

Christ Church Cambridge
The Episcopal Church in
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December 2008 Leaflet

Volume LXXVI, No.10

Letter from the Rector

We are in that time of year again that seems to me to point up just how counter-cultural our Christianity can be. In these days when the Church calls us to quiet preparation for the coming of the Messiah, the culture is calling us to a schedule of activity unparalleled through the rest of the year. While the church calls us, in simplicity, to prepare for a cosmic king who would be born in a stable, the culture tells us that its time to buy everything from a new wardrobe to this year's latest model of triple-headed shaver. Our very humanity is called into question by a culture assuring us that buying its newest product is going to make us healthier, sexier, more successful and more likely to find true love. Conversely, our humanity is lifted to new heights by the very notion that the God who created all things prepares to come to us in human form - no air freshener, no disposable diapers, no plastic toys to hang above the manger, just a human, helpless baby dependent on other humans to survive.

In the past week, we paused from our schedules to give God thanks for all the things we have gotten for ourselves this year. That is appropriate, it was a harvest festival filled of imagery of gleaning and harvesting. But in the wake of that gratitude, I wonder if we ever will think that we have harvested enough, climbed to the life style that befits our position, strolled through the whole mall and come home empty-handed yet satisfied that what we have is a good and gracious plenty.

The call to Advent is a call to watch the darkening sky. There are more night hours in this season than in any other. Our liturgical response in these darkest months of the year is to watch and wait. To say our prayers, to gather with our community, and to look for the first glimmer of that new light which promises to come into the world. That call requires some amount of personal accounting. Questions like, "What gifts have I really used to God's purpose in this quickly

passing year?” “How can I best express my thanks for all the gifts God gives me?” “What sort of welcome will I give the new Messiah in this annual pageant of his birth?” “How will the people who know me, how will my children, parents, spouse, friends, business associates, know that I am a person of Advent?” These questions are the staples of the season for all who truly listen, and in those ears they drown out the drone of the world’s “Come and buy! Come and get!” with a song that angels sang to shepherds saying, “Come and listen!” “Come and see this great thing!” For all the trappings of the season, its greatest gift lies, soon, in a manger, unadorned, holy, and reaching out to us.

Practice Christ’s peace,
Joe+



Advent Wreath Making

On Sunday, November 30 at 9:00a.m., all parishioners are invited to take part in our annual Advent Wreath event in the auditorium. This fun, hands-on event is popular with all ages and features gorgeous greens and ribbons, as well as Advent candles and wire holders for sale at reasonable prices. Readings for families to share during the weeks of Advent are a popular take-home from this gathering. And don't miss the lovely food and music in anticipation of this beautiful season. Would you like to help by baking or in any other way for this festive event? Please contact Jeff at 617-876-0200 X11. We ask that everyone bring some greens from home (your home, not someone else’s!) to share with the group.

“Be An Angel” Program for Cambridge DCF

This year, as part of our commitment to local mission and outreach, Christ Church will participate in the “Be an Angel” program with the Cambridge office of the Department of Children and Families. This program connects organizations with families who need help providing for their children at Christmas time. We will have a list of children and their wishes available. If you are interested in providing for one of these children, please contact Paul Daigneault, Christ Church’s “Be an Angel” coordinator at pauldaigneault@speakeasystage.com.

Abundant Blessings and Christ’s Peace,
Jeff+



Helping Hand Food Pantry

Every Sunday until January, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to the food pantry at St. James’ Episcopal Church in Porter Square. Helping Hand Food Pantry provides groceries and referrals to individuals in need of assistance. They serve between 300 and 400 households each month. The pantry does not have a residency requirement, and serves people living throughout the Greater Boston area. Volunteers are much needed. If you are interested in helping out, please contact at Nina Siciliano at foodpantry@stjames-cambridge.org. Baskets will be in the back of the church to collect your offering. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff at the church office.

Christ’s Peace,
Jeff +

Music Program

EVENSONG FOR ADVENT — Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 p.m.

Our monthly Choral Evensong service this month falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. To mark the flavor of Advent, both the themes and the styles of the music will contrast with our first two services of the program year. The service will begin with an Advent Responsory by Robert Lehman, and the mood of this introit will be reflected throughout the service with Preces and Responses by the same composer. The canticles by Orlando Gibbons, and the anthem by Henry Purcell, will take the 17th-century form known as “verse anthem,” whereby solo sections are answered with choral textures. Advent readings, hymns and prayers will complete the service with Johann Sebastian Bach’s largest prelude and fugue: “The Wedge” in E minor. Please join the growing crowd who choose to start their week with us in this beautiful service of prayer and song, followed by a warm reception in the Library.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS — Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m.

