

Christ Church Chronicle

Advent/Christmas 2011

From Paul Habersang, Priest in Partnership

In this holy season of anticipation, hope, and in the celebration of our Savior Jesus Christ's birth, it strikes me that there has been a grand rebirth of sorts happening right here within the community of Christ Church, Montpelier! Since my arrival in late September, a lot has been happening within this place and our efforts in mutual ministry are coming to fruition! For example, new ministries are popping up in our midst, fresh ideas are freely and creatively flowing, and the Holy Spirit seems to be infusing her wisdom and awesome power in new and glorious ways. In only a short time we at Christ Church have witnessed rebirth and growth in the following areas:

- a brand new Prayer Shawl Ministry that has already donated cherished shawls to newly baptized babies and to other folks in our community who simply need a warm, prayerful, and comforting embrace. What a wonderful way to share God's love with others!

- a newly energized Communications Task Force that has improved our website communications, reminded us of the importance of wearing name tags for Sunday worship, and is currently improving and refurbishing our exterior signage! We're on our way to becoming a "cathedral in the city."

- The fellowship-focused "Foyer Groups" will be starting up again early next year. What a wonderful way for both newcomers and established parishioners to get to know one another on a deeper, more personal level. And they're fun!!

- throughout the fall we've shared "Transformational Moments" of God's love and grace in our lives; moments that have offered us the opportunity to deepen our spiritual roots as we worship together by sharing God's presence in our lives.

- a newly-formed Worship Committee that brings ideas, life, and vitality to our worship and spiritual life together. In mutual ministry all ideas are welcome, especially as we plan by balancing tradition with new, innovative aspects of worship.

continued inside

The Episcopal Church

in the Anglican Communion:

A global community of over 80 million Anglicans in 44 regional and national churches in over 160 countries.

*Archbishop of Canterbury,
The Most Reverend and Right
Honorable Rowan Williams*

Lambeth Palace

London, England SE1 7JU

www.anglicancommunion.org

in the United States:

A community of over 2 million members in 110 dioceses in the United States and abroad.

*Presiding Bishop,
The Most Reverend Dr. Katharine
Jefferts Schori*

815 Second Avenue

New York, NY 10017

www.episcopalchurch.org

in the Diocese of Vermont:

A community of 8200 members in 50 congregations.

Bishop,

The Right Reverend Thomas Ely

5 Rock Point Road

Burlington, VT 05401

(800) 286-3437

www.dioceseofvermont.org

in the Parish:

Christ Episcopal Church, a community of 388 members.

Interim Pastor,

The Reverend Paul Habersang

64 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

(802) 223-3631

www.christchurchvt.org

- a rejuvenated acolyte and Youth Christian Formation Program where our youth are highlighted and fully engaged in the life of our community. The youth in our community are a gift to be showcased and celebrated. Personally, I love their energy and enthusiasm!

- a revived Outreach Committee, speaking out for justice in the name of Christ and calling the community to action on behalf of those in need.

These are only a few of the areas where I've seen rebirth and rejuvenation here at Christ Church, Montpelier. Together, as we move forward by fully becoming a "cathedral in the city," I remain thrilled to serve as your Priest-in-Partnership in this spirit-filled and faithful community! Merry Christmas, everyone! May you be blessed in the New Year.

