



# Christ Church Chronicle

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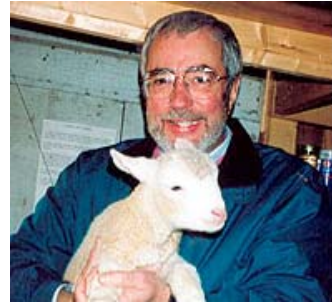
## Christ Church Hosts Two Quiet Days this Advent

Christ Church will host two Quiet Days this Advent season. Jim Atwell, a local author and Quaker minister, will present a day of recollection on the theme "Christ Laughed: Coming Close to the Human Jesus" on December 4 from 10:00 to 2:00. A former literature professor, Atwell is convinced that long familiarity and superficial piety leaves many Christians without a real appreciation of the human side of Jesus, as revealed in the Gospel stories. Atwell will lead a series of meditations on the emotions and human drama that we often miss in several well-known stories. His talks will be based on a very well received presentation that Atwell shared with



his fellow Quakers at a conference last summer.

Fr. Bob Witt, rector of Zion Church in Morris, will also lead the annual Quiet Day for the Susquehanna Deanery on Monday, December 13 from 10:00 to 3:00. Formerly chaplain to the Sisters of Saint Margaret, Fr. Witt has a degree in spiritual and ascetical theology and has



served as a spiritual director for many years. His topic will soon be announced.

Both Quiet Days will include time for prayer and reflection and will close with a celebration of the Eucharist. Consider setting aside some time in this busy Advent season to draw near to God through these opportunities for reflection.



## From the Rector's Study

*"Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."*  
1 Peter 2:21

My grandmother died two years ago this fall, and our family has undertaken the process of dividing up her possessions and sharing them out with those who knew and loved here. When my brother came to see us last week, there was a box of odds and ends in his trunk from Gran's house: a picture of her mother and aunts as young girls, a few pieces of china, a mantel clock, things that were special to her and that will now grace our home and remind us of her.

Gran was a renowned cook in the little community where I grew up, a master of flaky pie crusts, perfectly fried chicken and delicious soups. I asked my mother if there were any recipe books we should be sure to keep. "It wouldn't be much use," Mom said. Gran left behind a few recipes, and they have little use for standardized measurements. "Three teacups of flour, a little butter, enough sugar to make it sweet" read one. My grandmother learned to cook from her mother and she took the time to teach my mother and aunts exactly the same way. You couldn't capture her genius in writing. You had to see it in action, to try it out alongside her, to learn it step by step, doing it together.

The Christmas season that lies ahead of us is a celebration of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mystery that God took flesh in the child born of the Virgin Mary in the Bethlehem stable. God had to take flesh, the Scriptures teach us, to solve the problem of human sin, to offer the great sacrifice that we could never make, to reconcile us to the Father. But, as Peter indicates to his readers in the midst of their own experience of persecution, Christ also became a human being to show us how to live. The precepts of the law, the sermons of the prophets were certainly helpful, setting before us many important truths about God's will. But ultimately, they were ineffective, a bit like trying to cook by my grandmother's haphazard recipes. We needed to see God's purposes

## Rector's Letter, cont.

lived out, to have someone walk among us and respond to the same situations that we face.

Exploring Jesus' life in the stories of the Gospels will be the focus of our Wednesday Night Advent Services and our Advent Quiet Day this year. We will be diving into a series of well-known stories and exploring them through imaginative meditation in the sessions led by local author and minister Jim Atwell on December 5, and in our Evensong services at 5:30 on December 1, 8 and 15. We will think our way back into the life of Jesus, marking the details of the situations he faced and trying to understand more deeply what he may have felt and thought. It's a thoroughly incarnational project, and hopefully it can help us to look at our own lives with deeper reflection and insight. Let Jesus show you how to live God's will this Advent season.

## Thanks for Your Help!

*We thank all who have shared their gifts to enrich our common life, especially at this time:*

- All who helped with our Fall Rummage Sale and Clean Up Day, especially Bruce Harris, who devoted much of Saturday to raking leaves, and to Mike Page, Dennis Tallman and Ron Johnson, who installed the air circulation system in the church.
- Betty Currier, for sharing her story of hope and healing with us on Recovery Sunday
- Harvey Eckler for crafting new bases for the torches we are presenting to Oaks of Righteousness Mission and Roger Macmillan for polishing them and the Altar Cross.
- Roberta for presenting a beautiful recital on November 14.
- Pat Buckland, who is stepping down from her faithful service coordinating our Eucharistic visitors, Flower and Candle Memorials and the Library
- Burr Southworth, who is retiring as a Lay Reader after over 65 years of service in a number of churches across the country.
- Justin Ross, Bob Johnson and John Mason, who presented our Stewardship "minutes" in November
- Linda Van Cleef and Georgia Meeter, the new directors of the Living Nativity and Christmas Eve Pageants, respectively
- Pat Hanft and Georgia Meeter, the new coordinators of the Alternative Christmas Market
- David Svahn and Janet Rigby, for preparing our Wall of Fame presentations, which will finish in December.
- Linda and Alton Van Cleef, for preparing a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast for our community

## Vestry Notes

At their October 11 meeting, the Vestry took the following actions:

**Terminated Rosemarie Koenig as the Parish Secretary.** At their September 13 meeting, the Vestry approved a new position description, for Parish Administrator, with increased hours and additional responsibility. Rosemarie declined to apply for this post and was terminated in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

**A Revised Budget** for the remainder of 2010 was approved. Most of the adjustments reflected decisions made earlier in the year. Major changes included increasing salaries and benefits for the Parish Administrator-Parish Secretary transition, as well as increasing property repairs, Christian Education and office technology expenses to accommodate unexpected needs. Income from the Columbarium loan was also eliminated, following the reduction of interest on the loan to 0% at the 5/10 meeting. The seminarian intern's salary and benefits were transferred from outreach to salaries and benefits, following the direction of the special vestry meeting on 4/28. Outreach expenditures were decreased from \$29,000 to \$18,000 to cover the income shortfall (\$5700 of this reduction was the seminarian intern's salary and benefits).

