

December, Chart

Letter from the Rector

December 1, 2009

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that December has come. It seems as if we were just starting school in early September and here we are looking at winter and Christmas! This edition of the *Chart* is filled with news about the activities of the coming month, so I hope you will either keep the printed copy of the *Chart* or print-out the e-mail edition.

Let me start with Christmas itself and the Sunday that precedes it. Christmas is on a Friday this year and, hence, Christmas Eve is on Thursday. We will have three Christmas services: a Family Eucharist with the children's choir on Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM; a Festival Christmas Eucharist at 8:00 PM, preceded by music at 7:40 PM; and a Christmas Day said Eucharist with carols at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day.

On Advent IV (December 20), the Church School will present their Christmas Pageant (with many live—and well behaved animals) as the 10:00 AM service. There will be no celebration of the Holy Eucharist at that time. There will be celebrations of the Eucharist (with homily) at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Prior to Christmas, there will be a number of special activities. On Monday, December 7 there will be a wreath making morning at the Parish House. Our 'in-house' artists, Debbie Czeglédy and Laura Pavlovich, will lead participants through the wreath making processes. All materials will be supplied. There is a charge of \$15 to cover materials. Further details can be found within the *Chart*, including how you may make reservations for this event. The following Wednesday (December 9) at 7:00 PM the women of Christ Church will have their annual Women's Christmas Dinner. The cuisine will be Greek. The cost is \$20 and attendees are asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament. Reservations may be made by calling the parish office (627-2184). On Tuesday, December 15, the men will have their Christmas dinner. The cuisine will be whatever Father Lowry can think-up to cook and the cost will be \$10. Again, reservations can be made by calling the parish office.

Finally, within the *Chart*, you will find suggested scriptural readings and prayers for Advent. I hope we will find time to prepare our spiritual lives as we also prepare for all the other activities of Christmas.

This comes with my best wishes and hopes that 2009 will be a most blessed Christmas for you and those you love.

Sincerely,

DAVID B. LOWRY, RECTOR

Parish Notes:

Operation Christmas Child a resounding success - Many thanks to the Sunday school teachers, students and all those who supplied the wrapping paper, shoe boxes (empty and full), and the toys and toiletries to fill the boxes. We were able to send out **70 boxes** which is about double what we have sent out in previous years. Thank you all for your generosity.

The Manhasset Arts & Cultural Center, Inc. – All are invited to attend the reading of a Play by Denis McKeown, "The Duchess of the Dakota" on **Sunday, December 6 at 5pm** in the Parish House Auditorium.

Ladies Advent Wreath Making – The date has been changed to **Monday, December 7** to make an advent wreath to share with your family at your own dinner table! Start a new family tradition of candle-lighting and prayers during the season of Advent. Debbie Czeglédy will teach us to make advent wreaths to use as a centerpiece, and Laura Pavlovich will provide the prayers printed on cards. All materials will be provided for a fee of \$15 per wreath. Please RSVP to Laura at 627-3503, Pavlovich.Laura@gmail.com. We only have twenty wreath rings so we will accept RSVP's on a first-come-first-served basis."

Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program - Christ Church will again participate with the Episcopal Community Services Group of the Diocese of Long Island, and has agreed to adopt 10 families. This is a program through which families in need can receive Christmas gifts and is an opportunity to help those in need by sharing what we have. Several families in Christ Church can combine to adopt-a-family. Please call the parish office if you wish to participate. The last day to receive all wrapped, tagged and bundled gifts is, **Tuesday, December 8.**

Women's Dinner

Calling all Christ Church Women, it's time for our annual ornament exchange! On Wednesday, **December 9**, we will be having a women's dinner/ornament exchange at 7pm in the Guild Room. We will be having Greek food and sharing in fellowship as we get ready for Christmas. This is always a great night, filled with fun and laughter. The more the merrier! **The cost is \$20 per person and a wrapped ornament.** Feel free to bring a friend. Please sign up in the back of the church or call the parish office. If you have any questions, please speak to Penny Tadler or Beth Morningstar.

Men's Dinner

Calling all men; not to be outdone by the women there will be a Men's Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00pm at a cost of \$10 per person and the cuisine will be whatever Father Lowry can think up to cook. Please use the sign up sheet in the rear of the church or call the parish office for a reservation.