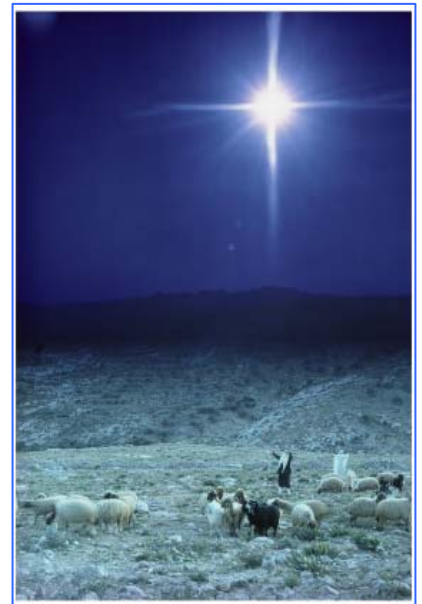
Faithfully,

Paul+
Your Priest-in-Partnership

From the Pen of the Senior Warden

On December 4, my wife Elaine and I attended the Vermont Philharmonic presentation of Handel's Messiah at the Barre Opera House. We play our recording of the Messiah a great deal this time of year, so we were eager to hear a live performance in such a beautiful setting. Our expectations were amply rewarded by the two-hour performance by the excellent orchestra and chorus. For me, the highlight was a young high school senior named Sierra Marcy who did a beautiful rendition of "there were shepherds abiding in the field." Her young soprano voice was exceedingly beautiful in its purity of sound and I hope to hear more of her in the future. Also noteworthy, was our own Ron Thompson playing the trumpet in the appropriately-named air: "the trumpet shall sound."

While in past years attending such a work may have been the highlight of the Advent season, it has only augmented this time of reflection and hope. The intentional Christianity manifested in the services at Christ Church are making this Advent season even more meaningful for us as we prepare for the Nativity. The theme of this year's stewardship campaign - "rejoice, again I say rejoice" -- is exactly the feeling I have when attending our church.



Our priest-in-partnership, the Rev. Paul Habersang, has proven to be an extraordinary gift to our parish and our community. As I mentioned to Angela Simpson, I feel there's a widespread desire to be a part of a nurturing community that supports our hope to live a life of purpose, justice and peace. Her response was that those attending Christ Church this Advent are being spiritually fed and it's a very exciting time to be a member of our congregation.

Paul's presence is also changing the nature of the work of the vestry. I anticipate over the course of 2012, the vestry will become less operational in its deliberations and more strategic in its efforts to expand the ministry of Christ Church in our community. The vestry meets the third Monday evening of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 and the meetings are open to all members of the parish.

Please accept my best wishes for you and your loved ones during this holy season.

Paul Harrington, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's thoughts

In thinking about the building ministry I see the part I play in it as one of giving back to God what he has given to me. When I was growing up it was not ok for a female to work in construction type professions. I was blessed to have two parents and a set of grandparent who nurtured my curiosity and love for those types of activities. I was allowed to be my father's helper from a very early age learning carpentry, plumbing, and electrical skills and I was allowed to help my grandfather build a house. Without these blessings I would not have the knowledge to look at the potential we have in these buildings that others built to the glory of God and as a sanctuary to anyone who might enter.



I do see lots of needs our aging buildings have, but I also see that if we work together we can create a space where everyone can be included in any area they choose to go into.

I am almost done my term as Junior Warden, but I am not done with my building ministry. I see that we need to reenergize the building committee. We need to collect ideas from everyone who uses this glorious space to restore, redesign and make accessible all its spaces. We need to work at making our space structurally safe again while reducing its impact on our environment.

God has put me in this place for a reason. I'm not completely sure why or where this ministry will lead me, but I pray that others will join in this ministry and together we can make this space available to all who need the presence of God in their lives.

Ruth Beard, Junior Warden

A note from Ruth - Please close doors as you move through the church. It makes a big difference in the heating of our building and saves a remarkable amount of fuel! Thanks!



Schedule of Advent and Christmas Services

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
7:00PM, Thursday, December 15, 2011

Advent IV Holy Eucharist & Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00AM, Sunday, December 18, 2011

Christmas Eve Family Service with Holy Eucharist
4:00PM, Saturday, December 24, 2011

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with Full Choir
11:00PM, Saturday, December 24, 2011

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols
10:00AM, Sunday, December 25, 2011

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the Vestry meets monthly about a week prior to the scheduled vestry meeting. The committee includes John Jaworski (treasurer whose duties include paying the bills and preparing monthly financial statements), Bill Beard (asst. treasurer who reconciles the financial statements), Brian Loftus (who records weekly pledges and other income), and three vestry members (Ed Skea, Ruth Beard, and Josh Fitzhugh). Our Priest in Partnership, Paul Habersang, has also attended recent meetings.