**An Official Committee List** was approved, in accordance with the provisions of the Parish Bylaws

**Father Mark** was granted an additional six days vacation, to be used by July 31, 2011. A collection was taken from among the vestry members to fund payment of a supply priest in his absence.

At their November 8 meeting, the Vestry took the following actions:

**Parish Choice Allocation:** The Diocese permits parishes to designate 20% of the Diocesan Assessment to a number of national and diocesan programs. The vestry decided to allocate 10% to the National Church office, 5% to Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, and 5% to projects involving parishes that have shown demonstrated growth.

**Special Offering for Oaks of Righteousness Mission:** A special offering may be taken on November 14 to support this new diocesan mission, whose leaders will visit Christ Church on this Sunday

**Parking Commission:** A committee headed by Mike Miller was set up to explore options for improving our parking situation. The commission was formed in response to concerns raised at the recent growth and change forums.

# Advent and Christmas at Christ Church



Last year's Living Nativity Scene at the Farmer's Museum Candlelight Evening

.Our Advent season derives its name from the Latin word, "coming towards." In the four weeks leading up to Christmas we prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feast of the Incarnation. We also recall another coming promised by God, the return of Christ in glory to judge the world and bring God's work to completion. Our wider society, like an impulsive child, urges us to keep Christmas ever earlier, but the Church insists that we must spend our time in the solemn disciplines of Advent—prayer, fasting, seeking forgiveness—before we undertake the proper joy and pageantry of the Christmas season.

Here at Christ Church, we have a variety of events and activities planned to help us mark these special seasons. There are additional times to worship God, and ways of bringing the celebration into your homes. The liturgy also becomes simpler and more penitential in Advent, and at some services, we will face East together at the Eucharist, turning our hearts together toward the promises of

Christ's return "as the great morning star." In Christmas season, the church will be filled with beautiful decorations, much loved music, and traditional devotions that draw us closer to the great mystery of God, who has taken flesh for our salvation. Plan to join us for some of these special services and programs.

**Advent Wreath Making Workshop:** Linda Van Cleef will lead us in this free workshop that allows you to make an Advent wreath for your family from fresh greenery after the 10:00 Family Eucharist on November 28. The wreaths will be blessed and a pamphlet will be distributed to help you use them for family worship

**Advent Lessons and Hymns Service:** A service of Scripture readings, traditional Advent hymns and choral anthems will be celebrated on Sunday evening, November 28 at 5:30 in Church. A potluck supper will follow the service.

**Advent Program:** On December 1, 8 and 15, there will be services of

Evensong at 5:30 in the Chapel. Father Mark will present guided meditations on events from the life of Christ as part of the theme, "Coming Close to the Human Jesus" A potluck supper will follow each service in the Parish Hall.

**Advent Quiet Day:** On December 4 from 10-2, local Quaker minister and author Jim Atwell will lead a day of recollection on the theme "Christ Laughed: Coming Close to the Human Jesus." For details, see the article on page 1. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall by December 1 if you would like to participate. A simple lunch will be provided.

**Living Nativity at the Farmer's Museum.** Our children and youth will present the Living Nativity Play in the Barn during the Candlelight Evening at the Farmers' Museum from 4:00-6:00 on December 11. This annual tradition is a wonderful opportunity to share the good news about the new life that comes through Christ with those in our wider community. Linda Van Cleef will direct the play. Contact her if you would like to serve as an actor or narrator.

**Deanery Advent Quiet Day:** Christ Church will host the annual Advent Quiet Day for the Susquehanna Deanery on Monday, December 13 from 10:00-3:00 in the Church. Revd. Robert Witt, rector of Zion Church, in Morris, and formerly chaplain to the Sisters of Saint Margaret, will provide a series of meditations on Advent themes. Please contact the Church Office by Friday, December 10 if you would like to participate. A simple lunch will be provided.

**Longest Night Service:** This brief service sponsored by our Stephen Ministers brings comfort and hope to those who are grieving the loss of those they love in this holy season. God's promises of compassion and

## New Life in Christ



*Left:* On October 10, William Morgan, John Gordon and Ava Hill-Edgar received the Sacrament of Baptism at Hyde Hall Chapel. Father Mark officiated at the service with Rev. Dr. William Edgar, the children's grandfather and a Presbyterian minister. Keyes and Allison Hill-Edgar, of Cooperstown and New York City are the proud parents. The same day, in the Saint Agnes Chapel, Raymond and Katelyn Smith, children of Raymond and Deana Smith of Cooperstown, were also baptized.

