christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com 63 East Church Street, Xenia Ohio

www.christ-episcopal-xenia.org December 2014 Volume 5, Issue 12

Upcoming Events:

- Vestry Meeting-December 12, 11:30am
- Live Nativity December 12-14, 6-8pm
- Choir Practice, December 17, 7pm
- **Confirmation Class** December 21, 11:15am
- Greening of the Church December 21, 11:15am
- Christmas Eve Worship, December 24, 6:30pm
- Christmas Day, December 25
- Confirmation Classes-January 4, 11:15am
- Heart and Hands, January 3, 1pm
- Choir Practice-January 7, 7pm
- Choir Practice— January 14, 7pm
- Heart and Hands-January 17, 1pm

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PRIEST'S PAGE

Dear Friends.

I never quite know what to say in my December letter. Near the end of the month it's Christmas, but for most of the month it's Advent, a liturgical season I especially love. It's all about hope and anticipation, repentance and preparation-- waiting, watching, getting ready. In the other "dimension" in which we live – the world of shopping and decorating and wrapping and cooking, etc., we can find many of those very same things: hope and anticipation, waiting and watching, and getting ready. If you don't believe me, ask any 5 year old about the hope and anticipation part.

The difference, I suppose, is in the vision. It might be sugarplums dancing around the perfect tree surrounded by the perfect gifts, all perfectly wrapped. The vision might be a meal done to perfection, with everyone gathered around the table. It might be a vacation to the some warm and sandy island, where the ML+ slush and cold of winter are far away. Those may be our visions in the other

"dimension", where hearts are anchored to the world.

The Advent vision, though, is focused on the earth-shaking, universechanging, life-renewing, angel-singing, shepherd-quaking and wise mentrembling hope for God's coming to us. God is coming to us. In Advent we remember that God loved us so much that

Jesus was born in a small stable on a cold hillside –so that we might know just how much we are loved. That's the hope of Advent, and an anticipation worth holding in our hearts. That's not something to be shunted aside as we prepare for Christmas in the other dimension. This Advent thing is meant to settle us into joy and set our hearts warming at the fire of God's love. It's a busy time of year, I know. But there is no preparation as critically important as our preparation to receive God's love - no anticipation greater than the anticipation of greeting that infant— and no hope more burningly vital than our hope for that birth. God has come – God is coming – God is with us. Amen!

So I guess I can do both – talk about Advent and also say - "Have a blessed and

bright Christmas!" After all, vou can't have one without the other. In peace!



If you are not on the email mailing list or not receiving emails, email Tanya at cecxtanya@gmail.com Make sure any spam filters allow email from cecxlist@googlegroups.com and cecxtanya@gmail.com

Anyone who wishes to submit anything for the Trumpet should do so ASAP. Deadline Decmber 26th. Submit for submissions is information by hand to Tanya or by emailing it to cecxtanya@gmail.com.

WARDEN'S WORDS by Dana Rhyne, Senior Warden

Advent

John the Baptist cries out in the wilderness, "Make ye straight the path of the Lord!"
Ah Lord, our paths to you are infinite and meandering.
We look left and right, to our neighbors, or our senators, to the person with the golden glove or the golden globe.

But it's quite simple, really.

I close my eyes and picture

a light shining in the darkness.

I head toward that light.

Will you join me for the journey?



For November 16, 2014

- Meeting called to order 11:30 and Opening Prayer. The agenda and previous months's minutes were approved. Report of pledges to date received by Vestry.
- Discussion followed on the Draft Budget with numerous changes both to amounts allocated and to line item names and numbers. The individual changes are available in the complete Minutes on the Vestry Bulletin Board.
- ♦ D. Rhyne moved The Rev'd. Lynn Sinnott's Housing Resolution for 2015: \$15,300 of Mother Lynn's stipend is designated as Housing Allowance, to continue in future years until changed by Vestry resolution. V. Carter seconded and vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- ♦ Mother Lynn asked vestry to pray about possible candidates for Vestry elections
- ♦ Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 1:15 PM

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRIES:

THE CARING PLACE

I would like to take a moment and reflect on the last Caring place and the Shared Thanksgiving meal we served last night.

In honor of Veteran's day we served Chipped beef on toast, Salad, Peas and Banana pudding. I am thankful for the following hands that helped prepare and serve, Glen and Claris Donavan, Jean and Tracy Matthews, Emilie Walker, Dana Rhyne, and Elizabeth Clark.