Christmas Music at Christ Church

Let me begin by first expressing my gratitude on behalf of the entire choir for the positive support and exuberant feedback we have received for the Fauré *Requiem* on All Saints' Sunday. It really was such a tremendous and profound experience for all of us, and we are overjoyed that it had the same effect on the whole Christ Church family. What we do from week to week means nothing without the support of those we seek to inspire spiritually through music in liturgy. As we begin a new liturgical year with the onset of Advent, I urge everyone to mark their calendars for the upcoming Christmas services. On **Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) at 5:00 P.M.**, we will be having a slightly more informal Family Eucharist with the Building of the Crèche, telling of the Christmas story for children and singing of traditional Christmas carols. This service will be led by the Christ Church Chapel Choir, directed jointly by Laura Pavlovich and Andrew Yeargin. The Chapel Choir will also perform the "Nativity Carol" of John Rutter. At **8:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve**, a more formal celebration of the Incarnation of Our Lord will take place as a Festival Choral Eucharist, led by the Christ Church Chancel Choir. The mass will be sung from the *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* of Joseph Haydn, also known as the "Kleine Orgelmesse" (in English: "Little Organ Mass"). The exquisitely beautiful "Benedictus" of the Haydn *Missa Brevis* will feature soprano soloist Hannah Fuerst. Festive arrangements of Christmas carols by Sir David Willcocks and Richard Elliott for organ, strings, choir and congregation will be sung, and the choral anthems will include "On this day Earth shall ring" by H.C. Stewart, as well as "The Christmas Lullaby" and "What Sweeter Music?" by John Rutter. For those who still can't get enough Christmas music, come back on **Friday, December 25 (Christmas morning) at 10:00 A.M.** for a Rite II celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the singing of carols with organ. But don't wait until Christmas to hear beautiful music! Come hear some of the wonderful Advent hymns and choral works on Sundays as we enter this season of reflection and preparation. On Sunday, December 6, the choir will be singing "How lovely are the messengers" from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *Saint Paul* and "Keep your lamps," a rousing spiritual by Andre Thomas accompanied by Conga drums. The following week, the choir will sing parts of the Advent portion of Handel's *The Messiah*, featuring tenor soloist Brian D. Harris ("Ev'ry valley shall be exalted"), baritone soloist Vaughn Fritts ("But who may abide the day of his coming?") and chorus ("And the glory of the Lord").

Once again, I thank you for your continuing efforts to support the choral music program at Christ Church, and this is surely to be a most splendid holiday season! I wish you all a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Andrew H. Yeargin, M.Mus., Director of Music & Organist

From the Rector's Reading Desk

It has been a while since I shared with you what I have been reading. That is partially because I have been preparing a new course to teach in the upcoming term at the Seminary (*Religion and Human Rights*) and there has been less time for general reading. However, there are a few books I have been dipping into that may be of interest to some of you. The first is Margaret Visser's *The Gift of Thanks: Origins and*

Rituals of Gratitude. Ms. Visser wrote a similar type of book *The Rituals of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities, and Meaning of Table Manners* in 1991. Both books are worth a read. I would also suggest a book I re-read almost every Advent. It is Stephen Nussbaum's *The Battle for Christmas: A Cultural History of America's Most Cherished Holiday*. The history of Christmas is complex and the unique traditions of Christmas in America are filled with unexpected twists and turns.

The other books I have been reading deal with economics and ethics. The most unexpected is Harold James' *The Creation and Destruction of Value: The Globalization Cycle*. James, a professor of history and international affairs at Princeton makes the case that globalization (and our inability to control the complexities of globalization) is at the root of the major economic crises of the 19th through the 21st centuries. He sees the stock market crash of 1929 as a local and unimportant event in comparison to the banking and economic melt-down that occurred in Europe in 1931 and moved around the world, plunging most nations into deep depression. His arguments are impressive and thought provoking. More economically mainstream is Robert Skidelsky's *Keynes: The Return of the Master*, a defense of Keynesian economics in our time of economic uncertainty. In the area of ethics I am working my way through Amartya Sen's *The Idea of Justice* and Michael Sandel's *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* Both Sandel and Sen teach at Harvard and Sandel's book is based on his most popular course at Harvard.

Advent Readings

Advent is a great time to do reading from scripture and to take-up some prayer-discipline. This year I suggest the Old Testament readings from the Daily Office.

Tuesday, December 1 Amos 3:1-11
Wednesday, December 2 Amos 3:12-4:5
Thursday, December 3 Amos 4:6-13
Friday, December 4 Amos 5:1-17
Saturday, December 5 Amos 5:1-17
Sunday, December 6 Amos 6:1-14
Monday, December 7 Amos 7:1-9
Tuesday, December 8 Amos 7:10-17
Wednesday, December 9 Amos 8:1-14
Thursday, December 10 Amos 9:1-10
Friday, December 11 Haggai 1:1-15
Saturday, December 12 Haggai 2:1-9
Sunday, December 13 Amos 9:11-15
Monday, December 14 Zechariah 1:7-17
Tuesday, December 15 Zechariah 2:1-13
Wednesday, December 16 Zechariah 3:1-10
Thursday, December 17 Zechariah 4:1-14
Friday, December 18 Zechariah 7:8-8:8
Saturday, December 19 Zechariah 8:9-17
Sunday, December 20 Genesis 3:8-15
Monday, December 21 Zephaniah 3:14-20
Tuesday, December 22 1 Samuel 2:1b-10
Wednesday, December 23 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Thursday, December 24 Baruch 4:36-5:9

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
AT
CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 20th at 10 a.m.