### Advent and Christmas, cont.

hope are recalled and there will be opportunities to light candles as a sign of prayers for those we have lost and will especially miss at Christmastime. The service will be held on December 22 at 5:30 in the Chapel and will be followed by a potluck supper in the Parish Hall.

**Voices of Cooperstown Christmas Concert:** The Voices of Cooperstown, a musical ministry of Christ Church will perform Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit pour Noel* or Midnight Mass of Christmas in a concert at 8:00 on December 19 in the Church. Tickets cost \$18.

**In the Season of Christmas** we celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, when the "Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." Events here at Christ Church include:

**Christmas Eve Family Eucharist:** Christmas Eve at 4:00. Please note the new time, which many families suggested would be more helpful. This service is designed especially for families with small children. It will feature a traditional Christmas pageant and carols led by our Praise Band. A pageant rehearsal will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, December 17 after the 9:00 Family Service, and a dress rehearsal for the Pageant will be at 2:30 in the Church on Christmas Eve.

**Midnight Mass of Christmas:** Christmas Eve at 10:00 p.m. This festive choral service will feature special music from the Parish Choir. The service will be preceded by a time of choral and instrumental music, beginning at 9:30

**Christmas Day Eucharist:** Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. This simple, said service is designed to allow a quiet opportunity to meditate on the great mystery of the Incarnation. Rite I will be used. Children are invited to bring some of their Christmas toys for a special blessing.

**Christmas Lessons and Carols:** December 26, both services. Based on the liturgy developed at King's College, Cambridge and famous throughout the Anglican Communion, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols tells the story of the Incarnation and includes plenty of carol singing. Holy Communion will be administered from the Reserved Sacrament. We will also commission our 2011 Dominican Republic Mission Team at the 10:00 Lessons and Carols service.

**Epiphany Eucharist:** The Feast of Epiphany brings the Christmas season to a close as we remember the visit of the wise men to the Infant King. A sung Eucharist will be celebrated at 7:00 on Thursday, January 6 in the Church. Incense will be used at this service in remembrance of the gift of frankincense, which acknowledges Christ as the true God.

**Epiphany House Blessings:** Father Mark will be available at designated times throughout early January to provide traditional house blessings. The Epiphany is only great event in salvation history to take place in a home, and in remembrance of this and as a commitment of the family life to God at the beginning of a new year, special prayers and readings will be shared. Sign up on the calendar in the Tower if you would like to have your house blessed.

## Christmastime Outreach

by Ashley Cooper, Outreach Chair

In the Christmas season, we celebrate the coming of our Lord as a vulnerable and needy child. Part of the way we respond to this child is by reaching out to share His love with those in need. The Outreach Committee invites you to participate in the many outreach opportunities underway this in this holy season.

**Gifts from the Heart (formerly Angel Tree)** collects unwrapped gifts for children of Otsego County Jail inmates. A collection box is available in the Parish Hall, and the bulletin board there suggests some guidelines for purchasing gifts. All gifts are due on December 5, and volunteers will wrap gifts at the Cooperstown United Methodist Church on December 9. Contact Irene Parker at 547-8275 if you have questions

**The Angel Network** is a Cooperstown area group that collects the names of needy families through the local school, and then coordinates the purchase of Christmas gifts for them. Christ Church is adopting two families through this program this year. Sign up for gifts on the Parish Hall bulletin board and bring them to the church by December 5.

**The Children's Christmas Cookie Outreach** prepares gift packages for needy seniors in our community who are living alone without support from their families. Our Sunday School children take the lead in this event, and will be baking cookies and making crafts for the packages in the Parish Hall on December 18 from 8:30-noon. The day will also include some opportunities to learn more about the Advent season and the Christmas story. Parents may sign in their children for a free morning. We thank Jan Brenner for coordinating the delivery of the packages.

**Our Alternative Christmas Market** will take place after both Sunday morning services in the Parish Hall on December 5 and 12. Hand crafted items from African Team Ministries and and fair trade coffee from the Dominican Republic will be on sale. You will also have the opportunity to make donations to outreach ministries supported by our parish. See the article on page 9 for details

**The Baby Jesus Tree** may be found in the sanctuary waiting to be decorated with hand made or purchased hats and mittens for local children in need.

Those interested in learning more or participating in these or other outreach ministries at Christ Church may contact me at 547-8975 or shelbyandashley-cooper@yahoo.com



## Vestry Plans for Mission

On October 8, our own Rev. David Born, a church development consultant, led the rectors, wardens and vestry on a planning retreat at Camp Minnetoska, near Cooperstown. We focused on developing a long—range strategy for mission and dealing with the challenges of our transitional church size. The presentation aimed to build on the good work accomplished at our last retreat in March of 2010, which generated several new ideas which have already been implemented, including an enhanced parish administrator position, hiring a seminarian intern, sponsoring more hands-on outreach programs and cleaning out the Parish Hall.

Rev. Born began with an assessment exercise about our church's present position and possibilities for the future. We found that the members of the vestry are more excited and optimistic about the future than at most of the churches he has assisted. Vestry members identified a number of important signs of growth and strengths that can open up ways of connecting with people in our community who have no association with a church.

