

The Bellringer

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

January, 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Greetings from your Vestry

We trust that your Christmas holiday was wonderful and we wish you health, happiness and prosperity in the new year.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of new friends and old. On January 3 the Rev. Dr. Catharine Randall and the Rev. Dr. Randall Balmer will be joining us as supply clergy. We are looking forward with great anticipation to their arrival.

We will welcome back our old friend The Rev. Jane Stickney who will be with us again on January 17th, the only day in the winter calendar that Catharine and Randall will not be with us due to a previous engagement.

We look forward to gathering with old friends (those who generally attend the 8 am worship service) who will be joining us now at 10:00 am for our new winter schedule. *You will find more information regarding that in this newsletter.*



Family Event

Saturday January 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Cocoa and Crafts in the Parish Hall!

Start the New Year off right with cocoa and crafts in the parish hall! Sip hot cocoa and even a yummy snack as we make arts and crafts projects that are flexible and can be adapted for any age. Join us one and all for fun!

Winter Worship Service at Christ Church

After much consideration your Vestry has decided that it would be in our best interest to **celebrate Eucharist together at 10 am during the winter months.**

After thoughtfully considering the possibility of snow storms that will surely inconvenience us early on Sunday mornings, and due to the fact that our supply clergy travel a great distance to be with us, we feel that we made a good decision to **suspend the 8 am worship service for the winter months.**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II will remain at 10 am. There are no changes in times for Nursery, J.A.M. or Choir Rehearsal.

We look forward to worshipping together with Rite II and Choir at 10 am. Please join us after the service in the Parish Hall for coffee hour.

We Pray For

Mary Goff, Bruce and Jill Crisp, Geri-Anne Hunt, Barbara Simmons, Laura and Wayne, Mary Ayers, Barbara Simmons, Wayne Stanley, Susan Pytka, and Cara Lynn Culbert, sister of Diane Krajewski, who has died, and her family and friends.

In Memoriam

We received word that very unexpectedly Margaret (Peg) Given, mother of Fr. Mark, passed away on December 14. We are saddened by this news and our thought and prayers go out to the entire Given Family. If you would like to send your condolences to Fr. Mark, his new address is:

647 Wentworth Drive
Richardson, TX 75081

The Feast of the Epiphany

From the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "appearance" or "manifestation." The feast takes place on January 6, and the Season after the Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The season begins with the "appearance" of Jesus (the extension of his ministry) to the Gentiles, specifically to the wise men of Matthew's gospel. Epiphany thus proclaims that Jesus Christ is savior of the whole world and that God's promise of salvation to Israel now apply to all the peoples of the earth.

Missions' Team

Again this year we will be collecting money for our Lenten Vitamin Drive that supports the St. Vincents Center for Handicapped Children in Haiti. Vitamins are not readily available in Haiti and are usually only given to sick children.

Collection "jugs" will be available for pick-up on February 7 and the Lenten Vitamin Drive will begin on February 17 and end on Easter.

You are invited to join the Missions' Team at their once a month meetings. The next meetings will be:
January 14 and February 4
6 pm to 8 pm—Parish Hall

Something New in the Pew

Coming soon to a pew box near you --

updated prayer request cards that more clearly indicate the forms of intercessory prayer practiced at Christ Church (including our new prayer chain).



January Calendar

January 3, 10, 24, 31	Choir Rehearsal Nursery School JAM Holy Eucharist—Rite II <i>The Rev. Dr. Catharine Randall</i> <i>The Rev. Dr. Randall Balmer</i>
January 5 6:30 pm	Transition Team Parish Hall
January 14 6:00 pm	Mission Team Meeting Parish Hall
January 17 8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Nursery School JAM Holy Eucharist—Rite II <i>The Rev. Jane Stickney</i>
January 19 6:30 pm	Vestry Parish Hall
January 23 10:00 am	Cocoa & Crafts Parish Hall
January 31	Annual Meeting-Sanctuary Immediately Following 10 am Service.
January	All Month J.A.M. Live Video

Annual Meeting

The 224th Annual Meeting of Christ Church will be held on Sunday, **January 31, 2010** immediately following the 10:00 am Eucharist.

Child care will be provided in the Parish Hall while we meet. Please plan on attending this very important meeting regarding our current budget and the future of Christ Church.

If you are responsible for submitting a report for the meeting, please send it to our Parish Administrator, Susan Skoglund, by:
January 14, 2010

Stewardship Update

As of December 15, 2009, we have received a total of \$77,326 in pledge commitments for the calendar year of 2010. This represents 44 pledges.

We thank everyone who has prayerfully made a commitment to Christ Church for 2010. **It is never too late** to make your commitment to God and to Christ Church. If you have not done so yet, please send in your estimate of giving card today.

*“Give and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap.
For with the measure you use,
it will be measured to you.”*

Luke 6:38

Create a Live Music Video: Bible, Music and Acting Fusion!

During the month of January the children of J.A.M. and the nursery will be working on a Christ-centered Live Music Video. In our Live Music Video we will use a song to act out important bible lessons and values. We will perform our music video for the congregation at the end of January or the beginning of February. We will keep you posted on the details!!

Questions? Suggestions?
Please contact: Kendra Dickinson, Youth Program Director (860) 267-2272