Pageant with the Children of Christ Church

Christmas Eve, December 24th at 5 p.m.

A Family Eucharist and Building of the Crèche

Christmas Eve, December 24th at 8 p.m.

A Festival Choral Eucharist with Music for Organ & Strings
Prelude music to begin at 7:40pm

Christmas Day, December 25th at 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Traditional Carols

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Happy Birthday!!

We are pleased to congratulate these friends and parishioners this month on their birthdays...

Elaine Phillips, Marshall Montford, Clayton Tadler, Randy Wolfram, Beth Morningstar, Kathleen McGill, Austin Bennett, Valerie Siener, Katherine Stackler, Kelly Whalen, Tom Chaly Jerome Blocker, Elizabeth Pavlovich.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries for this month... William and Valerie Siener.

SUNDAY READINGS AND ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 6, 2009

Baruch 5:1-9; Canticle 4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 13, 2009

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Altar flowers are given in memory of Kenneth Rider & Ellen Rider Meath
by Janet Rider

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 20, 2009

Micah 5:2-5; Canticle 3; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-38
Pageant with the Children of Christ Church at 10am

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2009

Family Eucharist - 5:00pm

2 Samuel 7:1-16; Psalm 96; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:67-79

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2009

Festival Choral Eucharist - 8:00pm

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day - December 25, 2009*

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 27, 2009

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

**A Christmas offering envelope is enclosed for your convenience
or you may pick one up in the rear of the church.*

Calendar for the Month of December

Tuesday, December 1	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Wednesday, December 2	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	Office
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:45 AM	Sunshine Ministry	Parish House
	7:30 PM	Adult Education	Parish House
		<i>The First and Second Books of Samuel</i>	
Thursday, December 3	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Friday, December 4	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Saturday, December 5			
Sunday, Dec. 6/2Advent	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist and Church School	Church
Manhasset Arts Center		Senior & Junior Youth Groups	Parish House
	5:00 PM	Reading	Parish House
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
Monday, December 7	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Advent Wreaths	Parish House
Tuesday, December 8 <i>Deadline for Adopt-a-Family</i>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
		<i>All gifts must be wrapped & tagged</i>	
Wednesday, December 9	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	Office
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:45 AM	Sunshine Ministry	Parish House
	7:00 PM	Women's Dinner	Parish House
		<i>Ornament Exchange</i>	
	7:30 PM	Adult Education	Parish House
		<i>The First and Second Books of Samuel</i>	
Thursday, December 10	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Friday, December 11	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Saturday, December 12			
Sunday, Dec. 13/3 Advent	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist and Church School	Church
		Senior & Junior Youth Groups	Parish House
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
Monday, December 14	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Tuesday, December 15	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	7:00 PM	Men's Dinner	Parish House

Wednesday, December 16	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:45 AM	Sunshine Ministry	Parish House
	7:30 PM	Adult Education	Parish House
	<i>The First and Second Books of Samuel</i>		
Thursday, December 17	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Friday, December 18	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Saturday, December 19	12:00 PM	Rehearsal for Pageant	
Sunday, Dec. 20/4 Advent <i>Christmas Pageant</i>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	10:00 AM	Christmas Pageant by Church School	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
Monday, December 21	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:00 AM	Decoration of Church	
	7:45 PM	Vestry Meeting	Parish House
Tuesday, December 22	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Wednesday, December 23	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	Office
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:45 AM	Sunshine Ministry	Parish House
Thursday, December 24	5:00 PM	Family Eucharist and Building of the Crèche	Church
Christmas Eve <i>Prelude music to begin at 7:40pm</i>	8:00 PM	Festival Choral Eucharist Music for Organ & Strings	
Friday, December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Traditional Carols	Church
Saturday, December 26			
Sunday, Dec. 27/1 Christmas Holy Family	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
Monday, December 28	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Tuesday, December 29	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Wednesday, December 30	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel

Thursday, December 31
New Year's Eve

7:00 AM

Morning Prayer

Chapel

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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC FORMS FOLLOWING:

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through the gift of altar flowers, please fill out this form and place it, along with your check (designated Altar Guild/Christmas Flowers), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1355 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 10030.

My offering is

"In loving memory of..."

- or -

"In thanksgiving for..."

Given by:

All offerings for Christmas flowers must reach the church office no later than Wednesday, December 16th. Please provide a separate check for flowers and/or music. Many thanks for your cooperation.

(See reverse for **Christmas Music** contributions)

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through donations for special music, please fill out this form and place it, along with your check (designated Christmas Music), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1355 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 10030.

My offering is

"In loving memory of..."

- or -

"In thanksgiving for..."

Given by:

All offerings for Christmas music must reach the church office no later than Wednesday, December 16th. Please provide a separate check for music and/or flowers. Many thanks for your cooperation.

(See reverse for **Christmas Flower** contributions)