

The Grateful Heart

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
January 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Christ Church Friends,

Happy New Year! It's a luscious time of year, filled with a sense of newness. Certainly, it is still winter; still dark; still, sometimes, cold. But it's also true that a new time has begun, a new year has started, filled with new opportunities. "I am about to do a new thing," the Lord says in Isaiah (Is. 43:19) and "Behold, I make all things new" wrote John the Revelator (Rev. 21:5).

I want to share with you some things happening this month for Christ Church, and ask you to participate. The work and service we do is a common work and service. God has not given it to us individually, but as a people. God has placed us together because we need one another, and what each of us brings forward. So I urge you to participate in some significant actions of our common life.

Special congregational meetings after each of the worship services this weekend, January 8 & 9. As you know, we have been in negotiations with Henrico County for quite some time around the transfer of the property necessary to build the North Gayton Road. We have come to what we believe is fruitful closure to these negotiations. After each of the worship services on January 8 & 9 we the Vestry will present the offer to the congregation, and according to the canons of the Episcopal Church ask for our consent. We believe it to be both a just and generous conclusion to these conversations, one which will allow us to make the improvements necessary to make the fullest use possible of the North Gayton Road and leave us with a tidy sum to be used to help God's will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Participate in the Vibrant Stewardship Program survey, available later this month. Please read the letter included in last week's email blast explaining this program more fully. We are grateful to have been chosen to participate in this ministry; for the opportunity to learn more about ourselves and to be a teaching people. Again, the link to the survey will go on the Christ Church website January 15th, and be available through February 15th.

The Big Read begins again the weekend of January 15th & 16th. We pick up again our study of the Gospel According to Luke. We'll be teaching on Luke in worship. Study opportunities on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and throughout the week will be available. We enter this study together that we might be more fully grounded in the Gospel as we imagine the new ministry and service God has in store for us. So we invite you to be present for the teaching; and we especially invite you to participate in one of the small groups studying Luke together.

Annual Congregational Meeting on Friday, January 28th. Each year, we meet as a congregation to hear where we've been and consider the future God has in store. This year, the congregational meeting is being held on a Friday evening. Ministry to children will be available throughout the evening. At the meeting we will hear about the spending plan for 2011; elect five new Vestry members; and hear some of what lies before us in 2011. Please plan to be with Christ Church for this important time.

Again, a blessed New Year to you. I leave you with this New Year's Prayer:

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows: We praise you for your greatness. Thank you for the year behind us and the year ahead. In all things, we give you thanks.

Help us in your New Year to fret less and laugh more; to teach others to smile by smiling more; to teach others to love by loving more. After all, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, he came for us; that Love could be with us, and we could know you, and share Love with others.

Help us, Lord, to hear your love song in the sunrise, in the chirping of the birds, and in the stories of the wise and fantasies of the children. When we are hurried, help us to stop, look, and listen. Thank you for making every day a new one, with new opportunities. We pray for your peace that knows no understanding.

Forgive us for falling short. Give us grace to leave the past in the past, and trust you with our future.

We accept your gift of a new year and rejoice in what's ahead, trusting in you to reveal to us your will and give us the grace to act upon it.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say Rejoice" writes your Apostle. So we do. In your most holy Name we pray. Amen.

Paul

January 5, 2010

Dear Friends,

As I write this message on Epiphany Eve, I'm reminded that it is Epiphany, twelve days following Christmas when the wise men follow the bright shining star to the manger where the Christ child rests. Upon seeing the child, they were filled with delight. To put it more bluntly, they were *thrilled to bits!* Epiphany means, awareness, enlightenment, made known. You may be looking for a way to become more thoroughly aware of the Episcopal Church and Christ Church; to be more enlightened about how and why we worship the way we do; to know how the church shows us the way of Jesus. In this season of Epiphany, come, to ***Learning the Episcopal Church.***

This is a four-week offering for those adults who would like to be baptized into the Church or Confirmed, Received or Reaffirmed into the Episcopal Church. Primarily a lecture format with question and answer time, led by the clergy, this broad over view of the Episcopal Church will give you a thirst to know more about our tradition, and start you on the journey of practicing living with Jesus as the center!

Bishop Shannon S. Johnston will be with us May 7-8, 2011. Should you wish to be baptized into the church, confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church, you'll want to take Learning the Episcopal Church and receive laying on of hands from Bishop Johnson at 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. May 8. Or, if you're simply in the need of a refresher, Learning the Episcopal Church is for you. May you be *thrilled to bits* as you learn and grow in walking with Christ and being the church.

Please, plan to attend and participate in this four week session. Child care will be available. We'll spend time learning from one another and growing in our faith. You're welcome to contact Becky Hansell at bhansell@verizon.net or 270-1395 to let us know you'll be with us. I'm looking forward to our time together.

