmonds  
Judith A. Fuqua  
Stephen Hapgood and Frederick  
Lorinser  
Roger and Florence D'Angelo and  
Peter David Jr.  
Arthur and Eileen Thomas; Richard  
and Geraldine Grant; and  
Jennifer Rittman-France  
Tom Hryb and Barbara and Joseph  
Dube and in thanksgiving of Dot  
O'Shaughnessy and Claire Ken-  
ney  
Mary B. Hunt and Peter Hodgkins  
Helen and Arthur Trowbridge; Irene  
and Willis Little; Dale Ann Little  
Magliola, and Bob Owen  
Charles Long  
Sanford Pilz, Mary Napoletano Lat-  
timer, and Angelo Napoletano Sr.  
and Angelo Napoletano Jr.  
Maryanna Tien and Carolyn Reed  
All departed family members

**Given by:**

Geri Cecilio  
The Edmonds Family  
Sean, Jennifer, and Jeanne Fuqua  
  
The Gingras Family  
  
The Godwin Family  
  
The Grant Family  
  
Donna Hryb  
  
Paul and Geri-Anne Hunt  
  
Ellen and Ralph Little  
  
Donna Long  
  
Dick and Linda Napoletano  
  
Bobette Reed Kahn  
The Seitzer Family

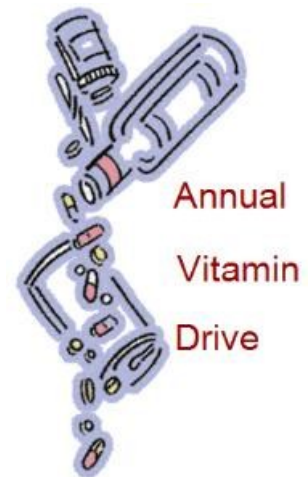
## Missions' Team Report



Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a very merry Christmas for our Covenant to Care children. It is heartwarming to the entire Missions Team how supportive the Christ Church family is of our various Missions' work.

Thanks also to all of you who fill the Food Bank basket week after week and thanks to Dana Vick, who delivers it to the East Hampton Food Bank.

During Lent, we will again be collecting money for our Lenten Vitamin Drive that supports the St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children in Haiti. Vitamins are not readily available in Haiti and are usually only given to sick children. We help to give them to all children. Collection "jugs" will be available for pick-up in February and the Lenten Vitamin Drive will begin on February 22 and end on Easter, April 8. We will accept donations until April 15. We accept filled jugs as well as cash and checks (checks should be made out to Christ Church with *Missions – Vitamin Drive* written in the memo. You may also make a check payable directly to Friends of St. Vincent's, and we will forward them).



You are invited to join the Missions' Team at their once-a-month meetings, held from 6-7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Long. The date of the January meeting will be announced in an upcoming Bulletin.

For more information, or to sign up if you will not be at church, please contact Mary Boretz (boretzmar@Reg8.k12.ct.us), 860-267-0365; Donna Long (longdjj1@sbcglobal.net), 860-467-6278; or Clive Connor (clivekconnor@aol.com), 860-267-7813.



It's time to update our Parish Directory! Copies of the 2011 Parish Directory are still available at the church. The directory is very useful for getting in touch with you and for keeping you informed of what's going on. You can also use it to contact our Priests or Diocese, Officers and Vestry Members, and other church members if you need a ride to a church event, want to volunteer or need help, or just want to chat!

## **From the Desk of the Treasurer**

From the desk of the Treasurer:

Each week in the Sunday bulletin we publish an update of our year-to-date pledging. Here is what will be printed Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: We have pledged \$1,555.00 per week for an annual total of \$80,875. to support the mission of our Church. We received \$1,500. during our Christmas services. YTD Pledge Budget: \$80,875; YTD Pledge Actual: \$82,882.50.

Thank you to everyone for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Pledge statements for 2011 will be mailed by the end of January.

*Barry Edmonds, Treasurer/Bookkeeper*  
Phone 860-267-6226; Email: [bwedmonds@comcast.net](mailto:bwedmonds@comcast.net)

## **2012 Stewardship Campaign Update**

A total of **35** people made reservations and attended the New Consecration Sunday brunch held on Sunday, November 13.

A total of **26** Estimate of Giving Cards were received on New Consecration Sunday for a committed total of **\$55,621.00**

Letters and estimate of giving cards went out to parish members who did not attend New Consecration Sunday. After these letters were mailed, we received an additional **25** Estimate of Giving Cards for an additional committed amount of **\$22,198.00**.

This brings our total, as of December 15, 2011, to **41** pledging units for a total of **\$77,819.00**.

Of this total:

20 pledging units **INCREASED** their pledge amount for 2012.

5 pledging units are **new** for 2012.

5 pledging units decreased their pledge for 2012.

11 pledging units remained the same.

