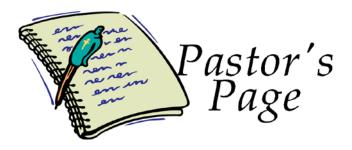
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December 2013 Volume 4, Issue 12



Happy New Year, everyone!

It's Advent again, and the beginning of a new Church year. Last week we celebrated our Shalom Eucharist, to prepare ourselves for this new year, and this new season of hope and preparation. This is the time for waiting expectantly and for getting ready.

It isn't Christmas. It isn't yet the Incarnation, the astonishing gift of God to the world. It isn't time for Christmas carols and greening the church, and celebrating. We're not ready yet. Four short weeks – hardly time to prepare ourselves to receive the Christ.

Four weeks is hardly time enough to teach ourselves to listen and to be vigilant. Four weeks won't really be enough for each of us to focus inward on the voice of God, and outward toward our sisters and brothers. We aren't ready.

But Advent is the time to try to get ready. Pray a few minutes each day. Listen for what God will say to you. See the needs of sisters and brothers around you, and in your kindness and loving response to them, bring the kingdom a little closer.

I pray for all of us a holy Advent in these four weeks, so that we might celebrate together a most joyous, holy Christmas.

In peace, ML+



Warden's Words

I trust we have all had a pleasant
Thanksgiving Holiday and made a point
to give heartfelt thanks for the many
blessings we have received as noted in
The Litany of Thanksgiving in The
Book of Common Prayer (p. 836). I
would further hope that we asked the
Lord's blessing on the many less
fortunate than we.

We are now fast approaching the start of a new year in the life of The Church with Advent Season (the "coming"); a time we anticipate the mystery of the Incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas with the "Christ Mass." The weeks of Advent offer an opportunity to examine our progress on the path to Eternal Life, to celebrate our successes, to admit our failures, and to press on.

In pressing on, one of our more difficult challenges is avoiding the temptation of succumbing to the rampant commercialism that comes at us from nearly all quarters. We are constantly bombarded by appeals to consume, to purchase items we don't need, cannot afford, and don't even want until some pitchman convinces us we do: even the government encourages us to spend to "support the economy." We are in danger of suffocating in "stuff." and have forgotten that "Jesus is the reason for the season."

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So let us endeavor to keep our attention this Advent on what is really important...

Yours in Christ, Jack Kitch

Bible Quiz

During Israel's 40-year sojourn in the desert, where did the Lord turn bitter water sweet so the people could drink it?

- A. Egypt
- B. Mt. Sinai
- C. Canaan
- D. Marah



Answer: D (See Exodus 15:23-25.)



How do we determine if our decisions are good ones? Robert K. Greenleaf offers this: "Do those being served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And what is the effect on the least privileged in society; will she or he benefit, or, at least, not be further deprived?"



Homeless Shelter

Hello Christ Church Congregation!

As the homeless shelter season opens, I thought I'd ask you for help with a couple of items we could use for the guests. Here is a list of items:

- Gloves men's medium and large are usually the sizes we need
- Long underwear men's or women's sizes s, m, or l
- Gift cards to McDonald's or Wendy's. This would be useful so they could be a paying customer and hang out there for a while until the library or other places open.
- Personal hygiene items anything along this line for men and women, though usually we have more men

If you like, you could wrap them up as a Christmas gift, or just bring it to the shelter and let us know that it is a gift for our guests.

Thanks as always for your support of the shelter. Carol

Note from the editor: I'm running this note from Carol again to call more attention to it. Also, there are still many open dates for bringing a dinner to the shelter. If you can't bring a hot meal, volunteer to bring a large frozen meal. Make sure you bring enough for about 15-20 people. Even a giant store bought frozen lasagna or casserole is better than people going without food. Contact me at cecxtanya@gmail.com to volunteer a meal. Contact Carol at cecxtanya@gmail.com to volunteer a meal. Contact Carol at

Stewardship



Thoughts for Stewardship at Christmas time...

We are stewards of everything we've been given—our relationships, our time, our money, our world. It can be a challenge to manage all that well at this time of year. Our mailboxes are stuffed with catalogs, our televisions trumpet one christmasy commercial after another, and our credit card companies offer us ever more money—at 23% interest. Here's a favorite excerpt I always find helpful.....

"Simplicity means that we live close enough to the limits of our resources so that we can rely on God's providence and appreciate the beauty of life. Simplicity fosters spontaneity, truthfulness, and clear speech. Simplicity also is required of anyone who seeks justice, peace, and equitable stewardship of resources. Simplicity is not a simple way to live. It requires serious reflection to sort out what is necessary and what is luxury. With all the pressures to buy this and have that, it is difficult to be satisfied with having just enough to be generous and caring. It is not simple to speak plainly and truthfully. We are tempted to equivocate, massage the truth, and manipulate our speech. Only conscious and consistent meditation, prayer, and examination can help us live the simplicity of Jesus."

Audrey Gibson and Kieran Kneaves, Praying with Louise de Marillac, p. 84



After Church Sunday December 22nd





6:30 PM



Dates to Remember

December 1st - 1st Sunday of Advent

December 1st - New Members Brunch

December 4th - African Bible Study begins

December 13th - Poinsettias orders due

December 22nd - Hanging of the Greens

December 24th - Christmas Eve

December 25th - Christmas Day

December 31st - New Year's Eve



Announcements

Altar Flowers: If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, either in memory of or in honor of a loved one, just sign up on the Flower Chart on the Parish Hall bulletin board. Send the check into the office with 'Altar Flowers' on the memo line - or see Pam Feinour or Doug Pultz. (Cost is \$20)

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

Recycling: Reminder to all, we are recycling. There is a recycling bin in the Parish Office for paper, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and the like. We are using easily compostable tableware so it will not spend that much time decomposing in the landfill. Help us out by sorting. Help us out by reading the newsletter online. Help us out by suggesting ideas to your local vestry member.