Blessings,

Hillary T. West

Learning the Episcopal Church

4 Sundays (5:00-6:30 p.m.)

January 30 – The Story of the Episcopal Church

February 13 – The Book of Common Prayer

February 20 – Our Worship: Baptism/Eucharist

February 27 – The Culture and Structure of the Episcopal Church

Contact Becky Hansell to register.
(bhansell@verizon.net or 270-1395)

Mens Advance

*Please join us for the
Fourth Annual Men's Advance.
This is a special time of fellowship and spiritual growth.*

The men of Christ Church will gather at Richmond Hill on Friday February 18th and Saturday, February 19th. This is an overnight retreat for fellowship and spiritual growth. It begins at about 5 pm on Friday and ends after lunch on Saturday.

During our time together, we will participate with the staff and other guests of the Richmond Hill Retreat Center in prayers, worship and meals. In addition, we will be exploring: *What it Means to be a Christian Worker, Husband, Father and Brother*.
The total cost of the retreat is \$85 per person.

If you would like to join us, please notify:

Jonathan Hawes
Phone: 804-937-4266
Email: jdhawes@comcast.net

Check out Richmond Hill at: <http://www.richmondhillva.org/>

Mens Breakfast

Saturday, January 15 @ 8:00 am (Worship Space)

Our topic will be: "A New Year's resolution to help guide you out of the desert". Making a reservation will help the cooking team plan the food. Contact Will Watkins to make a reservation. wwatkins@mindspring.com

Women's Spring Retreat

Save the date ! The 2011 Women's Retreat at Shrinemont will take place the weekend of April 8-10. More information will follow in January.

Haiti Mission Trip

Due to the ongoing instability in HAITI, the January 29 -Feb 5th mission trip scheduled for Crouix-des-Bouquets, Haiti will be cancelled.

Team safety and welfare is our first priority, and feel we must err on the side of caution. Within the next few days, the OAS should make its determination of who finished second in the November presidential election and will stand against Mirlande Manigat in the runoff election scheduled for January 16. It's very likely that when the OAS findings are announced, the followers of whoever finishes in third place and out of the runoff, Mr. Celestin or Mr. Martelly, will take to the streets, This could lead to a postponement of the runoff which would keep President Preval in office longer and make even more people unhappy. Then, of course, there's potential for serious unrest before, during and/or after the runoff. There's enough potential for trouble that it is prudent to postpone our construction mission trip.

We are continuing our partnership with Pere Val and have sent some money to allow work to be done, even though we personally are not there. Much of the rebuilding will be completed while our mission teams are not there, and it is our job to support them morally and spiritually as well as financially.

We have a mission trip still scheduled for March 14-March 21, 2011, and hopefully all election instability will be done, the cholera outbreak under control, and Haiti can safely welcome our assistance. Anyone originally planning for the January trip, or anyone newly interested in going to Haiti in March, please contact Susan Bruce (Shornsbybruce@verizon.net or 986-3195) and advise of your interest . A sign up listing of persons has already begun, so get in touch soon.

Monument Avenue 10k

Come join Christ Church at the Monument Avenue 10K race on April 2nd!

We plan to form as many teams of five as will accommodate those who sign up with us. We will have Christ Church t-shirts, Saturday training sessions for all fitness levels and race goals (unlike others, we will run after the frost melts and the air warms up) and who knows, maybe a big group breakfast along the way.

If you are not familiar with the race, know that all levels of fitness and ability are welcomed and encouraged. It will be time spent with people in a great mood (over 20,000 of them on race day). The course is flat and beautiful with bands all along the way.

Please sign up with us by February 5. We will start training on January 29.
The cost is \$10 plus the race registration fee, which increases as the race approaches.
Don't worry if you have signed up already as an individual; you can still be added to a Christ Church team.

To sign up or for more information, call
Joe Jagdmann at 310-5762 or write him at jjagdmann@verizon.net.



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL PRESCHOOL
 LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - MATTHEW 5:16

Welcome to Christ Church Episcopal Preschool! We are an active ministry of Christ Church Episcopal, and our mission is to provide a developmentally appropriate Christian environment for the children in our community. Our preschool will offer a safe, loving and nurturing environment with low student to teacher ratios. Additionally, we will endeavor to instill in your child a life-long love of learning while assisting you in laying the foundation of your child's Christian values. In addition to classroom instruction the children will attend chapel and music weekly. **All children must be potty trained.** Hours of operation: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

Classes available for 2011-2012.

Three Day/Three Year Old Class: Meets Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Must be 3 years old by 12/31/11 to attend 2011-2012 school year.

Four Day/Four Year Old Class: Meets Monday - Thursday. Must be 4 years old by 12/31/11 to attend 2011-2012 school year.

Four Day/PreK Class: Meets Monday - Thursday. Must be 4 years old by 9/30/11 to attend 2011-2012 school year.

