

The Grateful Heart

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
December 2011 N E W S L E T T E R

A New Neighbor?

My family and I have lived in our house nineteen years this month. We've seen a lot happen in our neighborhood in these almost two decades. There are the neighbors who have lost loved ones over the years; friends across the street whose son once babysat for our children when they were younger, who is now successful in business in another part of the country, and who in between served in Iraq; the family around the corner whose daughter's wedding we attended. The house next door has a bunch of young children, and it's sweet to hear them playing outside. And, of course, we've seen old neighbors move out and new neighbors arrive.

All the normal neighborhood stuff...

And now, it is again Christmas and we have a new friend moving into the neighborhood. He always does this time of year.

The Christmas Story is found in Luke. We hear that story read every year on Christmas Eve. But the commentary on the Christmas Story is found in John. John begins his gospel this way: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth..."*

There's a delightful idiom in these words that begin John's gospel. The word translated as "dwell" is the word "skanoo." While "dwell" is an acceptable translation, the sense of the word is "to pitch one's tent." Jesus, the Word of God, comes, John writes, and pitches his tent among us; sets up shop; moves into the neighborhood.

Christmas is coming, and we will celebrate many meaningful truths. Among them is that God moves into the neighborhood. The God who created all takes on human flesh, becomes human, and declares that the Truth of the Gospel is not about what we do to get to God but that God has already come to us.

And moved into the neighborhood.

As the people of God, we declare that Jesus came to the entire world because of the greatness of God's love; that God's intent is restoration, transformation, and wholeness for everyone. The place where God is moving, where God's grace and power comes to rest, is everywhere...including the lane, or court, or terrace where we live. God comes to sanctify—to make holy—not just some places, but all places. Where we live...where we find ourselves...those are the places where God's redeeming and rectifying work is happening; those are the places declared sacred by the Lord born in Bethlehem. The Word becomes flesh and sets up his household in every neighborhood throughout the world to bring all the peoples, all the nations, each and every person, into God's arms and then send us back into the world for which he came. Good News for all...

We worship on Christmas Eve at 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, and 9:30. We hope you'll be with this community to give God thanks for being among us. We invite you, also, to invite a friend. And then, when we arrive home afterwards...maybe after worship, maybe after dinner somewhere else, maybe after a drive around town to look at the lights...remember where we live; consider the homes and apartments that surround us; consider our own home or apartment; and take heart and rejoice. For Emmanuel has moved in. That is for sure, because of Christmas.

I bid you and your neighbors a blessed Christmas, filled with hope and joy and peace and every good gift...

Paul



Prepare the way

...Isaiah 40:3

God has blessed Christ Church with many gifts and is preparing us individually and together to fulfill his Purpose. One way we prepare is to collectively and systematically work to discern our Call. To guide that discernment process the Vestry has formed a team called Christ Church at 21. The team's purpose is to develop and execute a process to help us envision our future as we approach 21 years of age, in 2014.

The team is planning a structured multi-channel approach to gather input from everyone who wants to be heard. This will include members of Christ Church as well as people from the wider Short Pump community.

There are 3 listening sessions scheduled: February 7 (7:00 pm), February 26 (4:00 pm) and March 10 (9:00 am). Childcare will be provided.

Each of us is invited to attend one of these sessions to share our thoughts.

Preparation is on our hearts and minds during this Advent season. More details will follow soon, but for now we ask that you add to your preparations by marking your calendar to attend one of the sessions and plan to join the conversation!

Christ Church at 21 Team

Libby Bush
Amy Goodman
Rick Golembeski
Marc Halbritter
Kimberly Kimball

Laura Lafayette
Sarah Morgan
Ken Royston
Karen Soule
Brock Vaughn



Saturday, December 17 5:30 pm



Our Heart's Hero is a Christian pop rock band founded in 2004. The release of their first Christmas album will correspond with a supporting nation-wide tour, entitled "The Good Tidings GiveAway Tour"

Coming to Christ Church
Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 pm
Everyone who comes gets a free CD

The admission price is: canned food for the
Central Virginia Food Bank

Haiti Mission Trip

Planning has begun for our next mission trip to Haiti, March 2-9
If you are interested, please contact [Frank Blake](#) (910-398-7150)

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University is a 13 week life- changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life.