Last night we served a full House. Turkey Dressing, Sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, {our portion of the shared meal was green beans



— Cheryl Eskridge

made with all the love, country ham, hot bacon, dill, onion, brown sugar and diced potatoes}. They loved it. And there was pumpkin pie.

It went off without a hitch. We looked like professionals. I want to thank again Emilie, Tracy and Jean for the help last night. Thank You for cooking a turkey Jean.

The next Caring place is shared the Thursday before Christmas then our next Meal is February the 27th. Come join us.

GREEN TEAM

There are many ways you can "Go Green" during the

Winter holidays. Ideas include: recycling wrapping paper, using LED lights, regifting presents (it's not taboo anymore)...

Try to consider each purchase and each choice and how it impacts on the environment. Does the person need a piece of plastic décor? Will they enjoy that item or would a gift card be better (again, not taboo anymore) or even an act of kindness or service (offer to cook them a meal or make them a craft or buy them a cup of coffee)?

See here for more ideas: http://www.nature.org/greenliving/ gogreen/greenholidays/



HEART AND HANDS — Tanya Ellenburg-Kimmet



We journeyed out this month to the Lion and Lamb Yarn store in Troy by carpool. There we petted many types of yarn, made our purchases, and then walked down the block (some



of us drove) to a delicious restaurant Marilyn Thomas suggested called Basil's on Market. We had a grand time, as you can tell. If you are envious of these smiling faces, you don't have to be. We meet every first and third Saturday of the month at 1pm in the Parish House. We're taking the rest of December off, but you can join us in January!

ONE-TO-ONE (CLOTHES CLOSET) - Joanne Earley

It has been another good year with plenty of clients and plenty of donations. Brad helps every week. Nigel helps when he can. Our need right now is for able bodied persons to carry boxes of clothing upstairs to our hanging room. If you would be interested and/or able to help carry boxes for us before or after church on Sundays please let me know.

In addition to Tuesdays we also have had the opportunity to open up during the week on occasion for ladies in need of clothing for either a new job or for a job interview.

Thank you for allowing us to continue this ministry in our parish house.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 04 Heidi Huddleson
- 07 Lillian Hudson Bradley Alexander
- 08 Nancy Nickel
- 20 Jim Thomas
- 24 Kim Bayless
- 27 Brock Eskridge
- 15 Dana & Mike
- Rhvne
- 19 Pete and Lynn
- Sinnott



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

STEWARDSHIP & THANKSGIVING

Stewardship Blessing:

Bless this Church and our mission.



In this joyous time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, please take time to ponder on all the gifts God has given us. His gifts are beyond price and are free! What a sale this is!!! Christ Episcopal Church has a mission handed down to us by God and He knows this takes money. We are asking you to be a part of this work by pledging. This work will go forth in God's name and God will provide. Our faith tells us so.

Please keep Christ in Christmas!!! Merry Christmas! Your Stewardship Team

CECX WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER—

Carol Conway

Hi Everyone –

I just wanted to give you a quick update on the homeless shelter. We've been open for almost 4 weeks now and we have had an average of 8-10 people a night. The guests are a mix of some who have been at the shelter in previous years and some who are new to being homeless. But the difference this year is that we are asking the guests to provide documentation they are getting help from Community Action Partnership or TCN. We give them a week to comply and I check on their documentation. And then I follow up with them every two weeks to see how they are progressing. So far so good. Only one person did not have his documentation within a week, but he left the shelter before we had a chance to ask him to leave.

I wanted to thank you also for the bags of toiletries that you have provided. It has been extremely helpful and useful.

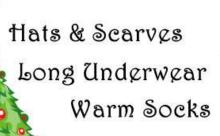
Merry Christmas to each of you. And once again, thank you for allowing the shelter to operate for those less fortunate than we are.

Carol



Greening of the Church

After Holy Eucharist Sunday December 21st **Shared Cookies and Hot Choco**late for all "hangers"!



Could you bring a wrapped gift for a Shelter guest? Someone dropped off 25 pairs of gloves, but the items to the left would be such a gift! We need items for men, women and children, ages infant and above. If you'd mark your present for one of these, we'd be so grateful! Carol and the Shelter Team

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Dear Friends: Come Darkness - Come Light!

