Christ Episcopal Church Xenia

# THE TRUMPET

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## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

A recent conversation with a member of our congregation started me thinking about unity and division. The conversation was centered on Holy Eucharist, as clear a mark of unity as I've ever known. Our parishioner and I were in complete agreement about that. Another clear mark of unity is Baptism – God's gracious welcome into the Christ-community here and now. No one is excluded. At least – no one is excluded by God, because God's very nature is unity; the unity of Trinity itself. And the Church—past, present, and future—is often spoken of as the Body of Christ on earth, always meant to be a whole.

This parishioner was grieving over the way we – members of the Body of Christ, and self-proclaimed followers of Jesus – seem so intent on breaking that body and creating division. Even Baptism and Eucharist become marks of division rather than unity, with some excluded from community because "their" Baptism or "their" Eucharist is somehow different and therefore less than ours. Or perhaps we exclude others from the community and the Table because they do not believe just as we believe, and therefore they must be in error and unacceptable.

I understand our parishioner's grief. I can imagine it's a faint shadow of the grief of our Creator. It has made me so aware of the ways I create division; and has made me resolve to do all that I can to support unity. Race and color, creed and dogma, nationality and social standing, economics and class – we have created divisions from these differences, and we can begin, each of us in our own lives, to wreak havoc upon our divisiveness. We can begin to know God more intimately as we know ourselves to be in unity, one with the other, across time and space. We can lessen the differences themselves as we learn to refuse to assign value to them. We can change our lives, and share that change with those we encounter.

I pray for unity,
and the God-life
it carries.

In peace,
ML+

# Warden's Words

I'm writing this on Christmas Eve, so I have the miracle of birth on my mind. And you will be reading this in the New Year, which is often a time of new birth for those of us who are (serial) resolution makers.

My resolutions usually involve self-improvement of some kind (lose weight! exercise more!). But today I'm thinking about a different kind of resolution - one that will improve more than our physical bodies. Are you ready to stretch out your hand?

Stretch Out Your Hand

Every day my head snaps back
in surprise at evil.
Like a child, wide-eyed and amazed,
every time. Upheaval.

I try to be cynical,
to harden my heart.
Jaundiced and jaded,
impervious, apart.

But, like a child, my head snaps back
again and again
and again and I'm gasping for breath
calling your name.

Lord God Jehovah.
God of this morass.
God of my tender heart.
God of first and last.

Hear my cry as my head snaps back
for the wounded world
and for the sometimes wounded me
and sometimes hope tightly furled.

Jesus said, "Stretch out your hand."
That withered hand made whole.
Is that the answer then?
Unfurl the hope and free the soul.

And one more time my head snaps back
as I realize the meaning -
that I am not a mute observer
while the world awaits its healing.

Sing noel for Jesus has come!
His outstretched hand touches mine
and anoints my head and heart to
go forth go forth this Christmastide!

(Annual Christmas poem, 2010)

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## Bible Quiz

Numbers 22 contains a little-known account of Balak, king of Moab, and Balaam, a practitioner of divination. Feeling threatened by the Israelites' presence near his land, Balak summons Balaam to come and curse them. What strange event does God use to get Balaam's attention so that he blesses, rather than curses, Israel?

A. Balak's men turn into pillars of salt.
B. The sun stands still in the sky.
C. Balaam's donkey speaks to him.
D. An angel makes Balaam mute.

Answer: C (See Numbers 22:22-35, especially 28 and 30.)

## Leadership Lines

## News from the Ministries

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?"

# Get Ready, Everyone! It's February 2nd !

All Reports are due January 27th
Bring a dish to pass – we'll have potluck!

Pray about our Vestry elections, and your own possible part in that process
Talk with your Vestry – find out how they feel about being Vestry members and Wardens
Vote on the new Vision Statement the Vestry has been writing this year
Laugh, Talk, Share, Eat, Enjoy – and still be home in time for Superbowl!
(What more could anyone ask??)

## Homeless Shelter

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 cconway50@yahoo.com if you want to volunteer time.

WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER

# Stewardship

By JoAnne Earley

As a new year approaches we sometimes make New Year's resolutions.

Perhaps we want to take better care of ourselves. We resolve to lose weight, get more rest, exercise regularly, and eat right.

We may resolve to turn over a new leaf by attending church more regularly or by vowing to set aside quiet time each day to just be alone with God or read our Bible or be more regular with our daily devotions.

Perhaps we attempt to find a way to reach out to those less fortunate than we. Maybe by helping in some small way, or even better some big way, with our own church's missions – the emergency shelter, the Share-1-to-1 Ministry (Clothes Closet), the fish food pantry, Xenia Community Schools Homeless Program.

We might become more aware of our environment and ways to protect it.

Spend some time praying about it - then focus on one thing you can do, and do well.

Whatever your New Year's resolutions may be … Happy New Year.

## The Blessing Jar

One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Every day jot down one thing you're grateful for that day. Encourage every family member to do the same. Save your jottings throughout the year – fill the jar! If you'd like, every week sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

In our ongoing effort to develop shared ministry as we aspire to become a Common Ministry Parish, Mother Lynn and the Vestry will be seeking parishioners who will accept the call to the Pastoral Care ministry. She and the Vestry have decided that it's time to develop this ministry, which has been part of our long-term planning. The work will include hospital, home, and nursing facility visits. Mother Lynn will continue the sacramental work of anointing and what we know as "Last Rites", and will work extensively with this new team in training and education. She'll also continue to do workshops and coffee hour sessions, etc., for the congregation, as well as work with our other ministries.

Pastoral Caregivers

We will begin praying this week for discernment about those in our midst who may be called to take on the ministry of pastoral care among us. With open hearts and minds and spirits, we anticipate the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This team will, in effect, be our church's "Chaplains", and you probably already have some feeling about whom you feel might have the gifts and the call for this ministry. So now we begin praying, and in due time, we will gather to reflect on the discernment we've been given.

## Dates to Remember

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| January 20th | - | Martin Luther King Jr Day |
| February 2nd | - | CECX Annual Meeting |
| February 8th | - | Betsy Kitch Memorial Service |
| February 14th | - | St Valentine's Day |

# 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

## January Birthdays

**03 James Eskridge**
**13 Robert Geyer**
**The Rev Dr Lynn Sinnott**
**23 Maxine Thomas**
**24 Roth Patterson**
**25 Michael Stookey**
**27 JoAnne Earley**

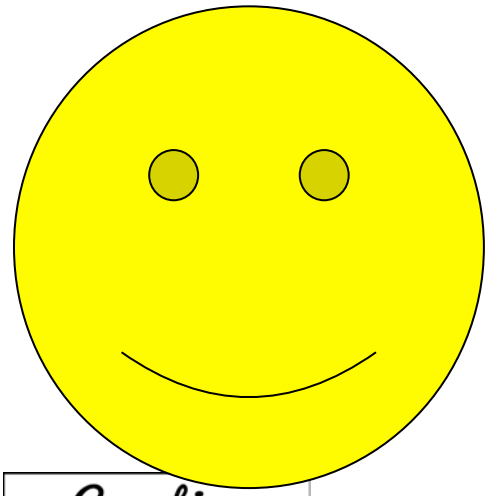
## January Anniversaries

**30 Heidi & Bill Huddleson**

**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

# 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!)

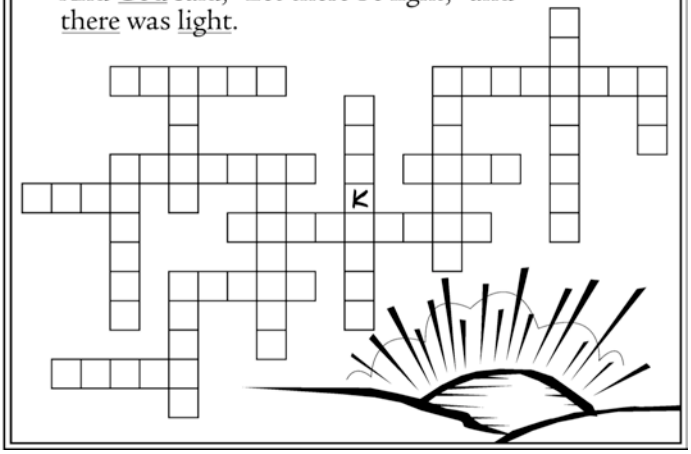
## PUZZLE

## The Beginning

The start of a new calendar year is a great time to praise God for his amazing creation.