The course includes active participation, NOT a lecture. This fun and entertaining program includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth and giving like never before. Fee for the course is \$100 which is payable at the first class. (This includes all the materials needed to complete the course.)

Class will meet on Sunday evening (5:00 -7:00 pm) beginning January 15, 2012.

Childcare is provided. Questions? You can contact [Alex Bolin](#) (379-8392).

Ready to register? You can do that on the Christ Church website.

www.christchurchrichmond.com

Pastoral Care Ministry

Help for those in need

Lydia's Purse and the Clergy Discretionary Fund are tender and discrete ministries of Christ Church specifically set up to serve those in great need. The monies given by our congregation for this ministry are delegated by our clergy. Last year, these funds dispersed over \$35,000.

We ask again that you give generously to these funds so that Christ Church may continue to be a beacon of hope in our community.

If you wish to contribute, your check can be made out to *Christ Church*.

Please indicate in the memo line which fund you wish to support.

Find us on

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

<http://www.facebook.com/christchurchrichmond>



Christ Church

Giving Tree

To benefit Hope & Resurrection Secondary School, Atiaba, South Sudan



Suggested Gift Amount

\$35 buys school lunch for one student for a month.

\$50 buys school supplies for 2 students for the entire school year.

\$75 buys one set of textbooks

Hope for Humanity is a registered 501 (c)3 organization

If you would like to give the gift of HOPE this year:

Please stop by the tree located in the Milling Area.

Choose your ornament and place your check in the box under the tree or mail to:

*Hope for Humanity, Inc. P.O. Box 29117
Richmond, VA 23242.*

Ornaments made by students. Each student chose the design and personalized the ornament with favorite Bible verse and signature.

2012 Pledge Update

We have received 302 financial pledges for a total of \$991,617. This represents 90% of the total pledge dollars needed to maintain current programming levels.

If you are yet to complete your pledge for 2012, you may pick up pledge cards in the Milling Area or check the Christ Church website for online pledging

Growing for the Generations Update

Total Pledges paid through	October 31st	\$1,342,107
Total Campaign Pledges		\$1,607,052
Percent Complete		84%
October Collections		\$47,463

If you have a pledge that has not been fulfilled, please consider fulfilling that pledge as soon as possible (but not later than the end of the year).

If you did not pledge but witness the value that our new buildings bring to our community, please consider making a contribution.

Checks should be made out to Christ Church with G4G (Growing for the Generations) in the memo line.

If you would like to donate stock or have other questions, please contact Kathy Nunn (k.nunn@christchurchrichmond.com) or Kathy Rogers (k.rogers@christchurchrichmond.com) in the church office

Advent Candle Lighting



During the season of Advent and Christmas, each Christ Church Worship service begins with an intimate lighting of the Advent Wreath, symbolizing the gradual dawning and coming of Hope, who is Jesus, the Light of the World.

This lighting is done by households of the congregation. We invite you to participate in this lighting whether your household is made up of one person or many more. There are 17 services from the beginning of Advent to Christmas Day. We hope that you will help us and sign up for a service.

Thank you for helping!

Sign up on the Christ Church website
www.christchurchrichmond.com

The Family Support Ministry of Christ Church Presents:

Parenting Beyond Your Capacity Small Group Discussion

Book By: Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof



Engage your family in a bigger story, a story that involves more than just your family - one that involves other influences who are on a journey to discover why a relationship with God really matters. We want to encourage you to establish a lifestyle as a parent in which you...

- Invite others to invest in your children so your sons and daughters have other voices that will help shape and determine the direction of their lives.
- Create a culture of unconditional love to fuel the emotional and moral health of your children.
- Tap into the power of quality moments together, building a sense of purpose through everyday experiences.