He stressed that in church life, the vision of the parish should be the determining factor in creating the ministries and structures that enable us to do God's work together. We identified some factors that have become important to our vision over the past year, including sharing Christ with the unchurched, and focusing on ministry to families with children, and identified a number of new ministries and structures aimed at supporting this vision. It is our hope that by continuing to share the faith and to make new disciples, Christ Church can grow to an average Sunday of 250 over the next five years. This growth would put us squarely in the program or "large church" size.

Rev. Born stressed that staffing is the most important issue in the small church to large church transition. Small and large churches function in very different ways, like "apples and oranges." Beginning to "think and act like an orange" even while stuck between the two sizes, he stressed, is essential to enabling the kind of growth that is necessary.

We discussed ways of sharing this vision effectively, and of soliciting more input about it with other members of the parish, and developed some questions to be used at the Working Together in God's Field presentations. We also identified our staffing priorities as a part-time assisting priest (to start in September, 2010) and a part-time Christian Education director and agreed to make these two positions important priorities in the Stewardship Campaign

## Christ Church People: Topsy McCarty, our New Parish Administrator



By Katharine Lloyd

If you have had the pleasure of speaking with Topsy McCarty, our new Parish Administrator, you have noticed that she didn't grow up in upstate New York. Recently I interviewed Topsy over "tea," (though actually she had cocoa and I, hot cider.) In fact, she hails from the cathedral city of Bangor in North Wales, where she was born and grew up. Her father, originally from Australia, was a doctor who served in a bomber squadron of the RAF. Her mother, an Englishwoman, was ac-

tive in drama, theatre, and writing, as well as serving as mayor of Bangor for nine years.

Topsy was Christened, confirmed, and married in St Deiniol's Cathedral in Bangor, where her grandfather and parents are buried. Founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, it is considered the oldest cathedral in all of Britain; St Deiniol is said to have been ordained bishop by St David, patron of Wales.

Wales is known as the Land of Song, and Topsy and her friends were among the singers, making their own entertainment. By the age of 14, she was on BBC TV with a folk band, playing traditional and modern music, writing their own songs, recording and touring. She was the manager of music programming for the University of Wales in Bangor and had the opportunity to meet and sing with many interesting and well known people in the British, Australian, and US folk scene. She graduated with a degree in Social and Political Theory and Institutions, and

found time for competitive horse jumping and rock climbing. Just picture a day spent climbing the rugged mountains of North Wales, singing all night, watching the dawn "with old cars and instruments," followed by a big breakfast.

Topsy met her husband Tobin (Toby), an American architect who had served in the Peace Corps in North Africa, in Greece. When they decided to move to this side of the pond, she felt that a good way to get to know her new home would be to get a job, to join a group which had nothing to do with where you came from, and to master the *New York Times* crossword puzzle. In New Canaan, Connecticut, she joined the Presbyterian choir, and found a job with Reuters TV, creating and developing programming, especially multilingual strands for Latin America, managing radio interests, and promoting the archival film collection. Positions with CBS and Christian Science Monitor Television gave her the chance to travel widely in this country and to develop internet based products, and eventually she started her own company.

## Could You Be a Stephen Minister?

Have you heard about one of Christ Church's best kept secrets? Our congregation is blessed to have a very special ministry which performs one of the most enriching services you can ever experience. This ministry is "Stephen Ministry". We provide one on one care, which is strictly confidential, to anyone who is experiencing some kind of change in their life. Any change during life is difficult whether it is moving to a new location or grieving the loss of a loved one. Stephen Ministers work with only one care receiver at a time, usually spending an hour each week, for as many weeks/months as needed. In this way, the rector is free to move on to the next pastoral crisis, knowing that a Stephen Minister can continue to provide support and spiritual care.

Stephen Ministers go through an intensive fifty hour course before being

commissioned. During this time, they learn how to provide Christian care and support and also discover the depth of their own spiritual gifts. The skills learned enable them to work with their care receivers and to handle everyday situations with friends and family.

Are you looking for something new in your life?? Stephen Ministry will be starting a class for new Stephen Ministers in January. Ask any Stephen Minister, they will tell you that the experience has changed their lives. Don't wait to be asked, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Mary Bellew 547-7202 or Anita High 547-9825.

*"Praises be to God...who comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God".*  
2 Cor. 1:3-4

They moved to Cooperstown in August 2010 to enjoy being close to their daughter and son-in-law, Caitlin and Ryan Miosek, members of Christ Church with their lovely children Madilyn and Luke, and Daisy the dog. Their son Rory, a pilot, lives with his wife Michaela, sons Patrick and Jack, and dogs Max and Boeing, on Cape Cod.

Topsy can intersperse her new job at Christ Church with working for her company, Archive Initiatives International, promoting the preservation and commercialization of film archives, especially news. She has joined the Voices of Cooperstown, and she is "still working on the puzzles! I have been warmly welcomed, and I am sure I will enjoy living here."

## Wanted: New Parish Treasurer

By John Mason, Parish Treasurer

In case you may be wondering what it means to be the treasurer of Christ Church here in Cooperstown and if God may be calling upon you to pitch in with this interesting job, allow me to put in my 2 cents (as it were). When Phil and I found that we were being nudged in this direction three years ago, it was a challenging decision. We were both numbers kind of people-REQUIREMENT #1 and it turned out, we were both relatively patient-REQUIREMENT #2 (especially with each other) and people kind of people-REQUIREMENT #3. The treasurer's job here really does require a large bit of interaction with others and including with a smiling face since we truly are doing God's work in this place.

