

*Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road
P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam, CT 06456*

*November
2009*

***The Bellringer**
Christ Episcopal Church
Middle Haddam, CT.*

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A Call to Stewardship

Recently the sanctuary candle was given by Kathy Schluntz thanking God “for all that I have and all that I don’t have.” It is this simple act of giving thanks to God that makes us stop and think about our lives, our families, our relationships, and our place of worship.

The Book of Common Prayer states “The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” As we come together each week for spiritual renewal, we are reminded that our commitment to Christ Church helps to make this possible. We support the church not so much to pay the bills, but to give back that which the church restores in us.

We are blessed to have the services of our supply priest Rev. Jane Stickney, but losing the full time services of Father Mark has left many with a sense of emptiness. Our goal at this time is to call a priest who can not only conduct a meaningful Sunday service, but who can also give regular hours for pastoral care and time to plan for church community.

November 15th is Consecration Sunday. We plan to celebrate and give thanks with a luncheon and a report of our commitment to our life together at Christ Church. During the Sunday service we hope you will feel comfortable filling out and passing in an estimate-of-giving card.

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In a tough economy, it is tempting to give less. That is precisely the time, however, when the needs are greater. Let us ask ourselves, "How much is Christ Church depending on me? What percentage of what I have been given is God asking me to give back?"

Please join us on that Sunday, the 15th, as we give thanks to God for all that we have and all that we don't have.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Dick Napoletano
Transition Team Member*

Welcome To The Newly Baptized

Three-month old twin sisters

Teagan Elizabeth and Kaylan Elizabeth

were baptized by Rev. Jane on Sunday, September 20. They are the daughters of Ben and Cindy Sullivan and sisters to Aiden Patrick, age 2 1/2, all of East Hampton.

Jackson William Rurka

was baptized by Rev. Jane on Sunday, October 18. He is the one-year old son of Jessica and Derek Rurka of East Hampton.



We Have Elected A New Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas of Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass. elected as 15th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut

(Hartford CT) The Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas was elected today to head the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut as its 15th diocesan bishop.

Douglas, 51, is currently the Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at Episcopal Divinity School Cambridge, Massachusetts, and associate priest at St. James's Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

(For more background on Douglas, see: www.ctbishopelection.com)

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someone else's life and
you'll make a difference
in your own.

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New England Chamber Choir

MESSIAH, PART ONE

Sunday, November 29—4 pm
Christ Lutheran Church
300 Washington Street—Middletown

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS XXXV

Music of

Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonin Dvorak,
Franz Gruber, Orlande De Lassus,
George Philipp Telemann, Johannes Ockeghem,
Gregorian Chant and Carols

Sunday, December 6—4 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church—Main Street—Niantic

Sunday December 13, 2009—4 pm
Zion Lutheran Church
183 William Street—Portland

Sunday, December 20—4pm
St. Anthony of Padua Church
49 So. Street—Litchfield

Sunday, December 7—4pm
Our Lady of Mercy Church
19 So. Canal Street—Plainville

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

Traditional Carols and Songs

Friday, December 18—7pm
Second Congregational Church
52 Middle Haddam Rd—Middle Haddam

Prayer Chain

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have already received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Summer has passed; the kids are back to school; and our lives are once again settling into a more gently-paced routine. Off and on through the summer, you've probably seen a mention or two about a Prayer Chain for Christ Church, an effort for an organized prayer ministry growing out of our spring Vestry Retreat. The intent is that the community that is Christ Church can grow together in faith and fellowship by sharing in prayer beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. Now that everyone is back from their vacations, it's time to get to work!

There is power in prayer, especially when a number of people are praying at the same time for the same request. As you respond to this questionnaire, please keep in mind that while our spiritual gifts vary in form and depth, we can all pray!

Are you interested in joining the Christ Church Prayer Chain? If so, please let us know. You can be contacted either by phone or e-mail.

If you prefer being contacted by phone, please let us know what would be the best time to reach you.

Please leave you message at the church office—267-0287

We Pray For:

Bruce and Jill Crisp, Geri-Anne Hunt, Barbara Simmons, Ritchie Ruel, Laura and Wayne, Mary Ayers and Susan Pytko. Let us continue to pray for our troops serving in the U.S. Military around the world, and all those known only to ourselves and God that need our prayers at this time.

Missions

The Missions Committee would like to extend a great big thanks (complete with candles to blow out!) for all of your support of our ***Birthday Bags Project***. We have delivered six months' worth of bags to our Covenant to Care social worker, Amanda Grimm, to give to a child celebrating a birthday each month. You can be sure that there are happy smiles on these children's faces!

