

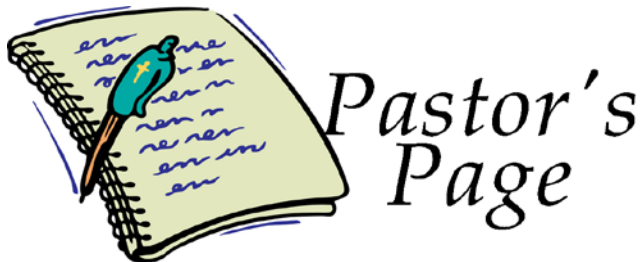


christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com

63 East Church Street, Xenia Ohio 45385

www.christepiscopalxenia.org

December 2012 Volume 3, Issue 12



Dear Friends,

December is here, and with it come the cold winds of winter - the sometimes frantic busy-ness of preparing for the holidays - the opening of our overnight Shelter. With December also comes the Advent Season, and a time to prepare, without frantic busy-ness, for the Incarnation – the coming of the Christ into our world.

I know that we are not going to stop our Christmas shopping – nor should we. We aren't going to cover our ears when Christmas carols ring through the stores – nor should we. We will prepare for family and loved ones with food and wrapping and cards and decorating. And all that is well and good.

What makes it even more meaningful is grounding all that activity in prayer and quiet, hopeful preparation. As we prepare in the world for Christmas, we also prepare in our Spirits. Our prayerful preparation is the ground on which our best celebrations can rest. Our prayer and preparation for the coming Christ will deepen and color all that we do with our yearning for the coming of God. Let's gather together each Sunday this Advent. Let's worship and prepare inwardly so that we come at last to the stable with hearts and spirits made holy. Let's take some time each day to pray and to reflect, to walk humbly toward Bethlehem to meet the Child who is coming.

Blessings on each of you and my prayers for a most holy Advent...

In peace,
ML+



Warden's Words

Warden's Words is missing from this issue.

Please check the January issue for our next edition of this feature.



Christmas Season Worship

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Christmas Eve



4:30 PM

Festive Choral Holy Eucharist



December 30, 2012



9:30 AM

Lessons and Carols



...for leaders, past leaders, future leaders, & potential leaders....



The Economy of the World vs the Economy of the Church

If you've ever worked in business or industry, you quickly learn a few basic facts, including this one:

"In any given project, the fewer people you can employ and the less time it takes, the better the bottom line."

It makes good sense, if your bottom line is the standard bottom line: profit.

However, the culture and economy of the Church are very different. In this culture and economy, the following is the fact we have to know:

"In any given project, the more people you involve, and the less you are concerned about shortening the time, the better your bottom line will be."

This, too, makes good sense—because our bottom line is not profit, but transformation, renewal, and conversion.

Something for leaders to think about....



2012 Contribution and Reimbursement Deadline

Please remember that in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2012, all contributions must be received in the Parish Office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2012.

The IRS has strict guidelines regarding this matter and no exceptions can be made.

If you need to be reimbursed for any authorized church-related expenses that occurred in 2012, please complete a check request form (available in the parish office), attach your receipt, and turn it in to the Parish Office no later than December 31, 2012.

Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

Dates to Remember

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Monday, December 24 th at 4:30PM | – | Christmas Eve Festive Choral Holy Eucharist |
| Saturday December 29 th 2:00-4:00 PM | – | Christmas Open House at Jack and Betsy Kitch's |
| Sunday, December 30 th at 9:30AM | – | Lessons and Carols |
| Monday, December 31 st | – | Deadline for Reimbursements |
| Sunday, January 6 th | – | Interim Task: Identity |
| Sunday, February 3 rd | – | Annual Meeting |

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Announcements

Coffee Hour: We need volunteers for the coffee hour. Sign up is in Parish Hall.

Food Banks: Please bring in food for the local food banks, they are in dire need.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to purchase live flowers for the altar, please see Doug Pultz or Pam Feinour. The cost is \$20.