For me it has truly been an enjoyable experience. I have gotten to know many of you and of course--for better or worse--you have gotten to get to know my perspective on the importance of this job. In order to do the work God has given us to do, we must keep the doors wide open and have the talent and people to carry the load. There are a lot of rewarding parts to being the treasurer here. As I am sure you know, I have chosen to be very active during our stewardship campaigns. I feel that the treasurer is one of the best individuals to speak for the financial needs of the church. The treasurer must represent the needs without being too high pressured (I hope) and needs to interact well with staff (boy is that easy here). Of course confidentiality is also an important part of this job. I believe our current team has gone out of the way to re-

spect the trust you have all put in us. It is vital for this job to always have your faith and trust.

This job is obviously very detail oriented. An individual needs to be mindful of the need for double checking and for a willingness to have your work reviewed by another. This requirement has been well served by the cooperation between Phil and I. Perhaps we can tell that it is time to move on since we both have started thinking like each other (ha ha). Serving as treasurer has been a rewarding experience that I would highly recommend to any number cruncher out there and if you have book keeping experience, God is looking for you! In closing I just want to say that the most satisfying part of this experience for me has been the response everyone made last year to this year's needs. When we increased our giving by over \$45,000 in difficult times, it was clear we were doing something right. THANK YOU GOD!!!

**Job Description:** Christ Church seeks a treasurer to supervise the financial activity of the parish. The treasurer must pay all bills, prepare monthly financial reports and annual Parochial and Parish Meeting reports, attend monthly financial planning and vestry meetings and fortnightly staff meetings, handle questions about financial issues. Treasurer is assisted by an assistant who counts and records donations and the parish administrator, who manages payroll and donor correspondence. Average work-week: 15 hours, Annual stipend: \$5000. Need treasurer to begin by March 1, 2010

### Christmas Flower Donations

The special decorations for the church at Christmas include the altar, rood screen, window sills and column flowers, greens, and candles. Please pick up one of the forms at the back of the church. The deadline for submitting names is Monday, December 13. The cost per individual name is \$7.50 for 2010, and payment should accompany the form. If you have pre-paid for 2009, simply note "paid" on the form. Please be sure to tell us how you would like your donor name(s) to appear (Mary and John Smith, The Smith Family, etc). and include your telephone number in case we have a question. Thank you for your cooperation, please feel free to call the parish office, 547-9555.

## Can You Ask for Help?

I was a single parent at the time and was hurt, angry and confused. The teenage son who had just written an article for a contest about me being his role model, moved out of our home. He was angry and wouldn't speak to me. Maybe I was weak but I needed help. I found someone who helped me through that hard time. Although it seemed like forever, the issue was resolved and back to normal in about two months. Can you relate to my situation? I hate to ask for help, even today I still try to do things by myself. God is helping me get over this. God wants us to be strong and to help one another in times of stress.

Stephen Ministry is that extra support when you need it. Stephen Ministry can help when you are experiencing a major crisis but it can also be there when the little things in life are weighing you down. Whether you need support for a month or a year, it doesn't matter your Stephen Minister will be there with you. There is no age requirement for having a problem. Life happens and Stephen Ministry can be there for YOU. If you are feeling like this or know someone who is please contact one of our Stephen Leaders:

*Could God be calling you to:*

- Set Up and Clean Up with our Advent Potlucks
- Provide Soup or a dessert for our Quiet Day lunches
- Prepare and light sidewalk luminaria on Christmas Eve
- Maintain our Parish Library
- Coordinate our Christianity Explored Class or help provide meals for the class participants
- Help Fr. Mark teach confirmation classes in the Spring
- Lead Games at Youth Group Meetings or prepare snacks
- Host our seminarian intern and her husband this summer

## Why Do We Do That?: Lessons and Carols

We will offer two different services of Lessons and Carols at Christ Church this Advent and Christmas seasons, an Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, November 28 at 5:00 and a Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 26 at 8:00 and 10:00. Both provide opportunities to meditate on the themes of these seasons by hearing important texts from Scripture and singing many of the best-loved hymns and carols of the seasons.

The Lessons and Carols services is well-known and loved throughout worldwide Anglicanism, but is a relatively recent innovation in liturgical history. Credit for devising the service goes to Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro in England (and later Archbishop of Canterbury). On Christmas Eve 1880, shortly after his appointment, he held a service of lessons and carols in the makeshift wooden shed that later became his cathedral. The service was held at 10:00 in the evening, as the bishop's primary aim was to keep men out of the pubs.

The current service, including the beautiful bidding prayer at its beginning and the traditional series of nine lessons, is based on the liturgy used at Kings College, Cambridge since 1918. Eric Milner-White, the chaplain there, had begun his ministry in the immediate aftermath of the devastating first World War. So many in the college community were grieving at that first Christmas after the war, and Milner-White felt that a more imaginative and emotionally compelling worship service was needed. He adapted Benson's liturgy, and the college choir, which even then had an outstanding reputation, sang a selection of familiar and exotic carols.

The response to the service was re-

sounding, and an unbroken tradition was begun which has continued down to our time (even during World War II when the Chapel had no heat and the windows were removed). Kings College Choir has remained among the finest men and boy choirs in the world, and under the direction of Stephen Cleobury, produces many new recordings each year. Thousands wait for hours to attend the service each year in Cambridge, and it is broadcast around the world on radio and television by



King's College Chapel

the BBC on Christmas Eve. A new carol is also commissioned each year and sung as part of the service. Your rector has listened to it for many years, printing out the bulletin from the Kings College website to follow along. WSKG radio broadcasts the BBC program at midday on Christmas Eve.