Childcare provided

Sunday Nights

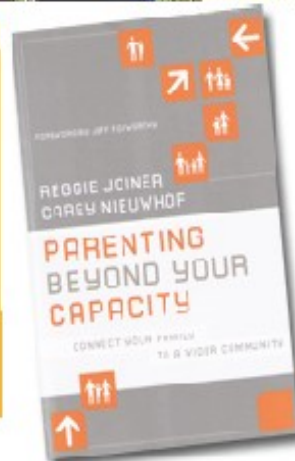
4-5:30 PM

Jan 8,

Feb 12,

March 18

\$15 per couple



Register online at

www.christchurchrichmond.com

by December 18th

Questions? Contact:

Elizabeth Franklin

804.986.6662

elizabethd.franklin@verizon.net

Casey Torrence

804.370.3565

caseytorrence@gmail.com

This isn't a self-help book. It's a get-help book. It's about how you can increase your parenting capacity by connecting with available resources, some of which you know about and some you might not.

Roman Family: Christmas Request

Christ Church has been working with this family, a single mother with 6 children from Eritrea, Africa, for the past year helping them to become more independent and to adjusting to living here in the US.

We would like to help this family with Christmas again this year. We are looking for people to offer their help with (1) providing gifts and/or (2) helping to teach the children to shop for each other. Please let me know if you would be able to help (Betsy Gallagher pfgmiami@aol.com or 708-0645 or 337-7015)

Our plan is to provide an outfit for each child, a toy or two for each child, and assist them with purchasing a gift for one of the siblings that they have drawn a name for. We have all the sizes and list of toys that each child has requested. They were given parameters on the value of what they could ask for so everything is very affordable. Again we are teaching them how to be independent and what will be realistic when they are on their own.

It has been a wonderful year and many things have been accomplished to include relocating them into a safe neighborhood with access to everything and enrolled in great schools. The children are doing well in school and we are continuing our tutoring efforts. Roman, the mother, has been working since July and that is going well. We are continuing to support them in many ways such as subsidizing their rent, teaching Roman to drive, speak English, read and write, provide tutoring to the children, helping with all of their medical needs, providing transportation, mentoring the oldest two boys, and various other things.

Thanks,
Betsy Gallagher
pfgmiami@aol.com
708-0645 or 337-7015

Vestry Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the next vestry class. Elections will occur at the annual congregational meeting on January 29, 2012. Those elected will serve a three year term.

If there is someone you feel would represent Christ Church in this important role, please secure their permission, then submit their name to Jan Modlinski at the church office. The deadline for nominations will be Sunday, December 18th

Kids Quest: a reminder

No Kids Quest on
Christmas Day, December 25
and
New Years Day, January 1

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



Prayer....just do it.

winter parish retreat
January 13-14 2012

Join Christ Church for a retreat and teaching time the evening of Friday January 13 & the morning of Saturday January 14.

The adult portion of the retreat will be led by
Brother Geoffrey Tristram,
Superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist.

The children's portion of the retreat will be led by
Rebecca Guzman and the
Children's Ministry Team of Christ Church.

Brother Geoffrey returns to Christ Church to continue teaching on prayer. Prayer is something that can be done by anyone, anytime. In his gentle, humorous style, Brother Geoffrey seeks to encourage us to pray, gives us tips on prayer and helps us practice praying together and alone.



Register at
Christ Church website.
www.christchurchrichmond.com

Year To Date Financial Results As Of 10-31-11

P & L Summary

	Actual Results Through October	Budgeted Through October	Difference	Full Year 2011 Budget
Pledge Income	\$787,585	\$818,683	-\$31,098	\$1,049,024
Non-Pledge Income	\$302,423	\$111,015	\$191,408	\$173,500
Total Income	\$1,090,008	\$929,698	\$160,310	\$1,222,524
Total Expenses	\$1,023,870	\$1,047,221	-\$23,351	\$1,274,428
Surplus/Deficit	\$66,138	-\$117,523	\$183,661	-\$51,904
Total Cash and Investments	\$1,085,731			
Construction Loan Balance	\$326,038			

Total income through October 31th is \$160,310 more than the budget. In September the church received several large gifts in addition to non-pledge income being consistently higher than the budgeted amount all year (Non pledge income is all gifts received not associated with a pledge). Expenses are under budget by \$23,351 primarily because some ministry teams will spend their allocations later in the year than anticipated in the budget.