**Directions:** Read Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV), below. Place the underlined words into the crossword. One letter has been provided to help you start.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.




## Creation KALEIDOSCOPE

Make this fun craft to remember what our heavenly Creator made.

**What you need:**

- Adult help
- Tall chip can with lid
- Hammer and nail
- Acrylic paint; paintbrush
- Water, glitter, white glue
- Colored tissue paper
- Stronger craft glue (not hot glue)
- Star stickers or sequins
- Two 4" x 5" pieces of clear Con-Tact paper
- Scissors; pencil; permanent marker

**What you do:**

1. In bottom center of can, hammer a hole with a nail. Paint outside of can. Let dry.
2. Add glitter and a little water to white glue. With a clean paintbrush, glue tissue paper to bottom outside of lid.
3. Add stars to sticky side of Con-Tact paper. Place a matching piece on top, sticky sides together.
4. Put craft glue along edge of can opening. Glue Con-Tact paper square over opening. Let dry.
5. Place lid on can, over Con-Tact paper. Turn lid to get kaleidoscope effect.
6. With marker, write "In the beginning ... " on can.

From Newsletternewsletter.com

# Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia

## Service Calendar, January 2014

| Ministry | 1/5/2014 | 1/12/2014 | 1/19/2014 | 1/26/2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Worship Leader | ML | ML | ML | MP-Barb |
| 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, Barb Bonham | Debbie Gillespie Pam Feinour | Ruth Hazel Rick Feinour | ---------- |
| Vestry Member of the Week | Chandra Hightower | Larry Thomas | Mark Cummings | Barb Bonham |

## Service Calendar, February 2014

| Ministry | 2/2 | 2/9 | 2/16 | 2/23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Worship Leader | ML | ML | ML | MP Rick |
| Altar Guild | Ruth, Becky | JoAnne, Tanya | Dana, Becky | Pam, Tanya |
| Lector | Dana | Tommy | Becky | Pete |
| Ushers | Donovans | JoAnne, Doug | Elizabeth, Tommy | Brad, JoAnne |
| Intercessor | Rick | Mark | Dana | Barb |
| Chalice | Kim, Mark | Barb, Pam | Ruth, Debbie | -------- |
| Vestry Member of the Week | JoAnne | Kim | Larry | Mark |

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

From David and Sarah Kitch

# Missionary Report

Dear Precious Friends:

Good Hope!

On this solstice for 2013, we are sorry that we have been so long in communicating. Let's just say it has been a very intense Fall 2013 for us. We are well in God (if a bit weary and frazzled – smile) – and we truly hold each of you in prayer regularly. This is just a short note to say that we really have not forgotten you – nor have we been swallowed up by the ether…

We will send further news in the New Year. Thank you to so many who have asked of late - not hearing for so long.

May you all abide in Deep Grace in this season.

Peace be with you all!

- Sarah & David

Most of you have heard already, but for those who haven't, it is with great sadness I report the passing of two of our congregation this month.

Dr. James Ritter Werner passed away January 5th, 2014 after complications due to chronic leukemia.

Betsy Byrns Kitch passed away January 13th, 2014 in a car accident.

Both of these people will be greatly missed. Please pray for the ones they left behind.

# New Choir Members Welcome!

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

For the Months of December, let's bring:

Cereal and Granola bars

## The Trumpet

*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 January 25th.** Submit information by hand to Tanya or by emailing it to cecxtanya@gmail.com.