At our November meeting our agenda included:

1. the review of the October financial statement (John)
2. a report of current giving (Brian)
3. a brief update of the stewardship campaign (Brian)
4. our written response to the 2011 audit for the diocese
5. the first draft of the 2012 church budget
6. a discussion and recommendation to hire a needed part-time receptionist

Preparing a budget is not as easy as one would expect. Knowing our limited resources, we review carefully past income and expenses and think about future needs while trying to create a realistic and balanced budget. Our church is in need of many repairs yet we recognize that extra resources are necessary to grow and to be a vibrant part in the Montpelier community. Currently, we are a bit behind in our projected 2011 income. If you are behind in your pledge, please try to bring it up to date within the next few weeks. While the stewardship campaign looks promising, pledging gives us a more accurate picture of income for the following year. If you have not yet pledged, there is still time.

The Finance Committee hopes to be more transparent in the future. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to contact any one of us.

Submitted by Ed Skea (edskea@aol.com)

Youth Christian Formation

Since Rev. Paul's arrival, the energy within the walls of Christ Church is perceptible to all who walk through our doors. And I'm excited! As the Director of Youth Formation, I am so thankful for the great group of young families that are part of our community. Many congregants have approached me offering support and ideas. Again, I am thankful. Our current "one-room school house" model may soon morph back to separate age groups meeting.

At this time, we are preparing for the Christmas pageant, and our vision board project is underway. Soon the children will be participating every 4th Sunday in the church. They will serve as lectors, ushers, greeters and acolytes. Every 3rd Sunday is a service Sunday where the youth "serve" the church by helping with various church and/or community projects. But this is just "scratching the surface" of our young people's potential.

I will be having an Epiphany party at the Bushey's house with interested families to brainstorm together a sweet vision for our youth's spiritual growth and expansion that goes well beyond the Sunday morning hours of 10-11am. A paradigm shift is happening where the possibilities are infinite and grand.



You don't have to be a parent of young children to participate. If you would like to contribute your time and encouragement, please let me know .I can't promise every idea will be pursued but it will definitely be considered and appreciated. E-mail me at wilcoxse@comcast.net or call 223-4766.

I look forward to a fine group of caring people working and enjoying the journey of supporting the Episcopal Church's charter call: "To develop new learning experiences, equipping disciples for life in a world of secular challenges and carefully listening for the words of modern sages who embody the teachings of Christ."

Yes! I am excited!

In Christ,
Elizabeth Wilcox

Communications

Several weeks after Priest Paul's arrival, I offered to take a look at communications at Christ Church. We put together an informal group of eleven who offered up lots of suggestions. Working just by email exchanges, in a couple of weeks we came up with a work plan that we shared with the Vestry and others, and posted on the web. We are now implementing it. It's important to note that volunteers did nearly all of this work and funding was provided by the people involved. There has been little cost impact on the stretched church budget.

Items done or in progress:



1. Sound System. We all recognized that the poor acoustics at Christ Church and the failing hearing of many of us makes the use of a sound system important. After some discussion and testing, Paul brought in technical help to tune up our existing system. It is much better, but if you are having hearing problems, let someone know.



