

# Christ Episcopal Church Chronicle for Dec. 2017 & Jan. 2018

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For me this year has flown by and it's hard to believe that Advent starts this coming Sunday. Because Christmas falls on a Monday this year, it condenses Advent to only 22 days and the 4th Sunday of Advent is also

Christmas Eve. The youth will be leading a 10 a.m. Morning Prayer service on December 24th followed by decorating of the church. At 7 p.m. that night, Mother Helen will be celebrating Holy Eucharist during our traditional Christmas Eve service. I know it's a busy day but I hope as many of you as can will attend both services.

As 2017 comes to a close your Vestry is hard at work preparing for 2018. We are finalizing a budget and preparing all of the end of year reports that need to be sent to the diocese. If you have not submitted a 2018 pledge card please fill one out even if it's for one dollar. Showing the diocese a year over year increase in the number of families pledging is just as important as the total amount being pledged.

We have scheduled our Annual Meeting for January 21st following the 10 a.m. service. One of the most important things we do at the meeting is to elect Vestry members. These new Vestry members will serve for 3 years and help manage the business of the church. We have 3 Vestry terms expiring and as of right now no nominations to replace them. Please speak to a current vestry member if you are interested in serving or would like more information.

Christ Church has had a box of 2018 calendars donated for us to distribute. Please take a few to hang in your home, office, or to give away to friends and family. The church's name, address and website are printed on the bottom and this is

a great way to put our name out there or as an icebreaker to invite someone to come to church with you.

I pray that everyone has a safe and blessed Christmas Season.

- John Ross, Senior Warden

## Upcoming Events

### ECW Christmas Party

Friday, Dec. 1st - 6:00 p.m.

### Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 6th - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 10th - 6:00 p.m.

### Youth Group Caroling

Wednesday, Dec. 13th - 6:00 p.m.

### Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, Dec. 24th

following 10:00 a.m. service

### Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 24th - 7:00 p.m.

Reception Following

### ECW Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 14th

### Youth Group

Wednesday, Jan. 17th - 5:30 p.m.

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 21st

following 10:00 a.m. service



This year's Angel Tree has been set up in Barksdale Hall. On the tree are Angels to help support God's Pit Crew and their Blessing Bucket ministry and items again for the Closet of Blessings. Both of these

organizations help people locally and around the country in their time of need. Just one angel item makes a difference in the lives of those who receive. Please consider taking an angel or two and placing the requested items under the tree by **December 31st**.

A **Blessing Bucket** is a five gallon bucket filled with essential items that are used by individuals every day. When received, these buckets help to enrich lives and become a small token of God's love. God's Pit Crew delivers tractor trailer loads of Blessing Buckets to some of the hardest hit areas after a natural disaster.

There is a sample bucket on display next to the Angel Tree

The **Closet of Blessings** provides clothes, shoes, diapers, bathing supplies, blankets and even some cribs and beds for children identified by both the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County Social Services departments.

Many of the items go to emergency foster care parents, who take in children who had to be removed from their homes and parents in emergency situations, and usually come with just what's on their backs.



Please have your Christmas Flower form returned by **December 17th** to ensure it can be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Forms are available on the church credenza and on the last page of this newsletter.



The youth will be presenting a Christmas Pageant again this year on Sunday, **December 17th**.

Please let Kristi Ross know if your child or grandchild or you yourself would like to participate this year. There are roles for everyone!



The youth group will be going caroling on **Wednesday, December 13th** at Roman Eagle Memorial Home. The youth have made candy cane bookmarks to hand out.

### Join Us For Caroling

We will be meeting at Roman Eagle Memorial Home at 6:00 P.M. All members of the church are welcome to join the youth group to join in on the fun!



### Thank You!

to everyone who brought in non-perishable items to support "God's Storehouse" this Thanksgiving.

Christ Church was able to donate 6 turkeys and over 185 pounds of food to this

important local charity.



Please join us on **December 24th** following the 10 a.m. service to decorate the church for Christmas.

The Youth will be leading a short Morning Prayer Service



The ECW met on November 12, 2017.