A BLESSED THANKSGIVING TO YOU ALL --- AND WELCOME TO ADVENT!

OK - it has been quite a while since we were able to write.... egads! Life has been much of a muchness... Apologies! You are definitely NOT forgotten.

The Gazette:

Sarah continues on her journey into the Episcopal priesthood. She has taken a temporary leave from hospice work to meet the demands of her class work and preparation for sitting the Episcopal Church's General Ordination Exams (GOE's) January 5-8. She will sit these at Episcopal Divinity School in Boston -- while she is there taking 3 intensive classes. Yes, craziness (smile). The "powers-that-be" have approved Sarah for ordination to the Episcopal priesthood pending passing the GOE's and completing her Master of Divinity degree, which should happen this coming May.

She is still very much enjoying serving as Chaplain at St. Patrick's School, where she and the principal have continued to develop and expand the Peace-making/Peace-keeping Chapel and education program. This has been truly exiting. She also deeply enjoys her work as a spiritual director.

The priest at St. Francis will be retiring at the end of December, and we don't yet know who the replacement is or what that will mean for Sarah's situation there - except that is will mean changes.

So - prayers are requested for the exams, the classes, the transition at St. Francis, and managing life in general.

If all goes well by God's Grace -- both Sarah and David will graduate next May with MDiv's - from two different institutions. Smile. That is just so us, isn't it? Sarah's will be from the Episcopal Divinity School in Boston, and David's will be from Claremont School of Theology. That and \$5 will get you coffee.....

Sometime after May, we should get news about Sarah's ordination date... So we'll let you know.....

Meanwhile, "Chaplain David" is embracing the mutual love affair with St. Martin's School in Winnetka. He and the new vicar, Rev. Gabriel Ferrer, are quite the team. The work is clear, as the church and school live into a renewed vision for the flow of the life of God in that place. The school and church do a joint celebration for the Sunday nearest St. Martin's Day, which was Nov. 9 this year. As an affirmation of the "new vitality" that is budding, over 200 people showed up for the Sunday Service - with record turnout of students -- who did a GREAT presentation (video on the website). The students rocked! Not only has it been well over a decade since there were 200 people at a Sunday morning service in that church, the entire atmosphere on the campus is growing in excitement and hope. No idea how it is all going to sort out -- but we're fully engaged!

Check out the respective websites (David actually appears in photos to prove he is there):

School: http://stmartinsschool.org/

Church: http://www.stmartinswinnetka.org/

David prepares and leads 4 Chapel services a week, a 5th every other week, and teaches 6 Character Development classes a week. He has also been logging 25 hours a week in his Clinical Pastoral Education program as a hospital chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in LA. Yes -- more craziness.

DEEP AND ABIDING THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED AND WHO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHAPEL FUND AT ST. MARTIN'S !!!!!!!! It has allowed us to do some wonderful things in building the program, and the school has been able to provide a stipend to David, which permitted Sarah to take her leave from hospice in order to focus on her studies. The economy of God -- smile.

Prayers for all these things. Also, David goes in for eye surgery this Thursday, December 11. He has one of the "very bad" kind of cataracts in one eye that needs to be addressed promptly.

We are both "working" over Christmas, but will be traveling to see Jack Kitch in Ohio for New Years - then to Boston. David will join Sarah for the week of her exams, then return. Sarah will remain in Boston for one further week of classes.

If you have any questions - feel free! And please let us know if there are specific ways we can hold you in prayer. We still keep up our intercessions list - and you're on it!

May your Advent be a true time of preparation, and may Christmas and Christmastide resonate with the reality of the Incarnation for us all! Love You!!!! - Sarah & David

Thank you Carol Conway for your eager spirit, noble curiosity and genuine heart. I appreciate your leadership of the Emergency Shelter {Red Door Shelter. Your hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed.

-C. Hightower



Please remember to sign up for providing a meal for the Homeless Shelter. See Carol Conway for questions or visit our website: www.christ-episcopalxenia.org





Reprint of an article from the Xenia Gazette (11-06-2014 issue) advertising the

LIVE NATIVITY

XENIA — Xenia Grace Chapel will host an outdoor Christmas journey to "Find the King" this holiday season. During the second annual "Back to Bethlehem" celebration, guests will be transported back to biblical times to the era of the birth of the Christ child.