2. Church Sign. The sign out front, tired from three decades or more of Vermont weather, has been removed and is in the process of being repainted and re-lettered. It will be a while before it is put back up but when finished will present a fresh inviting look to the entrance to our church. Donations and labor will pay for the project.
3. Name tags and Rule of Three. Kathy Meninger is making name tags and we feel that members should wear one - but it is an individual choice. We also are trying to invoke the "Rule of Three" practice: introducing yourself to three people you don't know well before chatting with your friends.
4. Pew Cards. We designed and printed pew cards for visitors and friends. Two parishioners paid for the printing.
5. Sandwich Board. Dave and Angela Simpson have provided a new sandwich board with graphic inserts for ongoing and special events.
6. Service Bulletins. Diane Holland has redesigned the Sunday bulletin to include the whole service so that one need not juggle Prayer Book and Hymnal and inserts. Chris Brown makes sure the bulletins are printed each week.
7. Social Media. The web site and blog have been re-energized and more and more are becoming the "go-to" places for upcoming events, current news, sermons one missed, or pictures of past events. Our Facebook page is read by many in and out of the parish, as is our Twitter account.
8. Parish Directory. Dave Simpson and Brian Loftus have worked on using PowerChurch to manage mailing lists and member information. An updated directory is imminent.
9. General appearance. Thanks to the leadership of Priest Paul, the entryways are now inviting, the Parish Hall newly painted, and the clutter removed.

FOLLOW US ON [twitter](#)



Items Up Ahead

1. Podcasts. We hope to institute the podcasting of Paul's sermons in next few months so that you can subscribe to them and be notified when a new one is up.
2. Publicity. Kelly Loftus has offered to use her PR experience and contacts to develop a program of publicity through print and radio/TV.
3. Logo/Branding. Using the new Diocesan shield as an example, we hope to engage in a makeover of how we present ourselves to the public with a new logo, letterhead, and related items that can be used on all our electronic and print publications.



What can you do?

First of all, communicate. If you get a blast email and know someone who does not use the Internet, give them a quick call and share the news. Don't assume that everyone knows about a meeting you are having - don't forget, we still do not have any paid administrative staff.



Check the website frequently and subscribe to the blog. Like our Facebook page.

Support these communication efforts by pledging (if you have not) and contributing to Communications (if you are able.) And in this season of hope, tell the story of what's happening at Christ Church, invite an acquaintance to church, and rejoice for being part of a wonderful Christian community.

Dick Mansfield

Peering through the stained glass... the Altar Guild Pod

Hi. You probably haven't noticed me around church, so I'll introduce myself. I am Hannah Marie Agglee, a Hypothetical New Member of the Altar Guild--glee. That is, of the Altar Guild "Pod". At the church I went to with my family when I was young, the Altar Guild was very scary business, so I wouldn't have thought that I'd be interested in joining the A.G. Pod here at Christ Church. But when I went by the sacristy on the way to the parish hall after the 10:00 o'clock service I noticed all these cheerful folks bustling around, relaxed and having a good time. It took a while to figure out that these folks were doing the same job that was the domain of the grim perfectionists of my childhood church.

I've always been curious. That's one of the things that brought me back to the Episcopal Church - that I could be curious and be with other people who were also curious. I like to come into the church a few minutes early, to settle in and as I looked around I found myself getting curious. How come the candles are always the same length? What happens to the leftover wine after Communion? Why is that front candle on that side table sometimes lit and sometimes not lit? Where do the flowers go when they leave the altar? How come everything seems fresher and brighter at the beginning of a new month, and almost blinding at Easter and Christmas? What's with the linens? And how was it that these folks bustling in the sacristy and up and down those funny little stairs seemed to be enjoying themselves and each other so much?

So I asked. They said that I could decide which month I might like to try it out, and join in with the team for that month, to see if I liked it. So I did. Oh my golly, there was *so* much to learn, so many new words, so many little quirks, so much otiophra, as one of the team members called it: that's a word meaning "matters indifferent to salvation." But it was fun. No one barked when I goofed, and I got to learn the behind-the-

scenes stuff. I even got to wash some of the linen and brush up on my ironing skills... and learn new ones. Who would have thought it? Ironing! Me! But I found that I liked it. It was doing something concrete for Jesus. If you had asked me before I joined the Pod, what I thought about Jesus, I wouldn't have known how to respond. That was another of those things I was curious about. Did I have a relationship with him, and, if so, what was it like? But now, doing these simple, physical things, sometimes all alone in the sanctuary, sometimes with others, something happened. It felt like I was being tenderly, gradually, drawn into a lovely warm hug. I liked that, and I still like that. It's a hug with no bottom to it, no end. It just gets closer and warmer and stiller and more loving. I'll keep coming back for it.