African Bible Study Group!!!

I was introduced to the African Bible Study at our Vestry retreat last week. In this method, a passage of scripture is read from three different translations of the Bible, and participants are asked to reflect (very briefly) on each reading in a different way. It doesn't require study "outside of class" – and in fact is really based on what the Holy Spirit is saying to you at that particular moment.

This method of looking at scripture really spoke to my heart, so I decided that I want more! Therefore, I invite you to join me each Wednesday in Advent at 8:00 p.m. in the Nickell house. Our first meeting will be December 4th. The study should last less than an hour.

-Dana Rhyne

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Dana & Mike Rhyne
- 19 Pete and Lynn Sinnott
- 21 Mary and Jim Sheehan



If we have missed your birthday, please let us know.

Check out our Church website:
www.christepiscopalxenia.weebly.com
Parish Office email address:

christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com

Like a Drop of Water: Water Alertness in Your Home

Ask yourself these questions to uncover hidden water conservation opportunities in your home:

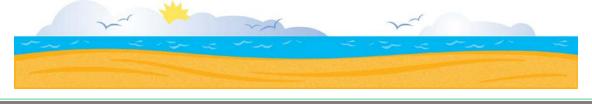
- Do you keep showers to under 5 minutes?
- Do you use only a little water in the bathtub?
- Do you turn off the water while brushing your teeth?
- Do you put water in the sink when washing up?
- Do you flush the toilet only when necessary? Don't use it to flush tissues.
- Do you use a broom to clean the driveway or sidewalk?
- Do you use a bucket when washing the car?
- Do you use a turn-off nozzle on the end of the hose to adjust the water flow and turn the water off and on?
- Do you turn water faucet off tight?
- Do you put water in the kitchen sink to wash and rinse dishes?
- Do you run the dishwasher only when it's full?
- Do you run the washing machine only when it's full?

How you do score:

~From Your Green Team~

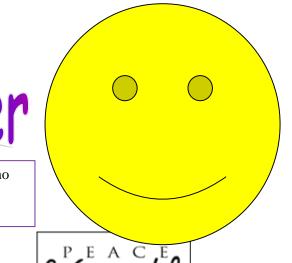
Reference:

 $\underline{http://greenfaith.org/resource-center/stewardship/water-conservation/at-home/water-conservation-at-home}$



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!)





Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Wreath

What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- Paint brush
 Embroidery
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- Glue
- · 3 white feathers
- · Floral wire (two pieces)

What you do:

- Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green.
 When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
- Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
- Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
- From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
- From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
- Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
- Attach wire to the back and hang up your wreath.

From Newsletternewsletter.com

Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia Service Calendar, December 2013

					<u> </u>	
Ministry	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24	12/29
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML	Lessons & Carols
Altar Guild	JoAnne, Becky	Pam, Tanya	Dana, Becky	JoAnne, Tanya	JoAnne, Becky	Pam, Tanya
Lector	Dana	Tommy	Pete	Becky	Barb	
Ushers	Brad, Tommy	Rick, Elizabeth	Donovans	JoAnne, Doug	Elizabeth, Tommy	Brad, Rick
Intercessor	Rick	Barb	Debbie	Ruth	Mark	
Chalice	Barb	Ruth	Barb	Rick	Pam	
Vestry Member of the Week	Barb	Kim	Dana	Tanya		Joanne

Service Calendar, January 2014

Ministry	1/5/2014	1/12/2014	1/19/2014	1/26/2014
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	МР
Altar Guild	Dana, Becky	JoAnne, Tanya	Pam, Becky	Dana, Tanya
Lector	Pam Feinour	Chandra Hightower	Mark Cummings	Nancy Nickell
Ushers	JoAnne, Doug	Donovans	Elizabeth, Tommy	Brad, Rick
Intercessor	Rick Feinour	Doug Pultz	Barb Bonham	Ruth Hazel
Chalice	Kim Holbert	Debbie Gillespie	Ruth Hazel	
Vestry Member of the Week	Chandra Hightower	Larry Thomas	Jack Kitch	Barb Bonham

If you can't be there for your assigned position, please find a replacement and let Becky know of the change.

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The Wrong Side of Wrong

A friend of mine, who barely makes ends meet as a single mother in a poor barrio, came to me asking for money. She felt it necessary to flee her home and neighborhood for the safety of her family.

Threats were made against her son who had told the police the truth about the criminal activity of a local gang. Now the whole family was a target..

My friend raised her children in a Christian home, where honesty was valued, and they stayed out of trouble in that neighborhood where trouble often came looking for young people. Yet, here they were now, a law-abiding Christian family on "the wrong side of wrong."

I gave her 1,000 Dominican pesos (about \$23) for bus fare and supplies to get the family to another city where she had relatives. The problems eventually blew over, and the family returned to their home in San Pedro about six weeks later.

Raising children to know right from wrong does not always save them from troubles. Faith and trust in God can see us through troubles, though. Christian friends and relatives helped this family through their difficulties. No one lost their faith or compromised their moral values during this family's crisis.

Keep praying, Anita

PS II – As a mother with four girls of my own, I especially related to these two little ones. They spent the entire visit holding hands – a sisterly haven of support and alliance, the two of them uniting their strength to face the future.



The Chancel Choir is looking for singers! Even if you feel you do not sing "well", but enjoy making a joyful noise to the Lord, we will welcome you with open arms. Rehearsals are from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesdays at the church and we sing about once a month during Sunday Service. Come join this fun group of people as we sing God's Praises!



From Newsletternewsletter.com





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, shoutouts 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.