At Christ Church we will use the traditional bidding prayer and nine lessons for the December 26 services and an adapted service for Advent, as devised by the Episcopal Church Book of Occasional Services. Both sets of readings begin with the story of the Fall from Genesis 3, and continue with a series of prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. The Advent cycle of lessons closes with the appearance of Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin, and the promise of the child to come. The Christmas cycle continues through the birth of Christ, the adoration of the shepherds and the wise men, and closes with Saint John's moving prologue and its description of the Incarnation. Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament will also be offered at the Sunday morning services on December 26. Be sure to join us for these special services, and see Father Mark if you would like to serve as a reader at either service.



## Music Notes

By Roberta Rowland-Raybold

This is the season for gift-giving. The choir and musicians in our parish commit their time throughout the year to bring you beautiful music. However, this season is special for us. We begin the season of Advent with our candlelight Advent Lesson and Carols (Nov. 28, 5:00 p.m.).

The Adult Choir brings the gift of special music to us in a special concert beginning on Christmas Eve at 9:30 p.m. If you look forward to the beautiful carols of Christmastide, you will especially enjoy this concert in which we will present the music of an "Olde English Christmas." Don't miss this presentation of poetry, carols and folk harp.

We once again look forward to the wonderful concert presented to us by Voices of Coopetown in our church on Saturday evening, December 18. Special music will include "Midnight Mass for Christmas" by Marc-Antoine Charpentier and Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria." Over 50 voices from our community come together along with chamber orchestra and Maestro Dan Foster to bring us the best of music for this wonderful season of the year. Tickets may be purchased at Auger's Corner Book Store or at the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce. Join us for this special event.

In our Sunday morning service on December 26 our special music will feature two of our young people, Emily Tooley and Maianna Huntington, singing a lovely carol interspersed with poetry. This is a special gift to us this year.

The Adult Choir will not rehearse on December 29, but will resume practice on January 5. Again this year they will participate in the January "Choir Challenge" with other choirs in our area. Stay tuned for more information on this special event. Anyone wishing to take part in the Choir Challenge must be at our opening rehearsal in January.

## New Course on Psalms to begin Jan 6

The Psalms and Christian Worship is the theme of a new ten-session Thursday lunchtime “Feasting on the Word” class, which will begin on January 6 at 12:15. The Psalms are the prayerbook of God’s people, a collection of texts for individual and corporate worship originally gathered for use in the temple in Jerusalem. Extensively cited in the New Testament, they have been among the central elements of Christian worship from the very beginning.

The longest of the Bible’s books, the Psalter contains 150 Psalms that express a wide range of emotions and situations: lament, thanksgiving, praise, historical celebration, political advocacy, all offered up in prayer to God.

Over the course of the ten weeks, we will examine Psalms of different types and themes, some will be so familiar that many Christians know them by heart (Psalm 23), while others will be more challenging and even threatening. We will learn how to unlock the literary structure of Hebrew poetry, to appreciate the Psalms as poetry, and will also consider how their themes relate to the challenges and joys of worshipping



and serving God today.

We will also consider the ways that Jews and Christians have used the Psalms to worship God in different ages, and will listen to performances of Psalms of widely ranging times. From their first use in the Jerusalem temple to the latest Christian rock performances, nothing has seemed more fitting than these ancient poems for drawing near to God. The study can help you to worship with greater faithfulness and zeal.

The course will use a study guide prepared by Jerome Creach, professor of Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The guide costs approximately \$15 (12.95 plus shipping) and can be ordered online. Please contact the church office by December 20 if you would like to have a copy ordered for you by the Church. Scholarships are available for those unable to afford a study guide. A hot meal may be served in coordination with the Senior Meals program during the course, but the Department of Aging has not yet confirmed if it will continue to operate its site at Christ Church. Those who wish to share a packed lunch can always gather at 11:45.

## Consider an Alternative Gift this Year

By Pat Hanft, Alt. Xmas Chair

The Alternative Christmas Market is coming again to Christ Church. Between and after the services on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the congregation will have an opportunity to make meaningful Christmas gift-giving choices by supporting a number of charities through the purchase of items for sale or with donations in the name of a friend or loved one. Acknowledgement cards will be provided.

Represented in the Market to date this year are: African Team Minis-

tries, Bikes for Ruvuma; Coopers-town Food Pantry; Dominican Republic Scholarship Fund; Episcopal Relief and Development; Friends of Recovery/Turning Point; Habitat for Humanity; Handcrafting Justice; Heifer International; and, new this year, Pathfinder Village. Your check to many of these ministries will qualify for matching gifts from Christ Church Outreach funds.

Please join us for coffee, cookies and conversation one or both Sundays. Feel good about your Christmas gift giving this year by giving gifts that make a difference.

## Recovery is Contagious

*The following is excerpted from Betty Currier’s talk on Recovery Sunday, October 10:*

Recovery is contagious. That message is the centerpiece of the recovery revolution. For so many people in recovery from addictions and their families, this day and every day is a celebration of the contagiousness of recovery and the fulfilled promises recovery has brought into our lives. This is part of the contagion of recovery.