Total cash on hand includes proceeds from the sale of the land to the County of Henrico, temporarily restricted cash and unrestricted cash. Unrestricted cash available for operations is \$239,756. Temporarily restricted cash is gifts received where the donor has specified a specific purpose for the gift.

The construction loan is related to the Growing for the Generations Campaign. Gifts received to fulfill Growing for the Generations pledges are being used to make payments on this loan.

Food bank collection on October 1st and 2nd was \$732

Thank you for your support of Christ Church and our ministries which allows all of us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.

David Latham, Treasurer david.latham@comcast.net

Server Schedule: Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2011		1:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm	9:30pm
Acolytes S1 S2 J1 J2 J3 Acolyte Master Lay Worship Leaders FR PP Chalicers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Bread Distributors Bread Baker Greeters Ushers Altar Guild Vestry Person Sound Board/ Computer	Cullen Dolson Shajun Chappelle TBA Sahana Tharakan Rhiannon Kennedy <i>Sheryl Will</i> Bill Vanderkloot Ryan Baldwin Page Gravelly Sharon Fairbanks Mason Harper Tom Tyler Tammy Poore Chelley Kennedy Bill Barney Pam Board Jen Wasik Harper Barney Judi Thomas Patrick Stott Tricia Williams Joe Gallagher Deborah Pierce TBA Tricia Williams Beth Pemberton Grayson & Revere Johnson, Debbie Bornholdt Dutch Bumgardner Elizabeth Noftsinger TBA TBA TBA Barbara Slate Andy Hagy Tim Dunkum, Joe Wiertel Miles Dunkum	James Sylvester Carsten deWolff Barrett Goode Brady Goode A.C. Robertson <i>Jennifer Robertson</i> Jeanne Bowles Libby Bush Judy Heppert Adair Roper Sue D'Alessandro Paul Board Kevin Kinter Jen Sullivan Jeanne Bowles Libby Bush Susan Darden Barry Hayes Addison Jones Chris Robertson John Napier Carol Napier Doug Elliott Amy Goodman Gale Hawes Pam Board Bob & Sara Watts, Lisa & Theo dewolff, Betsy & Pete Gallagher, Mike Heppert David Clark Carol Napier John Daylor Tim & Miles Dunkum, Brian Sullivan	Kathleen Kelso Brittany Anderson TBA Leigh Rogers Sierra Loudermilk <i>Charles Moncure</i> Dan Summey John Franklin Dan Summey Ken Royston Dave Soule Linda Walton Barry Hayes Deborah Pierce Tammy Poore TBA TBA TBA TBA Joe Gallagher John Franklin Elaine Champion Marc Halbritter Betsy Gallagher Carie Kuzemchak Steve Foster Deborah Pierce Harry Handshaw David & Ellie Bremer TBA TBA TBA Cynthia Oliver Bill Beattie Lee Bowles Rich & Richard Eberheim	Danile Jagdmann <i>TBA</i> Mac Thayer Lynn Edwards Mac Thayer Mike Kennedy Susan Kennedy Lynn Edwards Brock Vaughn Shawn Dunham Gray Glass Jim Heck Pete Dysko Susan Ann Glass Susan Ann Glass Lee Heck Sharon & Jeff Jahn, Amanda & Tyler Jahn Tracie & Brandon Presley Janis Todd Tom McNally Aaron Todd, Warren Swanson	

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*Christmas Worship
Schedule*

Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24

Services will be held at:

1:30 pm

4:00 pm

6:30 pm

9:30 pm

Christmas Day, Sunday December 25

There will be ONE service at 10:00 am

www.christchurchrichmond.com

Christ Church Episcopal
5000 Pouncey Tract Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