Five Day/PreK Class: Meets Monday – Friday. Must be 4 years old by 9/30/11 to attend for 2011-2012 school year.

Enrichment Programs: 12:00 - 1:30 available after school on select days.

How do I register?

Stop by the preschool office or visit our website at www.christchurchpreschool.com for an application and more information. Please contact **Cheri Erk, Executive Director at 364-5905** with any questions. ** It is recommended that all prospective families schedule a tour of the preschool program before registering.

2011-2012 School year – Registration dates:

January 5, 2011 – Returning families

January 12, 2011 – Christ Church Episcopal families

January 19, 2011 – General Public

cheri@christchurchpreschool.com

www.christchurchpreschool.com

Preschool Office - 804-364-5905

Childrens Ministry

KIDS QUEST: Banquet with Simon rotation begins Sunday, January 9th. This is a great time to come to Kids' Quest if you haven't been before, or if you haven't been in a while, and a wonderful story about God's abundant grace for each of us.

Children's Chapel will no longer be offered at the 9:00 service beginning January 9th. Children are invited to participate in Kids' Quest. More information about Kids' Quest can be found [here](#). Please contact Rebecca (364-0394 or r.guzman@christchurchrichmond.com) if you have questions or concerns.

Keep an eye out for:

Marriage Enrichment and Parenting Classes

Looking Ahead:

Egg Hunt April 10

VBS July 11-15

Womens Bible Studies

Wednesday Morning

A women's bible study continues through the end of March. We are studying the Gospel of Luke in "Jesus, the One and Only," by Beth Moore. We meet weekly from 9:30-11:30 in the parlor, and child-care will be provided. Participants are welcome to join at any time. Contact [Becky Hansell](mailto:bhansell@verizon.net) for more information. (bhansell@verizon.net)

Thursday Evening

This group continues and is studying: The Plan A Woman in a Plan B World by Debbie Taylor Williams. They meet at 7:30 pm. Contact Margaret Crews for more information. (crewscom@verizon.net)

Spring Consignment Sale

Save the date: March 12

If you would like to help out with this event, please contact
Susan Steenrod (rodnsue@comcast.net)

Visit www.christchurchsale.org for more information
or to receive reminders about this event.

Youth Ministry

Youth Small Groups

...will start up the week of January 17th. Visit the ccgarage.org website for the Winter/Spring schedule. Click programs the small groups. Small groups provide a welcoming place where you can do life together with others. It's about having a place to go where you can be who you are. Small groups provide a great environment that encourages spiritual and personal growth. Please contact Jenna if you have any questions about getting involved.

Youth Choir

...has a new time!. Sundays 5:30—6:30 in the Music Room. ALL youth are invited and welcome. Questions? Contact Missy Jennings (364-0394 x32)

YOUTH Group: New Sunday Night Schedule:

Middle School Youth Group: Sunday 3:30-5:30pm

Youth Choir: Sunday 5:30-6:30pm

High School Youth Group: Sunday 6:30-8:30pm

Service Saturday

The next Service Saturday is January 15th. We will be working with the Robinson Theater in Church Hill who offers the arts and hope to one of the most under resourced area in Richmond. We will be painting and doing other chores to serve them. Sign up at ccgarage.org.

Journey Passports

Reminder to all Journey Students and Sponsors, Journey Passports are due **Jan. 15 & March 15**

Middle School & High School Summer Trips

Be sure to sign up now for the Summer Mission trips and Student Life Camp. A \$60 deposit is required for each.

Middle School Mission Trip - June 26-July 1

High School Mission Trip- July 17-22

Student Life Camp- Aug 1-5

Annual Congregational Meeting

Friday, January 28th

Each year, we meet as a congregation to hear where we've been and consider the future God has in store. This year, the congregational meeting is being held on a Friday evening.

Ministry to children will be available throughout the evening. At the meeting we will hear about the spending plan for 2011; elect five new Vestry members; and hear some of what lies before us in 2011.

Please plan to be with Christ Church for this important time.

...in the January issue

- Pg 1 ...from Paul
- Pg 2 ...from Hillary
- Pg 3 ...Mens Advance
Mens Breakfast
Womens Spring Retreat
- Pg 4 ...Haiti Mission Trip
Monument Ave 10k
- Pg 5 ...Preschool
- Pg 6 ...Childrens Ministry
Womens Bible Studies
Spring Consignment Sale
- Pg 7 ...Youth Ministry
Annual Congregational
Meeting

Altar Flower Dedications

If you would like to make a dedication for Altar Flowers on a particular weekend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway off the Milling Area (near the restrooms...on the way to the parlor). Suggested donation for a dedication is \$40. (The church office will call you to get the wording for your dedication.)

*If you would prefer to receive the monthly newsletter electronically,
please send an email to Josie,
in the church office: j.sicheri@christchurchrichmond.com*



www.christchurchrichmond.com

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