Everyone here knows about that kind of contagion in a different context. This is what I experienced when I first came to Christ Church. I had left the church when I got sober, largely because of my shame and guilt, but also because at that time I felt a stronger pull to the spirituality of my recovery program. But about 18 years into my recovery, I began to realize that something was missing. There was still a hole in my soul. And I began to search again. That search brought me here. The contagion of this faith community got me, that remaining hole has been filled and I get to keep it by giving it away.

Like faith, recovery is contagious only through interpersonal connection—and especially in the context of community...The contagion of addiction is transmitted through a process of infection—the movement of addictive disease from one vulnerable person to another. The contagion of recovery is spread quite differently—not through infection, but through affection. Those who spread such affection are *recovery carriers*. Recovery carriers—because of the nature of their character and the quality of their lives—exert a magnetic attraction to those who are still suffering. Recovery carriers affirm that long-term recovery is possible and that the promises of recovery are far more than the removal of alcohol or drugs from an otherwise unchanged life. They tell us that we have the potential to get well and to then get better than well.

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Pat & Al Jungers	19
Bunny & Lewis Hamilton	21
Becky & David Morin	23
Pattee & Chuck Carrier	28

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Joan & Edgar Badgley	11
Felicia & Andrew Blum	26
Cathy & David Craig	30

**Let Us Pray For**

Doris Blomquist, Ruth Druse, Elna Dickison, Carol Niedzialkowski, Betty Kukenberger, Jim Atwell, Helen Decker and family, Frank Buck, Dolores Petersen, Murriel Dickison, Toni Ludlam, Patrick Baker, Mike Luby, Amanda, Leia Bailey Coffin, Angela Klinker, Sheila, Robert and Esther Courter, Sandy Thorne, Laura McShane, Alfred White, Jane Clow, Martha Vaules, Price Grisham, Elso and Terry Alessandri,, Tarby Hoes

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Aline Heller	1
Kerry Giordano	3
Sarah Polus	5
Linda VanCleaf	6
Brian Hubbell	7
Ryan Miosek	8
Peter Clark	9
Harley Fagan	9
Nadene Willcox	10
Al Jungers	10
Ed Craig	11
Margaret Pokorny	11
Doug Walrath	11
Evan Jagels	12
Bill Landon	13
Marcy Birch	14
Emily Davidson	14
Laurie Kearns	15
Bob Butler	17
Maria Folts	18
Ken Higgins	18
Kate Johnson	21
Marian Striesse	22
John Sanford	23
Allison Michael	25
Holly Sawyer	27
Peter Bird	28
Jennifer Gilbert	30

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Bruce Harris	1
Brian Kent	1
Brittany Soule	1
Janet Ratliff	1
Fairlie Nicodemus	2
Cathy Craig	2
Natalie Wightman	3
MaryJo McPhail	3
Doug Geertgens	3
Jeffrey Thorne	4
Linda Lionetti	4
Cindy Hubbell	5
Barbara Shields	6
Mandy Mahoney	8
Pat Buckland	8
Kurt Ofer	9
Nancy Tallman	13
Jacob Fenno	13
Gillian Spencer	14
Ray Lamberson	14
Kendall Lifgren	14
Yolanda Sharpe	17
Martha Heather	17
Christie Costanzo	17
Mary Bellew	18
David Sanford	19
Diane Elliott	22
Ellie Cooper	25
Eleanore MacDougall	25
Emily Brown	26
Elizabeth Tooley	29
Connie Hobbie	29
Edith Abbott	29
Matthew Polus	30
Shayne Chase	31

**Those Preparing for Baptism:**

Chase Siebuhr, Clark Smith

**Those Serving in the Military**

Michael LeBron, William Mason Sanford, Eric Liston, Will Rigby, Esmeralda LeBron, Matthew Cummings, Drew Jones, Morgan & Mollie Buckland, Theodore Staubly, Daniel Hodd, Suzanne V. Demirel, Gregory Eaton, Scott Dunn, Matthew Fahey

**Exchange Students:**

Virginia Ofer, India; Emily Snell, Belgium

**Those who have Died:**

Peter Hatcher, Catherine Black

**DECEMBER CANDLE MEMORIALS**

Lidie Mackie	6
Helen Dow	13
Lillian Hubbell	13
William R. Heller	20
Pearl & Harry Campbell	20
The Rev. Harry Campbell, Jr.	20
CHRISTMAS EVE &	25
CHRISTMAS DAY	25
OPEN	29

**JANUARY CANDLE MEMORIALS**

Richard A. White, Sr.	
Robert Bero	3
Fae Malania	10
Robert Hatcher	17
OPEN	24

**DECEMBER MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

John H. VanCleaf, Sr.	
Persis H. VanCleaf	6
Linn R. White	6
Jen W. White	6
Carol D. Clow	6
Margaret Ramsay	13
Burr & Carrie Southworth	20
CHRISTMAS EVE	24
CHRISTMAS DAY	25
Evelyn & Clarence Vredenburgh	27
Jeffrey A. Becker	27
Lauren Vredenburgh	27

**JANUARY FLOWER MEMORIALS**

Archie St. John, Jr.	31
Mr. & Mrs. Archie St. John, Sr.	3
Donald St. John	3
Dr. James Bordley, III	3
Julia Bordley	10
Louis Busch Hager	10
Burr & Carrie Southworth	20
OPEN	24
	31