Shelter Time: See Mike Taint to find out how you can help with the Homeless Shelter.

Come to our Christmas Open House. Saturday 29 Dec 2-4 PM.
Jack & Betsy Kitch,
6558 Palmetto Ct
Centerville OH 45459.
Ask us for shortest route.
RSVP [937-434-0497](tel:937-434-0497)

RECYCLING:

Reminder to all, we are recycling. Pete Sinnott takes our paper plates from Coffee Hour for composting. There is a recycling bin in the Parish Office for paper, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and the like. Help us out by sorting. Help us out by reading the newsletter online. Help us out by suggesting ideas to your local vestry member.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

04 Heidi Huddleson
07 Lillian Hudson
08 Nancy Nickell
19 Jim Sheehan
20 Jim Thomas
24 Kim Holland-Holbert
27 Brock Eskridge
28 Genny Loveless
29 Mary Kidd
Millicent Walker Jones

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

15 Dana & Mike Rhyne
21 Mary & Jim Sheehan

Keep the Church Directory “up to date”... if you are planning a move in the near future, or have a new phone number or e-mail address please be sure and let the church know. *Thanks!*

Check out our Church website:

www.christepiscopalxenia.org

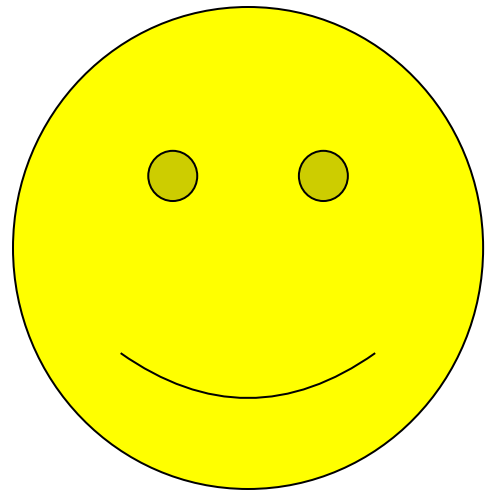
Parish Office email address:

christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com



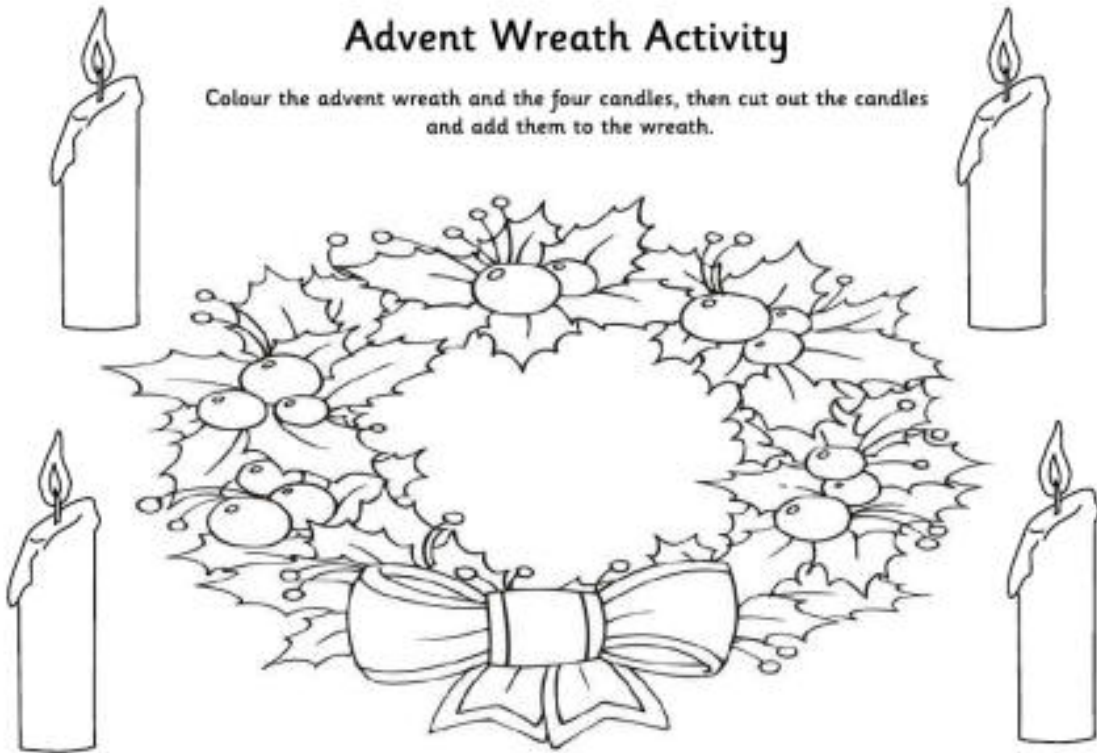
Children's Corner

For those who are young, those who think they are young, those who feel young at heart, and those who aren't any of the above (nobody's looking... Have some fun!)



Advent Wreath Activity

Colour the advent wreath and the four candles, then cut out the candles and add them to the wreath.



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

From <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk>

Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia

Service Calendar, December 2012

Ministry	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/30
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	ML	MP
Altar Guild	Becky, Dana	JoAnne, Becky, Tanya	Ruth, Becky,	Dana, Becky	JoAnne, Becky. Tanya
Lector	Barbara Bonham	Tommy	Ruth	Michael	Mark
Ushers	JoAnne, Summer	Donovans	JoAnne, Doug	Elizabeth, Tommy	Summer, Doug
Intercessor	Dana	Mark	Rick	Barb	Ruth
Chalice	Jack	Barb	Pam	Summer	—
Vestry Member of the Week	Kim	JoAnne	Jack	Summer	Chandra

Service Calendar, January 2013

Ministry	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	MP (Jack)
Altar Guild	JoAnne, Tanya	Ruth, Becky	Pam, Tanya	Dana, Becky
Lector	Nancy	Jack	Dana	Tommy
Ushers	Elizabeth, Tommy	JoAnne, Summer	Donovans	Rick, Doug
Intercessor	Doug	Barb	Summer	Ruth
Chalice	Barb	Pam	Ruth	—
Vestry Member of the Week	Vikki	Michael	Summer	Kim

If your name is down and your schedule conflicts, contact someone to trade and let Becky know as soon as possible.

Holiday Shopping Tips by Reducing and Recycling

Part Three

Tips for Mail-Order Shopping

Ask mail-order companies who ship your holiday gifts ***not*** to use polystyrene packing "peanuts", but to use paper instead. After you have completed your mail order shopping, remove your name from unwanted catalog mailing lists.



Tips for Holiday Parties

Use cloth napkins, stainless or silverware, glass or ceramic cups and mugs, and reusable plates rather than disposable plastic, foam plastic or paper at holiday parties. Rent party furnishings rather than buying things you will only use once a year. Reuse plastic margarine tubs or yogurt containers to store holiday leftovers.

Holiday Composting

Compost your kitchen food scraps from holiday dinners and parties. Remember, in yard waste composting, compost fruit and vegetable wastes not meat or grease.

By the Green Church Team



*Christ Church Christmas Poinsettias
To Honor Your Loved Ones*

Christ Episcopal Church is seeking members to honor their loved ones in memory or thanksgiving by purchasing Christmas Poinsettias. The flowers, from Stockslager's Greenhouse & Garden Center in New Lebanon, will be in 6" gold foil pots, and will have four to six large blooms. The poinsettias are \$9.50 each.