The leaves are turning colors and in a very short time, it will be time to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends. As we take this time to reflect on our blessings, we also need to extend a hand to those less fortunate than us. Amanda has told us that she has four families in need of our help in putting together a ***Thanksgiving meal***. As in the past, we would like to supply these families with a turkey with stuffing and gravy, a bag of potatoes, some vegetables, and a pie for dessert. We will be putting a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall and as you sip your coffee after church, please consider signing up to provide part of the meal for these four families. All foodstuffs need to be brought to church by Sunday, November 22 for delivery to Amanda on Monday, November 23. For more information or to sign up if you will not be at church, please contact Clive Tucceri (ctucceri@aol.com 267-7813), Mary Boretz, (boretzmar@Reg8.k12.ct.us 267-0365) or Donna Long (longdjj1@sbcglobal.net 467-6278).

We are currently working with Amanda to put together the list of children who will need our help to have a ***Merry Christmas***. Look for more information to come and for signup sheets in the Parish Hall.

Thanks again for all of your support!

The Missions Team.

November Birthdays

Miriah Cecilio—November 24
Gordon Gingras—November 27
Emily Vick—November 29

Keep In Touch and –up-to-date with Christ Church

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
(860) 267-0287
e-mail ccmhadmin@gmail.com
(message machine checked several times a day)

Christ Church Web Site
www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com

Wardens

George Seitzer
(860) 267-9204—georgeseitzer@sbcglobal.net

C.W. Currie
(860) 267-2267—cwcurrie@aol.com

In Loving Memory of

*The Rev. Peter D. Knight
who passed away unexpectedly on
October 10, 2009.*

*Peter was the Interim Rector
at Christ Church
From January 2000 to June 2001*

Christ Church Middle Haddam Website

- Have a question or request, but not sure who to contact?
- Want to find out who our Bishops are or get a link to the Website for the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut?
- Need to give directions to someone to get to CCMH?
- Want to find out about our upcoming events?

Try our Website! Here's the link:

<http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com/>

Special thanks go to **Anna Lebiszczak**, our "Website Wizard Extraordinaire" who has done a great job with all the updates we've been sending to her and making the site easier to read and navigate through!

- Are you on a Ministry or Committee at CCMH and you have good news to share?
- Do you have electronic photos of a recent event that we can post on our Website?
- Is there something special or unique about CCMH that you think we should share?

Our Website is available not only to us, but to the Worldwide Web. What good news can we put on this site for everyone to see and enjoy?

Please send any suggestions or requests about our Website to:

Paul Hunt
paulhunt905@comcast.net

Christ Church Calendar

November 2009

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
	9:45 am	J.A.M.—Nursery Care
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist—Rite 2
November 3	6:30 pm	Transition Team Meeting Parish Hall
November 8	Afternoon	Leaf Cleanup
November 11	6:00 pm	Mission Team Meeting Parish Hall
November 15	Afternoon	New Consecration Sunday and Celebration Luncheon
November 17	6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting Parish Hall
November 20	6:00 pm	Family Movie Night Parish Hall
November 22	10:00 am	Children's Performance - "Noah's Ark" During the 10:00 am service

*Your Vestry and Transition Team
welcomes you to attend
all church meetings—any time.
We welcome your presence, suggestions and comments.*

Kendra's Corner

**Tuesday, November 3rd at 6 p.m.
Pizza Night at Main St. Pizza**

We will gather at Main St. Pizza for pizza and all-you-can-drink pitchers of soda as well as fellowship and fun. The suggested donation is \$8 per adult, \$5 per child ages 3-12 and no charge for children under three. This includes the food, soda, tax and gratuity. Kindly let me know in advance if you can make it so I can give the good people at Main St. Pizza a count of how many places to set for us. You can contact me at kennyjbird@aol.com or call me at 267-2272.

**Friday November 20 at 6 p.m.
Teens and Tweens Movie Night!**

Movie night in the parish hall! We will watch "The Nativity Story". This 2006 production combines the story of the Nativity with beautiful cinematography and music. The film is rated PG for some violent content including "Implied slaying of children by soldiers; Implied slaying of sacrificial cow; Non-gory display of people who have been crucified, Soldiers harassment of families, taking away children as slaves; Implied childbirth; Implied killing of children (families screaming and children crying); Joseph dream of Mary almost being stoned" (IMDB.com)

Sunday, November 22 at 10 a.m.

J.A.M.'s and the Nursery present "Noah's Ark"
That's right! We are putting on the play "Noah's Ark" to be performed for Christ Church during the church service. At the conclusion of that same service, J.A.M. and the Nursery will hold a food drive for the East Hampton Food Bank. Our goal is to fill 10 shopping bags with food and personal health care items. Suggested items for the food bank include breakfast cereal, boxed macaroni and cheese, pasta sauce, canned meals such as raviolis, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, and soup. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

This fall Donna Hryb and Kate Grant trained as Lay Eucharistic Visitors, preparing to take communion to Christ Church members who are not able to attend church. They will occasionally make visits on Sundays after church, bringing the consecrated bread and wine from our altar, extending our celebration to include those who can not come to church. These visits will be arranged ahead of time. If you would like communion brought to your home, or know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please contact the church office.