# November/December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>28 Advent I</b> 7:30–MP 8-Eucharist 9-Lectionary Study <i>No Children's SS</i> 10-Family Eucharist 5:30-Advent Lessons & Carols and Potluck	29 8-Morning Prayer 2– Eucharist, Thanks- giving Home 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>30 St. Andrew</b> 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>1 Nicholas Ferrar</b> 6– Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30-Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evensong & Potluck 7-Adult Choir	2 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Stephen Ministers	3 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	4 8-Morning Prayer 9-Building and Grounds Comm. 10-2-Advent Quiet Day 3-C. Black Funeral
<b>5 Advent II</b> 7:30– Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Family Eucharist 9:45-Children's SS 10– Choral Eucharist Alt. Xmas Market 4-Healing Service	6 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7– Financial Planning	7 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>8 Conception of BVM</b> 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30-Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evensong & Potluck 7-Adult Choir	9 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Praise Band Re- hearsal	10 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	11 8-Morning Prayer 4:30-6-Living Nativity at Farmers Museum Candlelight Evening
<b>12 Advent III</b> 7:30– Morning Prayer 8, 10-Eucharist 9– Lectionary Study 9:45-Children's SS Alt. Xmas Mkt. 7-Youth Group	13 8-Morning Prayer 10-3-Deanery Advent Quiet Day 4-Lord's Table 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Vestry Meeting	14 8-Morning Prayer 4-Lord's Table 7-Prayer Group	<b>15 John Horden</b> 6-Men's Group 8:30-Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evensong & Potluck 7-Adult Choir	16 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>17 Ember Day</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>18 Ember Day</b> 8-Morning Prayer 8:30-12– Children's Christmas Cookie Outreach 8-Voices of Coopers- town Concert
<b>19 Advent IV</b> 7:30-Morning Prayer 8, 10— Eucharist 9– Family Eucharist 9:45-Pageant Rehearse 10-Choral Eucharist	20 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>21 St. Thomas</b> 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>22 King of Nations</b> 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30 Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30– Longest Night Svc. & Potluck 7-Adult Choir	23 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Praise Band Re- hearsal	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 8-Morning Prayer 1-Euch-Thanksgiving Home 2-Woodside H 3-Confessions 4– Family Eucharist 10– Festival Eucharist	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 8-Morning Prayer 9– Eucharist
<b>26 Christmas I</b> 8, 10Lessons & Carols with Comm. <i>No Children's SS</i>	<b>27 St. John</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>28 Holy Innocents</b> 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>29 Thomas Becket</b> 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30 Eucharist 5:30-Evening Prayer	30 8– Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	31 <i>Offices Closed—New            Year's Day Holiday</i> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>1 Holy Name</b> 8-Morning Prayer

# January/February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2 Christmas II</b> 7:30-Morning Prayer 8,10-Eucharist 9-Family Eucharist <i>No Children's SS</i> 4-Healing Service	<b>3 DR Trip Departs</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Financial Planning	<b>4</b> 8-Morning Prayer	<b>5</b> 6-Men's Group 8:30- Eucharist. 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Adult Choir	<b>6 Epiphany</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 12:15-Psalms Class begins 7-Epiphany Eucharist	<b>7</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>8</b> 8-Morning Prayer 9-Building and Grounds Committee
<b>9 Epiphany I</b> 7:30- Morning Prayer 8, 10-Eucharist 9-Lectionary Study 9:45-Children's SS 11:30-Outreach Comm. 7-Youth Group	<b>10</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Vestry Meeting	<b>11</b> 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>12 Aelred DR Trip Returns</b> 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30- Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>13</b> 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Psalms Class 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>15</b> 8-Morning Prayer
<b>16 Epiphany II</b> <i>No Children's SS</i> 7:30- Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Family Eucharist 10-Choral Eucharist	<b>17 M. L. King Day- Church Office Closed- Chronicle Articles Due</b> 8-Morning Prayer 4-Lord's Table 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>18 Conf. St. Peter</b> 8-Morning Prayer 4-Lord's Table 7-Prayer Group	<b>19 Agnes</b> 6-Men's Group 8:30 Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 2-Euch, Woodside Hall 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Adult Choir	<b>20</b> 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Psalms Class 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Stephen Ministers	<b>21</b> 8-Morning Prayer 2-Eucharist- Thanksgiving Home 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>22</b> 8-Morning Prayer
<b>23 Epiphany III</b> 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Lectionary Study 9:45-Children's SS 10-Eucharist 7-Youth Group	<b>24</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>25 Conv. St. Paul</b> 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>26 Timothy, Titus &amp; Silas</b> 6- Men's Group 8:30-Morning Prayer 10-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Adult Choir	<b>27</b> 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Psalms Class 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>29</b> 8-Morning Prayer
<b>30 Epiphany IV</b> 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Lectionary Study 10-Family Eucharist 12-Sledding at Glimmerglass State Park	<b>31</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>1</b> 8-Morning Prayer 7-Prayer Group	<b>2 Presentation</b> 6- Men's Group 8:30 Eucharist 10-Sisters in Christ 7-Adult Choir	<b>3</b> 8-Morning Prayer 12:15- Psalms Class 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Stephen Ministers	<b>4</b> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer	<b>5</b> 8-Morning Prayer