Guests can experience many of the sights, sounds, tastes and smells that accompanied the birth of Jesus Christ as it happened more than 2,000 years ago. You will hear from the prophets, wisemen and shepherds. angels will appear, and several animals will be on your path to a fun. informative and interactive tour of the "town of Bethlehem."

The free, family-friendly event runs 6-8 p.m. nightly Dec. 12-14 on the Xenia Grace chapel property, 100 Grace Drive in the Wright Cycle Estates off of Route 42 South.

I would like to thank the Audit Team (Dana Rhyne, Maxine Thomas, Elizabeth Clark, Debbie Gillespie, Patricia Renick, Carol Conway, and Doug Pultz) for their time and talents to review our internal documents and processes.

-Chandra Hightower, Treasurer



Christmas Eve Worship December 24th 6:30 PM

Thank you to all of those who



submitted, either monthly, bimonthly, or periodically, content so that this newsletter

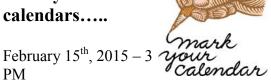
had actual words in it. Thank you readers for your patience and interest in this newsletter. Please keep submitting. And thank you to Chandra, Dana, Becky, and Mother Lynn for keeping me on my toes about what was needed in the newsletter. -Tanya



The Finance Team rocks! (Team Members: JoAnne Earley and Doug Pultz) Several conversations to formulate the 2015

budget for vestry approval in December 2014. Becky will be ready to go with the 2015 finances January 1, 2015. Many, many thank you(s) for asking the hard questions. I appreciate you both. -Chandra the Treasurer

Mark your calendars.....



PM

Organ Concert followed by a reception to rededicate our refurbished organ

February 22nd, 2015 – Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall!

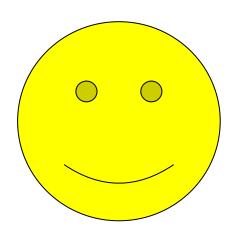


A BIG thank you to Mother Lynn for your leadership of Christ Church Xenia. -C. Hightower



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!)





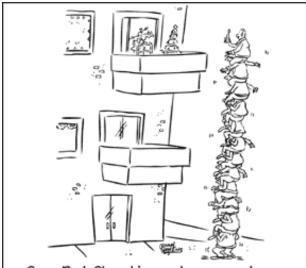
Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

Directions: In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.

Bible Quiz

Who rebuked people for bringing their children to Jesus?

- A. The religious leaders
- B. Jesus himself
- C. The disciples
- D. Roman soldiers



Answer: C (See Mark 10:13.)



Service Calendar, December 2014

| Ministry | 12/7 | 12/14 | 12/21 | 12/24 | 12/28 | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| Worship Lead- er | ML | ML | ML | ML | Lessons & Carols | |
| Altar Guild | JoAnne, Becky | Dana, Pam | Ruth, Tanya | JoAnne, Becky | Ruth, Pam | |
| Lector | Ruth | Tommy | Dana | Becky | All Lectors | |
| Ushers | JoAnne, Elizabeth | Donovans | Elizabeth, Tom- my | JoAnne, Doug | Rick, Brad | |
| Intercessor | Doug | Rick | Debbie | Ruth | Barb | |
| Chalice | Debbie | Rick | Barbara | Kim | | |
| Eucharistic Visitor | Barb, Mark (Faith) | Dana (Bill) | | | | |
| Healing Prayer Ministers | Jenny & Eve | Pam & Ruth | JoAnne, Doug | | | |
| Vestry Member of the Week | Barbara | Kim | Tanya | Dana | | |

Service Calendar, January 2015

| Ministry | 1/4 | 1/11 | 1/18 | 1/25 | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Worship Leader | ML | ML | ML | MP-Pam | |
| Altar Guild | Dana, Tanya | JoAnne, Becky | Dana, Pam | Ruth, Tanya | |
| Lector | Pete | Debbie | Pam | Barbara | |
| Ushers | JoAnne, Doug | Donovans | Elizabeth, Tommy | Rick, Brad | |
| Intercessor | Dana | Mark | Rick | Doug | |
| Chalice | Mark | Ruth | Debbie | n/a | |
| Eucharistic Visitors | Jennie, Rick (Faith) | | Dana & Mark (Bill) | n/a | |
| Healing Prayer Ministers | Jenny, Eve | JoAnne, Doug | Pam, Ruth | n/a | |
| Vestry Member of the Week | Larry | Mark | Vikki | Carol | |

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