I guess I'd better explain about the Pod. It's a new thing here. From what I understand, a few years ago when the Presiding Bishop was here, the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts-Schori, a trained marine biologist, she told members of the clergy that she thought that the church optimally functions like a pod of whales. Moving as one, with no one set leader. You know, like geese or swallows. No leadership structure, no one person in charge, and the communion and mutual understanding so strong and substantial that it moves as one. Whoever is out in front changes depending on what is going on. Less than a year ago, the Altar Guild here decided to try out being a Pod. From what I see, everyone is energized by the switch, and it sure makes it more fun being a part of it! Our next Pod meeting will be in May, and I bet by then I'll have an idea or two of where I would like to help out, besides doing the semi-annual month "on". It might be helping with coordinating the Sunday flowers, or decorating for special services, or ordering supplies, or helping to make sure the candles are working properly or tending to the vestments or making and embroidering linens or new vestments, or helping put on the fabulous brunches that are a part of the meetings. I bet there is more, too. I'm curious to find out, and really looking forward to it!



Martha Holden

A day in the life of the Fall Ladle Soup Kitchen

For many years, the Full Ladle Soup Kitchen has been a rich and rewarding ministry for many at Christ Church. Every Wednesday, the Soup Kitchen serves a nutritious noon meal to 80-100 guests from our community.

A group of faithful volunteers gather each Wednesday and have a very good time working together in the kitchen and serving our guests. There is much laughter and comraderie, both in the kitchen and around the tables. For all of us, the pleasure comes from getting to know the members of the community who come each week and enjoying a meal with them.

On a typical Wednesday, Bill Beard, Don Lyons Sharon Wilson and Fred Godfry arrive about 8:00 to start the coffee and begin setting up for lunch. Eldora Chamberlin and Gloria Walker, the dynamic duo from Northfield, arrive soon after to make salads, arrange platters, stir and serve soup.

Susan Reid is a wiz in the kitchen and is often called on to make a soup (as in "stone soup") for lunch at the last minute. She also washes dishes and from time to time, she throws off her apron and picks up her fiddle



to provide the entertainment.

Often, Ida Lange stops by. Her cooking prowess and organizational skills are formidable and most welcome. Before the 11:00 lunch service begins, Marie Withey arrives with new energy and good cheer to pitch in and help in numerous ways.

As dirty plates arrive, Ed Skea, our dedicated and efficient dishwasher, steps up to his command post at the sink. We all know to stay out of his way, as he is a veritable white tornado!

Charlotte and Ernest Gibson arrive about noon. Charlotte clears tables and helps guests find what they need. Ernest, clearly a crowd favorite, eats lunch and chats with a growing circle of friends, who thoroughly enjoy his company.

The clean up crew, consisting of Linda Prescott and Michael Katzenberg, Les Bloomberg, Corrie Wilcox, Mary Hooper and anyone else we can grab, drift in, as their work schedules permit, and provide much needed relief. By about 1:30, all is done, and peace and quiet returns to the kitchen.

Please consider coming and spending time at the Soup Kitchen. The work is rewarding and fun, the company fantastic and you get to eat lunch!!!!

Sharon Wilson

Stewardship Committee

Rejoice in the state of stewardship at Christ Church! We ended the first phase of our 2012 Annual Commitment Program on November 20 with the return of pledge cards and a pot-luck celebration, but the concept of stewardship is resonating daily throughout the building and throughout our collective life as a community of faith, beyond the boundaries of a traditional pledge drive.