It is time to invite your friends and family to Christ Church for our annual Carol Service. The choirs have been preparing this inspiring offering for many weeks, and we love to share this joyful experience with as much of our community as possible. The Church is always packed for this service, so we recommend coming early to find a good seat well before the preludes begin at 4:50 p.m. This service was made famous by its worldwide broadcast each year from King’s College, Cambridge, England; experiencing it first-hand at Christ Church is the perfect way to prepare for the Christmas Season ahead. The readings recall the prophecies of the coming Messiah, and then tell the story of the birth of the Savior; music includes favorite hymns/carols, in spectacular arrangements, for everyone to sing, as well as carols from the combined choirs. The Handbell Choir will start the preludes, and the Schoenstein Organ will lend its own majesty to the celebration. Candlelight, the chorister solo that begins “Once in royal David’s city,” and a festive reception in the Auditorium afterwards complete the occasion. We look forward to seeing you and all those you invite!

STUART FORSTER’S NEW ORGAN SOLO CD WAS RELEASED ON NOVEMBER 20, 2008. The instrument, specially chosen for this recording, is a 4-manual, 110-rank organ built by Schoenstein & Co. (the same builders who built CCC’s new organ) in 1997 for the reverberant acoustics of First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Three of Stuart’s orchestral transcriptions are featured (familiar pieces by Holst, Vaughan Williams and Beethoven), along with organ music from the United States, Australia, France, Italy, England and Germany. CDs may be purchased directly from the Music Office (or online from Pro Organo, if you prefer to pay shipping!) for \$20.

EVENSONG CHOIR TOUR — Sunday, August 16, 2009

The Christ Church Evensong Choir has been invited to extend its ministry to New York City again next Summer. Saint Thomas Church, on Fifth Avenue at 53rd Street, will welcome us to sing at the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist. For Evensong at 4:00 p.m., we will experience the newly restored Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine (including their divine, newly-renovated organ) on Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street. We are very excited about this mission opportunity, and hope that many of you will join us.

Stuart Forster, Music Director



Emmaus Christmas Party

EMMAUS, THE 20s and 30s MINISTRY will host their Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Library following Evensong. Join us for an evening of fun, food, music, dancing and games. For more info about Emmaus please contact Jerry or Jude at: emmaus.ccc@gmail.com.

Jude and Jerry

Altar Guild News

The Altar Guild started its busy season early this year, serving three glorious weddings with Holy Communion in November. It is always a joy to share in these lovely occasions.

We will have our Advent Saturday Workday on December 13th, from 9:30 until we finish. This is a fun morning where both regulars and those not able to commit to Sunday services polish the silver, the brass plates and candlesticks, clean up wax, and any other housekeeping that needs doing. We welcome your help.

The Greening of the Church will be under the direction of Lois Bennett, who has decorated the sanctuary for the last two years. On Advent IV, we will put on the finishing touches of decoration and install the festival frontal on the altar itself. Be ready to help.

Rosters for December are posted in the Sacristy. There are several extraordinary services to be tended around Christmas and Epiphany.

We extend, as always, an invitation to men, women and older children who are interested in joining us in this holy work. The number of people necessary to serve our busy and growing congregation is large. To learn more and join us, contact Webb Brown or Summer Akimoto.

(webb40@juno.com or 617-923-0057) (summerted@aol.com or 781-391-9891)

Summer Akimoto and Webb Brown



The Wardens' Corner

As we enter into the festive season of Christmas, many wonderful things are planned. On Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. is the annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair, complete with Attic Treasures, the Book Nook, the Food Court, the Children's Arts and Crafts Room, the Fashion Show, the Wreath Sale, and many other delights. The chairs and elves working on the Fair encourage your participation and invite you to bring your neighbors and friends to have fun, shop for gifts, and enjoy lunch together at the Fair. All net proceeds go to local social outreach programs to help those less fortunate than ourselves - which inspires us to make this a marvelous 71st annual Christmas Fair!

On Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m., we enjoy our long time tradition of Lessons & Carols. At this remarkable service, the music complements the lessons in a way that is uplifting and moving, and a wonderful preparation for Christmas in all its joy and mystery. On Sunday, December 21, as part of the 10:15 a.m. service, we will undertake the Greening of the Church, followed by a special coffee hour. A fuller schedule of Christmas season activities may be found elsewhere in this *Leaflet*.

Yet for some people, the joyful season of Christmas can be a difficult time, especially when Christmas brings up memories of tragedy, sadness, or loss. "When Christmas Hurts" is a service to comfort those who have suffered loss – such as of a loved one, of their own health, or of direction in their lives - or for whom Christmas hurts in any way. But it is also a service for those simply seeking peace and serenity in what can be a very stressful time of year. The service is led by lay readers, and is short, quiet, and peaceful. This year, "When Christmas Hurts" will be on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m., in the Library. For further information, or to offer to be one of the lay readers, you may call David or Suzanne Smith at 617-868-5960 or email dsmith@mapping.com.

Eight people from Christ Church attended Diocesan Convention on November 7 and 8 in Hyannis. Several resolutions were adopted, and there was a workshop on green churches that has particular relevance to Christ Church and our own environmental goals. Seth Lancaster and Mimi Truslow, our 2008 Diocesan Delegates, will be telling us more about Diocesan Convention in our next *Leaflet*. Until then, please feel free to talk to your Delegates or check out the Diocesan website at www.diomass.org. Meanwhile we do want to give special recognition to two of our own: Joe Robinson was one of the chief architects of this year's Convention liturgies and Karen Montagno was elected a Clerical Deputy to National Convention. Congratulations to both.

A reminder that this year's Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2009, as part of one morning service that day at 9:00 a.m. Tim Cutler, Mark MacMillan, and Mimi Truslow are serving as our Nominations Committee for Annual Meeting elections. Do be thinking if you would like to run for office, particularly Vestry, or to nominate someone else. Nominations forms will be available at Sunday services and in the church office beginning November 30. The Vestry has once again voted to allow absentee ballots for (and only for) parishioners who are unable to attend Annual Meeting for reasons of mobility limitations or out-of-town travel. More on the Annual Meeting in next month's *Leaflet*.

Save the Date: On Saturday, January 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Christ Church will be offering Safe Church training led by Jeff Mello, who besides being our Assistant Rector is a certified Safe Church trainer. Safe Church training is mandatory for people who work with parish children and recommended for others in special pastoral situations. More about this in our next *Leaflet*.

We continue to have some exciting physical changes around the parish. There is the new sign frame in the front yard, which has already been pressed into service for the Christmas Fair. Do note the new rugs in the library and the office space. In the Rector's Reception Room, French-style doors have turned an underutilized area into storage space for acolyte vestments, which has the added benefit of alleviating a major Sunday morning traffic jam around the hall closet.

It is a wonderful time of year, with much joy but also much activity. May you find peace and rest along with the joy of this Christmas season.

Peace Karen and Sally



On The Rise...

On The Rise, a safe haven for women who are homeless or in crisis, was very pleased to have our latest delivery of fall clothing and especially the toiletries, since we are a principal source for these. Many thanks to all of you who continue to bring in your travel samples of soap and shampoo.

Winter is coming, and the needs at OTR are changing to focus on warm clothing that is especially suited for outdoor wear. Sturdy shoes, scarves, hats, gloves and umbrellas are always in demand. On The Rise tries to make Christmas special for their clients with gifts of cash and new accessories like gloves, scarves, and hats. Gift certificates are also very welcome.

Bring your gifts to the back of the Church on Sunday; during the week they can be left at the office in the basket marked ON THE RISE at the entry to the office. Labels are provided to identify your gifts.

For more information, visit www.ontherise.org or call the donations coordinator Marisa.Curran@ontherise.org at 617-497-7968 x 36 ; or Summer Akimoto at summerted@aol.com , 781-391-9891 for information or pick-up.

Summer Akimoto, Mission Committee

December 19, Deadline for January Leaflet

I would like to thank you all for submitting your articles of parish life, the server's rota and announcements of community activities to the office in such a timely manner for this December Leaflet. As always it is greatly appreciated! The Leaflet's are now created by the Parish Communications Assistant, Zena Link. Please submit your articles to zena@cccambbridge.org no later than **Friday, December 19th**.