We received a letter from SOVAH Blood Donor Center. Excerpts from the letter: "I am sending you this **Thank You**, for the blood drive held at your facility on **Sunday, September 10, 2017**. Your support in our efforts to meet the blood needs in the Dan River Region is to be commended. Blood donated through SOVAH Blood Donor Center is delivered directly to SOVAH Health Blood Bank for the purpose of meeting the blood needs of our SOVAH patients; However, our success can only happen through the generosity of those who help us give a little token of appreciation for those who roll up their sleeves and give the **"Gift of Life."** We cannot do it without you! **"Thank you again for doing such an amazing job at your end and for the great support!"** La Tonya Martin, Donor Center Coordinator. This Outreach was a success and we plan to make this a yearly event.

Another success was our spaghetti supper. We had about 60 attending and made over \$450.00. The supper was very well received, with people saying they enjoyed the food but more than that, they enjoyed the fellowship!

Our cookbook, *Simple Soups and Scripture*, is almost ready to go to print. We are hopeful to have it in our hands in time for Christmas.

The United Thank Offering boxes were collected at the Ingathering Sunday, Oct. 29th.

We received \$100 and this was sent to the National United Thank Offering Committee.

Our annual ECW Christmas social will be held on **Friday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m. at Golden Corral**; cost is \$13.99 plus tip. Kristi Ross will collect the money that night. Please try to attend; it is always a wonderful time for the ladies to get together, not to have to do any work, and just enjoy the fun. Don't forget, we will be playing Dirty Santa. Bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift to share. What surprise will you get?

A huge thank you goes out to all the ladies, and men, who helped the ECW this year with their various projects. We are looking forward to next year and planning what we would like to do for more Outreach and Fundraisers.

The next ECW meeting will be January 14, 2018.

- Lu Sullivan



Blessing of the Animals

A service for the blessing of animals to honor St. Francis was held on Sunday, October 1st. There were several furry friends in attendance that received a

blessing. Thank you to all that brought in their pets for their special blessing. "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine." -Psalm 50:10-11.

Give Thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good.  
Psalm 107:1



Annual Giving Sunday was held on Sunday, November 19th at 10 a.m. We had a large group in attendance for the service led by Mother Helen. Afterwards, we had a beautiful Thanksgiving Feast to enjoy the fellowship with our church family. Thank you to all who helped decorate, setup, cleanup and brought dishes to share. The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated for our meal and the tables full of friends were a wonderful sight to behold.



During the week prior to our joyous and delicious Homecoming the air conditioning for Barksdale Hall decided that it would no longer cool the area. It was found to be unrepairable and was replaced. Fortunately, there were sufficient funds to cover the replacement, but unfortunately, it could not be completed prior to the Homecoming luncheon. Everyone was accepting of the situation and a good time was had by all.

A big thank you and “well done good and faithful servants” goes out to John and Kristi Ross and Cort Oake for their excellent painting work and skills on the hallway and Narthex. We still need to paint the trim in these areas and I will be scheduling that shortly.

The vestry is addressing security concerns at the church and we will be replacing the deadbolts on the entrance doors with handles in order for us to be able keep the doors locked while the building is occupied and still have ease of exit in an emergency. Additionally, we will be investigating additional security measures to ensure our safety during services and other activities at the church.

If you see something in the building that you feel needs repair or attention please mention it to me or another vestry member.

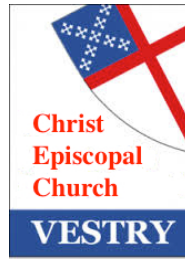
In His service and yours,  
John Fifield, Junior Warden



Sunday, November 5th marked a special day for the Boyd Family. Raylin Jenna was baptized during the 10 a.m. service. The church was decorated beautifully and there

were many people in attendance to witness this beautiful little girl enter into the Kingdom of God.

Please remember to keep Raylin and all children in your prayers.



Do you have an interest in parish governance? Do you want to step up to a new leadership role at Christ Church? Does somebody you know have special skills and enthusiasm for this parish? Now is the time to think about vestry nominations for 2018. The new elected members will begin service after the **Annual Meeting on January 21st, 2018**. It is a three year commitment. The vestry functions like a board of directors, overseeing policies and operations of the parish.

A person being nominated must be a confirmed communicant of Christ Church in good standing. The person submitting a name should have the permission of said person to put their name in nomination.

Please submit nominations to **John Ross**, or any other vestry member by by January 7th to be added to the agenda (open nominations will be taken at the Annual Meeting).