Sincerely,

*Barry Edmonds, Treasurer/Bookkeeper*

# **January 2012 Calendar**

## ***Sunday, January 1—New Year's Day***

*9:15 am                      Choir Rehearsal*  
*9:45 am                      J.A.M. and Nursery School*  
*10:00 am                     Holy Eucharist*  
*11:00 am                     Community Time/Refreshments*

## ***Sunday, January 8 - The First Sunday after the Epiphany***

*8:30 am                      Choir Rehearsal*  
*9:45 am                      J.A.M. and Nursery School*  
*10:00 am                     Holy Eucharist*  
*11:00 am                     Community Time/Refreshments*

## ***Tuesday, January 10 — Annual Report Submissions due to Church Office***

## ***Wednesday, January 11***

*5:00 pm                      Crafts and Storytime in the Parish Hall*

## ***Sunday, January 15—Martin Luther King Jr. Day***

*8:30 am                      Choir Rehearsal*  
*9:45 am                      J.A.M. and Nursery School*  
*10:00 am                     Holy Eucharist*  
*11:00 am                     Community Time/Refreshments*

## ***Tuesday, January 17***

*6:30 pm                      Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall*

## ***Wednesday, January 18***

*5:00 pm                      Cooking with the Kids in the Parish Hall*

## ***Sunday, January 22—Christ Church Annual Meeting Sunday***

*8:30 am                      Choir Rehearsal*  
*9:45 am                      J.A.M. and Nursery School*  
*10:00 am                     Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting*  
*11:00 am                     Community Time/Refreshments*

## ***Sunday, January 29***

*8:30 am                      Choir Rehearsal*  
*9:45 am                      Nursery School*  
*10:00 am                     Holy Eucharist*  
*11:00 am                     Community Time/Refreshments*

# UPcoming EVENTS

**Vestry and Officers' Tree Takedown Party**                      **January 3, 6:30 p.m.**

**Deadline for February *Bellringer* Articles**                      **January 20**



**Rev. Catharine asks: *What does it mean for us to be Christians, not in our public places, not even here in church, but in our private homes or the small space of our heart? Come, find out:***

**January 15**                      ***Jesus as Janitor:  
Keep Your Temple Clean***

**January 22**                      ***Put Yourself on the Shelf***

**January 30**                      ***Care and Feeding of the Soul***



**SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Supper**                      **February 12, 6:00—8:00 p.m.**



**Annual  
Vitamin  
Drive**

**For the children of St. Vincent's**                      **February 22—April 8**



## Children's Activities

Thank you so much to all of our Nursery and J.A.M. children and families who made our Christmas Pageant possible! It was wonderful to see all of the children dressed in their costumes and up on the altar, telling the story of Christmas. The joys of the holiday season were on the faces of all of the children. Thank you to the amazing readers, singers, musicians, photographers and audience members that helped us and added so much to our pageant. Just before the pageant, there was truly a whirlwind of teamwork, as we made the final adjustments to costumes! Way to go!

As we look ahead to January and the new year, I am looking forward to continuing to find opportunities for the children to be a part of the Church service and for the parents and I to continue to work together as a team. Christ Church can look forward to seeing the children sharing their singing talents with us during upcoming services.

### **Upcoming Events**

- \* Wednesday, January 11, at 5 p.m.: Crafts and story time in the Parish Hall!
- \* Wednesday, January 18, at 5 p.m.: Cooking Kids in the Parish Hall! Come and make a tasty treat that will be fun to eat!!!

Happy New Year!

***Kendra Dickinson***



For consolation to Patricia Burke Foto upon the passing of her husband Anthony Foto from the Congregation  
For healing: Linda Owen Hartt from Ellen and Ralph Little  
For healing and recovery: Laurie Gypson from the Congregation  
For healing and strength: Peter Nicholas from Chris and Denise Hamel

A prayer for strength, comfort, and healing: Sandra L. Read from Bobette Reed Kahn

For healing: Ralph Little from Ellen Little

For healing and strength: June Wylie from daughter Trever

For comfort, strength, and guidance: Amy Garofalo and family from Dana Vick

For healing of Winston and Anthony: the power of Jesus Christ to touch their lives providing them with the knowledge of God's mercy from Veronica Tate

For healing: Claire Megan, niece of Kathy Megan

For healing: Clive Connor, from the Missions' Team and the Congregation

For healing/strength while awaiting transplant: Anna Bauer from Kathy Godwin

For healing/strength: Frank Wadsworth, father of Mary Boretz



- To all of our parishioners who shopped for and donated to the Missions' Team Wish List to help make our Covenant to Care families' Christmases a little bit brighter.
- To our Missions' Team—Mary Boretz, Clive Connor, Donna Long—for their time and efforts for coordinating and delivering the Christmas gifts for our designated Covenant to Care families.
- To Dana Vick for bringing the Congregation's gifts to the East Hampton Food Bank.
- To all of our guest musicians: Ted Brundage, Kristin Shumbo and Jim Shugert; Christ Church Choir; soloists Dick and Linda Napoletano; and Barbara Brundage for bringing their musical gifts to our Christmas services and making them extra special!
- To everyone whose efforts make Christ Episcopal Church wonderful!



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