Catherine Belcher, Parish Administrator



Compline in December

As we prepare for the coming of Christ during the Advent season, I find myself engaging in prayerful contemplation of my faith and how I express that faith both personally and in community. A lovely tradition in the Episcopal Church that is often overlooked is praying the Order of Compline together. This tradition is said to date back to the early 6th century and is attributed to St. Benedict. In many monastic orders, the order of Compline provides a time of prayerful transition from the end of the workday into The Great Silence, which lasts until morning. While most of our busy days do not offer the opportunity for a Great Silence, Compline does offer a transition into quiet restfulness through the night. Whether this tradition is part of your regular prayer life or something you have never experienced before, please join me on Thursday evenings beginning December 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the choir pews as we recite a spoken Compline. For additional information contact Catherine Belcher at parishadmin@cccambbridge.org

Peace!
Lisa Tatusko, Seminarian



Christmas Flower Memorials

Donations toward the cost of Christmas decorations in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and honor friends while helping with the rising cost of flowers and decorations which do, indeed, add so beautifully to our Holy Season of Christmas at Christ Church. Your generosity is encouraged.

Names will be listed on an insert in the orders of worship for the Sunday preceding Christmas, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Forms to fill out for these donations are available in the pews on Sundays during Advent, and they may also be found at our website (cccambbridge.org) and printed out. These may be placed in the alms basin or mailed to the Parish Office at Zero Garden Street, Cambridge 02138.

The DEADLINE for receiving your donation and for inclusion in the Christmas bulletins is **Monday, December 17** in the Parish Office. For additional information please contact Joyce Penniston at joyce@penniston.com or Poly Cobb at Polyxane@comcast.net.

Poly and Joyce

Christmas Pageant 2008



Dear Christ Church Cambridge Parents,

On Christmas Eve, at the 5:00pm service, we will be holding our annual Christmas Pageant. All children in the parish are encouraged to participate. Here are the opportunities for participation by grade:

Nursery through Grade 4: Children are invited to come to the service dressed as a character from the Gospel story; shepherds, animals, and angels. At the service, the younger children will be invited to follow their lead characters up to the front of the church where they will join the Holy Family, creating a magnificent picture for the congregation. For visiting children who may not have costumes, we'll have extra halos, shepherds' hats and stuffed animals in the back of the church.

Grades 5-8: Youth in these grades will provide the speaking roles for our pageant as lead shepherds and angels. There will be one rehearsal for these roles at 9:00am on the 21st.

Grades 9-12: Our Senior High Youth Group members will provide the narration for the pageant. They will join those in grades 5-8 for the rehearsal on the 21st at 9:00.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 617-876-0200 or jwm@cccbridge.org.

Advent Blessings,



Jeff+

Christmas Fairs A'comin

Bring your family and friends on December 6, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to the 71st Annual Fair. There will be yummy food; activities for kids; music; wreaths; crafts to buy from local artists as well as art work for abroad; book you have been wanting to read and the attic treasures- Oh my! But most of all...it will be fun for all. The money taken in will go out to social outreach projects and organizations in Cambridge. To donate your attic treasures and books to be sold bring them starting today to the lower level of the parish hall. Please, no stuffed animals or clothes. All clothes go to the Thrift Shop. Bring your baked goods on Friday afternoon December 5th or early Saturday morning December 6th. See you at the FAIR!

Christmas Fair Committee

CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, December 7 4:00 p.m.

A beautiful service of prayer, meditation, and music. A reception follows.

HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, December 6 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family and leave with the spirit of the season. The fair benefits the Allocations Committee, which funds local mission projects of the church.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 14 5:00 p.m.

Come and gather for a beautiful evening of Word and song, led by the youth and adult choirs.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 21 After the 10:15 a.m. service

Watch as the children join the Altar Guild to transform the church before your eyes from the expectation of Advent to the joyous celebration of Christmastide.

CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST WITH PAGEANT

Wednesday, December 24 5:00 p.m.

A beautiful service involving every child present in telling the story of the birth of Jesus. Always a favorite make this a must-do part of your family's Christmas tradition.

CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

Wednesday, December 24 11:00 p.m.

Join us for our joyous Festival Eucharist Rite II featuring music of the season with the Christ Church Adult Choir.

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

Thursday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a quieter celebration of Holy Eucharist Rite II with seasonal hymns, lessons and sermon.

Looking Ahead...

12th NIGHT PARTY

Monday, January 5 6:00 p.m.

The season of Christmas lasts twelve days! To mark the end of this festive season, we will throw our second annual 12th Night Party in the parish hall.