### Communion Classes

*How do I know if my child is ready for Communion? Has your child asked? Have you asked your child if he/she wants Communion? Does*

*your child imitate your actions at the altar rail? Does your child watch what you do at the rail? Has your child put his/her hands out to receive? These are good signs that your child is ready.*

We are looking at having Communion Classes for our youth offered during the new year. These classes can be after church, during Sunday school or another day that may work for the majority of schedules. There is no specific age for the classes; this is a family decision. Communion is available to all those who have been baptized at any age. The process of the classes allows the student to understand the significance of taking communion and learn more about the Episcopal service and traditions as well.

Please speak to Kristi Ross if you feel your child is ready to determine an appropriate time for classes.



The Sunday School class has been working our way through Genesis. We of course began “In the beginning,” journeyed with Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark, we have climbed the mountain with Abraham as he prepared to sacrifice Isaac, and most recently put ourselves in Isaac’s shoes as he was tricked by his son Jacob and Joseph was thrown into a well by his brothers. These stories have sparked some interesting discussions, and are learning about listening and trusting God.

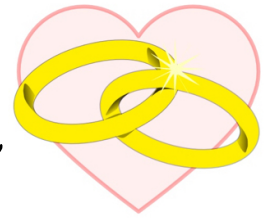
We will be continuing through the Old Testament and exploring Moses and his life after the Advent season. During the Advent season, we will be switching gears for a few weeks to prepare for the Christmas Pageant and learn more about Advent.

Check out our new Youth Bulletin Board located in Barksdale Hall to see what the youth of the church are working on. All kids aged 3 and older are welcome in Sunday School and we would love to have them. Please keep our children and Sunday School program in your prayers.

- Kristi Ross



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### December

Pat Irwin	1
Alex & Melissa Brummett – Anniversary	7
Jason Hall	7
Alberta Hamlett	9
Mark Benz	10
Brantley Lewis	10
Nancy Cormier	15
Bob & Janis Chenery – Anniversary	24
Lucas & Selena Fifield - Anniversary	29

### January

Brent Oake	1
Karla Brummett	8
Rev. Helen McKee	8
Joe Hile	9
John Benz	13
Morgan Hall	16
Todd Isom	17
Sherry Gott	19
Jerry Oakes	20
Jackie & Marty Wilson – Anniversary	27
Janet Hamilton	28
Jordan Hall	28
Donna Benz	29
Andy Sands	31



The Youth Group met on October 11th and November 15th for their regular meetings. The kids began their meetings with an Evening Prayer Service. After dinner we began discussions of why we come to church and where we fit in at church and as disciples of Christ.

The youth group worked hard, had fun and made a few messes working on the Chrismon ornaments that you see displayed on the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall. They also prepared over 150 bookmarks and candy canes to pass out when they go to Roman Eagle on Dec. 13th for caroling. They also helped prepare the angels that are found on the Angel Tree. Their assembly line formed and they accomplished the task. The youth group will be taking the items collected from the Angel Tree this year and delivering them to God’s Pit Crew and The Closet of Blessings.

Please feel free to join the youth group for caroling on December 13th at 6 p.m. with dinner following.

-John and Kristi Ross



## What is Advent?

### The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

### Advent Today

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in

a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

### Advent Liturgy and Practice

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah, to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

While Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated; and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense. The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; he has come, and he will come again. This is the essence of Advent.

- Excerpts from *christianity.com* & author Justin Holcomb, an Episcopal priest and teacher of theology at Reformed Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary.

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## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Flowers given in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for someone:

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Given By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PLACE YOUR FINANCIAL GIFT IN AN ENVELOPE WITH THIS FORM AND PUT IT IN THE COLLECTION PLATE, OR MAIL IT TO: CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, P.O. BOX 10355, DANVILLE, VA 24543 **Be sure you indicate if the flowers are in memory of or they are in thanksgiving for someone as this will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.**