NAME: _____

In Memory: _____

In Thanksgiving: _____

Please indicate color choice and quantity below:

Quantity:

Red	_____	X \$9.50 =	\$ _____
White	_____	X \$9.50 =	\$ _____
Pink	_____	X \$9.50 =	\$ _____
Marble	_____	X \$9.50 =	\$ _____
TOTAL:			\$ _____

Place the order sheet in the offering plate or mail to the office with your payment. **The due date for your order is Friday, December 7, 2012.** If you have questions, please contact Chandra Hightower at 937.376.3990 or via e-mail ccllns793@gmail.com.

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Received: \$_____ Cash / Check #_____ Date: _____/2012

Christmases Remembered

Each year, during this time of year, I can't help but think back to the Christmases of my childhood. My sisters and I were always hoping we'd been good so Santa would visit us Christmas Eve. Mom would take us on our annual trip to see Santa with our wish list, and we'd pose for photos. We'd spend hours on our Christmas coloring books to have pictures to hang up on the wall. And the house always smelled of Christmas cookies and bayberry candles.

But what I remember most is the beauty of our church celebration of Advent ...it meant that Christmas was getting closer. Each week a new candle was lighted on the Advent wreath telling us the joyous day was near. My dad would burn the Advent candle down one notch each night as he read the appropriate passages from the Bible telling us about Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem. I remember the wonder of Christmas Eve night at church where we sang Christmas carols and heard the wonder of the little Baby Jesus born that night. Finally, we'd hold the flickering candles while we closed the service with Silent Night. After church, we would go home filled with images of the newborn Baby lying in a manger surrounded by cattle, donkeys, and sheep. We could almost see the young shepherds on bended knee paying homage to the Christ Child, and the three kings in royal garments giving gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I always think back on Christmas Eve as a time of joy and anticipation. Christmas Eve night always seemed to be cold and clear with brilliant stars overhead. I would stare up to the heavens and wish for the Star of Bethlehem to appear just once more to light up the Christmas sky. I still do!!!

These are some of my cherished memories. I pray that you take time to make memories for your family to remember in later years...they are truly a treasure. Merry Christmas everyone...

Becky



Anita and Michael Dohn are physicians serving as SAMS missionaries with La Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana at the diocesan Clínica Esperanza y Caridad. They live along the southern coast in San Pedro de Macorís in the Dominican Republic.

* * * * *

Domestic Violence. Is that inevitably how the cookie crumbles?

Approaching my 13th Christmas here, I am concerned that I may have inadvertently created a cross-cultural dependency. Of course as missionaries we do not want to produce any dependencies. Never-the-less ...

Beginning in 2000, we made Christmas sugar cookies with different colors of powdered sugar icing and sprinkles. We gave these to a few new friends and people who had helped us, and also to the girls' classmates and teachers. Since then, things have snowballed, so to speak.

Each year, those who had received cookies begged for more! Christmas cookies are really not a tradition here. Bakeries don't make them. The few people who have tried our recipe say that theirs don't turn out right. After a few years, we had more friends, the girls' school wanted extras to sell, we gave them to everyone at the Clinic, and supplied the Clinic's numerous Christmas parties (AIDS children, health promoters, AIDS support groups, etc.). We baked more than a thousand cookies some years.

As the girls graduated from school here and left for university in the USA, our cookie demand fell. However, I will bake many hundred this year – the “*galletas de Anita*” Christmas tradition is now well established within one circle here.

Tradition and culture are often given as the explanation for some behaviors: “Of course young people drink in their pre-teens and drive without a license – it's the culture here!” or “Traditionally the man controls the house and the wife, and if he beats her – that's too bad, but that's just how it is.”