December 2011 Rev. 12/6/11	December 4		December 11		December 18		
	9:00AM	10:45AM	9:00 AM	10:45 AM	9:00 AM	10:45 AM	
S1 J1 J2 J3 Acolyte Master Lay Worship Leaders	Haley Bunting Brady Goode Kristen Lafayette	Carsten deWolff Tyler Phillips Drew Anderson	James Sylvester Sahana Tharakan A.C. Robertson	Stephen White Phillip Crump Anna Phares'	Daniel Jagdmann Mee Shan Bright Morgan Castelano	Kathleen Keiso Sierra Loudermilk Leigh Rogers	TBA Rhiannon Kennedy Connor Watkins
Chalicers	Greg Phillips Jen Rose Denise Fergusson Chris Robertson Laura Lafayette Kay Holmes Pam Board Kim Fergusson Melinda Hancock Jen Rose Robert Nicol	Margaret Crews Marc Halbritter Tammy Poore Rick Rowland Diane Muska Susan Darden Jen Wasik Tricia Williams Margaret Crews Lee Muckey	Jennifer Robertson Laura Lafayette Steve Barnett Bill Beattie Steve Barnett Barry Hayes Chris Schools Laura Lafayette Kevin Kinter Steve Foster Nancy Rieckmann	Tom Tyler Harry Keiso Tom Tyler Adair Roper Shawn Dunham Jeanne Bowles Mary Pettitt Sue D'Alessandro Harry Keiso Rebecca Guzman	Charles Moncure Brock Vaughn Libby Bush Libby Bush Judy Heppert Laura Corkran Susan Manning Bill Manning Joe Jagdmann Margaret Crews Amy Goodman		Sheryl Will Michele Damasco Doug Elliott Ed Rokita John Franklin
Bread Distributor	Paul / Barbara John Napier Carol Napier Christine Turner	Marc Halbritter Joe Gallagher Carmen Lawton	Barbara Marques D. Elliott, A. Jones T. Nicholson Jon Fairbanks	Gray & Susan Glass John Franklin Ryan Baldwin	Paul / Barbara Jim Heck Lee Heck Betsy Gallagher		Paul / Barbara Brock Vaughn Elaine Champion Tricia Williams
Bread Baker (2 loaves)	Holly Borden/Coordinator Lin & Carol Bottoms, Bob Watts, Kammy Hambrick, Lisa Radez		Jim Sowers & Jeanne Walker/Coordinators Beth Pembleton, Jenn Sarych Judi Goldnetz		Laura Armour & Gary Farrar/Coordinators B.J. Duerson, Valerie Walls, Laura Debusk		
Tellers	Knys Meier Fred Shultz Tom Valiquett	Mike & Judy Heppert, Gary & Michelle Farrar	John & Carol Napier, Tom Valiquett	Tom Valiquett Shelly Putney	Pete & Betsy Gallagher, John Kent		
Greeters / Hosts	Harry Handshaw/Head Anne & Martin Atwood Kelley Handshaw Deborah Pierce	Mike Nelligan/Head Ron Andrews Dutch Bumgardner Lisa Loudermilk Judy & Kevin Bunting	Steve Foster/Head Mike Barnett, Don Miles, TBA & TBA Chris School	Darryl Ernst/Head Cathy & Harry Keiso Andy Hagy William Barney	Doug Elliott/Head Mindy Elliott Bob & Barbara Slate David Clark		
Ushers	Gerry Escalera	Carla Beattie	Lee Heck	Cynthia Oliver	Jay Theado/Head Deborah Bornholdt Richard Burke, Gray Glass Jonathan Hawes George Walls		Kay Holmes
Altar Guild					Elaine Marionteill Linda Anderson		
Vestry Person	Lee Heck				Marilyn Wayland		Elizabeth Franklin
Activity Bags	Susan Schools		Christine Frei	Claire Gallagher	Lee Bowles, Joe Wiertel		Robbi Schleicher
S. Board/ Computer			Lee Bowles, Lin Merritt	Lee Bowles, Mike Dunn	Warren Swanson, Peter Andrews		TBD