For additional information on these events, please contact Jeff at 617-876-0200 or jwm@cccbridge.org.

Check the December Rota for your name!

Below is the December Rota for Lectors, Chalciers, Ushers, and Acolytes. The office staff and volunteers do their best to make courtesy reminder phone calls, this is generally done on Wednesdays. Please, check the rota for your name and write it in your calendar or post it on your refrigerator!

Please remember that if you are unable to serve on the date assigned, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Once you have a replacement, please call your coordinator **and** Catherine Belcher, Parish Administrator (617-876-0200 x10 or parishadmin@cccbridge.org) so that schedules can be updated appropriately. If you can't find a replacement, please contact your group coordinator. The coordinators are: for **Acolytes, Lisa Tatusko (617-876-0200 ext. 18 or LTatusko@cccbridge.org) or Wendy Squires (617-864-3026 or Squires44@aol.com)**; for **Chalice Bearers, Donna Tillotson (617-547-0871 ordhtsings@yahoo.com)**; for **Lectors & Intercessors, Lois Bennett (617-306-7314 or lois@mac.com)**; and for **Ushers, Doris Possi (781-729-3272)**. If you would like to be added to the rota or removed, please contact the appropriate group coordinator.

DECEMBER ROTA

| | | 7-Dec-08 | 14-Dec-08 | 21-Dec-08 | 24-Dec-08 | 28-Dec-08 |
|-------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Second Sunday Of Advent | Third Sunday Of Advent | Fourth Sunday Of Advent | Christmas Eve | First Sunday After Christmas Day |
| 7:45 | Lector | Elizabeth Webb | Mary Beth Clack | Jeff Zinsmeyer | | Shane McCrae |
| | Lector | Lorna Hochstein | Hope Hare | John Clarke | | Jill Herold |
| | Intercessor | Anne Lowell | Lee Born | Donna Tillotson | | Mimi Truslow |
| | | | | | | |
| | CH | Seth Lancaster | Jill Herold | Mimi Truslow | Poly Cobb, Henry Lewis, Peter Lee, | John Clarke |
| | | | | | Seth Lancaster | |
| | | | | | Sharon Stanfill | |
| 10:15 | Lector | David Cooper | Edward Hallowell | Ann Wyman | | Faith Chase |
| | Lector | Gretchen Adams | Sarah Insley | Sarah Insley | | Barbara Worchester |
| | Intercessor | Roberta Hirshon | Gwen Jensen | Tim Groves | | Kathleen Coleman |
| | | | | | | |
| | CH (1) | Jude Harmon | Webb Brown | Sylvia Williams | Jeff Brown | Ellen Brockman |
| | CH (2) | Craig Kelley | Ann Austin | Richard Parker | Webb Brown | Jude Harmon |
| | CH (3) | Samantha Morrison | Peter Lee | Henry Lewis | Richard Parker | Ann Austin |
| | CH (4) | Sharon Stanfill | Donna Tillotsen | Donna Kirven | Mino Sullivan | Samantha Morrison |
| | CH (5) | Jeff Brown | Mino Sullivan | Poly Cobb | Sylvia Williams | Craig Kelley |
| | | | | | | |
| | Server | Jack Hallowell | Solomon Montagno | Mark Lerret | Jack Hallowell | Matthew Lerret |
| | Crucifer | Victoria Cabral | Eleanor Regan | William Austin | Grant Baker | Victor Cabral |
| | Gospel Bearer | Lizzie Cosway | Henry Regan | Rachel Bliss | Lizzie Cosway | |
| | Torch Bearer 1 | Emily Henry | Mary Caroline Regan | Reuben Link | Emily Henry | Ben Costa |
| | Torch Bearer 2 | Colin Lee | Rachel Bliss | Ben Costa | Ross Baker | Reuben Link |
| | H. Usher | David Smith | Doris Possi | Mike Magruder | Karen Mathiasen | Howard Crowell |
| | Usher | Suzanne Smith | Melissa Hirshson | Wendy Kistler | Howard Crowell | Doris Possi |
| | Usher | Sally Kelly | Salim Kabawat | Sue Hallowell | Nancy Sinsabaugh | Ray Walther |
| | Usher | Ralph Greico | Nick Banten | Mike West | Jonathan Austin | Sylvia Williams |

Thank you to all coordinators and volunteers for all your time and talent!

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