Thank you for your support

## Christ Episcopal Church - December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b>  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>                      The Rev. Helen McKee  <b>Coffee Hour following</b></p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>Noon Lunch Village's</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>Vestry Meeting</b>  <b>6:00 p.m.</b></p>	7	8	9
<p>10</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b>  <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>                      The Rev. Bob Hamilton  <b>Coffee Hour following</b></p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>Noon Lunch Wendy's</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>Youth Group Caroling</b>  <b>6 p.m.</b>                      Roman Eagle</p>	14	15	16
<p>17</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b>  <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>                      The Rev. Helen McKee  <b>Coffee Hour following</b></p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>Noon Lunch Ruebens Too</p>	20	21	22	<p>23</p> <p><b>Altar Guild</b>  <b>9:00 a.m.</b></p>
<p>24</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer</b>  <i>Forth Sunday of Advent</i>  <b>Church Decorating Following</b></p> <p><b>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</b>                      The Rev. Helen McKee  <b>Reception following</b></p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>Noon Lunch O'Kellys</p>	27	28	29	30
<p>31</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b>  <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i>                      The Rev. Helen McKee  <b>Coffee Hour following</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 20px;">  </div> <div> <p><b>December 1st - 6:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Golden Corral</b></p> <p>Don't forget, we will be playing Dirty Santa.                      Bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift to share.                      What surprise will you get?</p> </div> </div>					

## Christ Episcopal Church - January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Noon Lunch Tokyo Grill	3	4	5	6  <i>The Epiphany</i>
7 <b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b> <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i> The Rev. Helen McKee <b>Coffee Hour following</b>	8	9 Noon Lunch Checkered Pig	10 <b>Vestry Meeting</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b>	11	12	13
14 <b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b> <i>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</i> The Rev. Bob Hamilton <b>Coffee Hour following</b> <b>ECW Meeting</b>	15	16 Noon Lunch Village's	17 <b>Youth Group</b> <b>5:30-7:30 p.m.</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b> <b>5:30 p.m.</b>	18	19	20  <b>Altar Guild</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>
21 <b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b> <i>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</i> The Rev. Helen McKee <b>Annual Meeting</b>	22	23 Noon Lunch Wendy's	24	25	26	27
28 <b>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist &amp; Sunday School</b> <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>  <b>Coffee Hour following</b>	29	30 Noon Lunch Ruebens Too	31			



## December 2017 & January 2018 Service Assignments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Elements</b>	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Hostess</b>
<b>December 3 10:00 am HE</b>	Bob Chenery	Shaun Anderson & John Fifield	Jerry & Sarah Oakes	Mary Ross	David Hill & Cort Oake	Lu Sullivan	Marge Fifield
<b>December 10 10:00 am HE</b>	John Fifield	Bob & Janis Chenery	Mollie Huemoeller & Nancy Seagle	Jake Howard	Shaun Anderson & John Fifield	Dinah Anderson	Bonnie Hill
<b>December 17 10:00 am HE</b>	Janis Chenery	Anna Ballenger & Sarah Oakes	Jackie & Marty Wilson	Mary Ross	John Benz & Luke Burris	Marge Fifield	Nancy Sands
<b>December 24 10:00 am MP</b>	Jake Howard	Leader: Anna Ballenger	Sermon: Mary Ross	Hannah Ross	Abigail & John Ross	Lu Sullivan	Kristi Ross
<b>December 24 7:00 pm HE</b>	Sherry Gott	Shaun Anderson & John Fifield	Bob & Janis Chenery	Jake Howard	Joe Hile & Jerry Oakes	Sherry Gott	Reception
<b>December 31 10:00 am HE</b>	Mollie Huemoeller	Bob & Janis Chenery	Shaun & Dinah Anderson	Mary Ross	John Fifield & Cort Oake	Mollie Huemoeller	Dinah Anderson
<b>January 7 10:00 am HE</b>	Pat Irwin	Anna Ballenger & Sarah Oakes	John & Marge Fifield	Hannah Ross	Joe Hile & David Hill	Sandy Isom	Cathy Ballenger
<b>January 14 10:00 am HE</b>	Nancy Sands	Shaun Anderson & John Fifield	Cort & Linda Oake	Jake Howard	Jerry Oakes & Jackie Wilson	Sarah Oakes	Karla Brummett
<b>January 21 10:00 am HE</b>	Lu Sullivan	Bob & Janis Chenery	Jerry & Sarah Oakes	Mary Ross	David Hill & Cort Oake	Nancy Sands	Reception
<b>January 28 10:00 am HE</b>	Shaun Anderson	Anna Ballenger & Sarah Oakes	Mollie Huemoeller & Nancy Seagle	Hannah Ross	Luke Burris & John Benz	Lu Sullivan	Janis Chenery