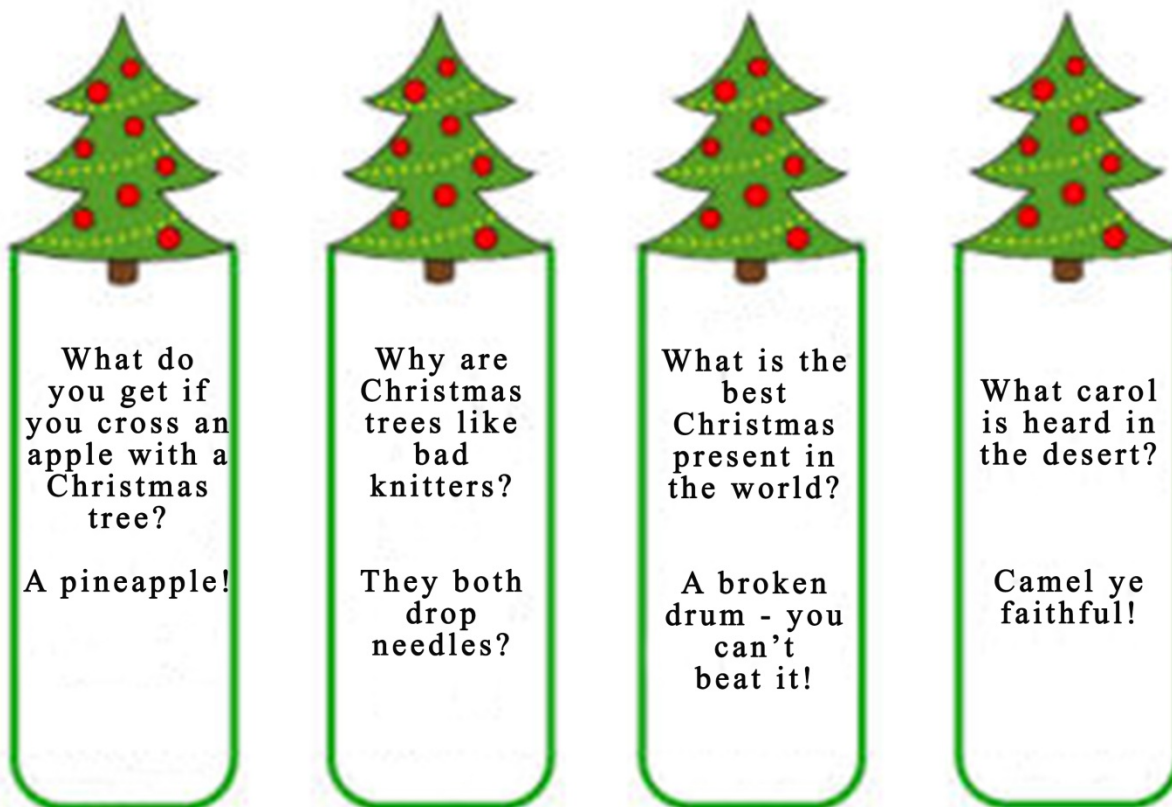
We start 2013 committed to a program against gender-based violence in an area where sociologists say the culture accepts violence as a reasonable mode of communication. We have a good team, evidence-based plans, and the promise of Philippians 4:13.

And we have our cookie experience that reminds us that good ideas have a way of catching on. Culture is in constant flux – continuously created by countless interactions and discussions. We have to be smart and sensitive, but tossing what we can cook-up into the gender-based violence mix will help.

Keep praying, Anita

PS – If you want to know more about what we are planning, e-mail us.

Lambeth Palace and the Anglican Communion are sponsors of “[We Will Speak Out](http://wewillspeakout.us/sign-our-pledge/)” against sexual violence. You can help by signing the [WWSO Pledge](http://wewillspeakout.us/sign-our-pledge/) at: <http://wewillspeakout.us/sign-our-pledge/>



From <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk>



If you are not on the email mailing list or not receiving emails and you thought you were on the mailing list for the church, email Tanya at

cecxtanya@gmail.com

Make sure any spam filters allow email from cecxlist@googlegroups.com and cecxtanya@gmail.com

Submissions:

Anyone who wishes to submit information or creativity (links of information, upcoming events, shout-outs of recognition) for the Trumpet should do so ASAP.

Deadline for submissions is December 25th. Submit information by hand to Tanya or by emailing it to cecxtanya@gmail.com.