“What do we do with our time, talents and treasures?” is the question we ask ourselves and each other every fall, as we deal with the nuts and bolts and dollars and cents of the budget for a new year, in an attempt to be faithful stewards of our resources here at Christ Church. This year, emerging as we are from a time of transition into a new beginning as a renewed community, the opportunities to give of ourselves in all three ways seem even more abundant, more exciting, more promising than ever before.

We are seeing the emergence of new ministries as parishioners are recognizing needs and opportunities within the church and the community and matching them up with their God-given talents and available time. We have seen confirmation of the importance of Christ Church in peoples’ lives in the number of new, renewed and increased pledges that have been made for 2012.

Christ Church is living out the three aspects of stewardship that we shared in this year’s commitment letter:

- Stewardship is a **bold** act of faith in God and trust that God will provide what you need.
- Stewardship is a **joyous** act of thanksgiving in response to all that God has given us.
- Giving regularly of our time, talent and treasure to God’s work on earth is as much a **spiritual** practice as is prayer and worship.

Therein is the summary of the state of stewardship at Christ Church: Bold! Joyous! Spiritual! No matter where you are in your journey, this is a place for you to explore what God is calling you to do. God is with us and among us and we rejoice in the opportunities to do God's work in this place.

Angela Simpson

Outreach Committee

There is a small, but active, Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) Committee at Christ Church, which works with a coalition of congregations of all faiths in central Vermont and Burlington. VIA is dedicated to promoting social justice and working to improve the lives of the citizens in our communities.

In 2008 we held a public forum at Christ Church to bring concerns regarding proposed cuts to social programs to the attention of our local legislative representatives. We have actively participated with VIA and PICO (People Improving Communities Through Organizing), our national organization, in an effort to bring concerns around affordable health care to Washington and our legislative delegation.

Now, in the face of the current economic downturn, VIA has turned its attention to the issue of economic justice and to correcting the injustices brought on by economic disparity. We all hear a lot about the economy on the news: from events in the Middle East affecting the cost of fuel, to Obama's jobs bill, to the disturbing statistics on unemployment, home foreclosures, and the cost of Irene and the impact of those costs on the state budget.

On Sunday, October 30th, we held an Economic Sabbath at Christ Church to hear people's stories about how the current economic crisis has affected them. Although it was a small gathering, we heard concerns about and the lack of jobs and unemployment and unfair tax policies that favor the wealthiest at the expense of the middle class.

We are not alone. Stories are being gathered nationwide. We want to hear *your* stories about how you, your family and friends are being affected by the current economy. These stories will be shared with our national delegation (without names, of course) so our national lawmakers hear them, too.

At Christ Church, we are conducting a Listening Campaign so we can hear about your concerns in these troublesome economic times. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts in a short (30 minutes, we promise!) conversation with any one of us, please call Linda Prescott (223-5364), Susan Reid (229-1403) or Sharon Wilson (244-8037).

The Outreach Committee

Christ Church Choir

The choir invites the congregation and the entire central Vermont community to our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, this year to be held on Thursday, December 15th at 7 pm. This beautiful and much-loved service is taken directly from the service held each year at King's College in Cambridge, and heard around the world via the BBC World Service. If you've never heard it, tune in to Vermont Public Radio on Christmas Eve morning. It may become a cherished Christmas Eve tradition.

Our service this year includes several anthems that the choir has not done in many years and some surprises, but we will start as tradition dictates - with the singing of the Christmas carol, "Once in royal David's city", the first verse of which is sung by a single child.

The choir has recently welcomed a wealth of new talent, including its youngest member in a very long time. We have more depth in the sopranos and altos, adding to the strength that has always been present in those sections. Despite the influx of new talent, we're always looking for new members, particularly at this time in the men's voices. We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 7 pm in the sanctuary and on Sunday at 9:15 am in the sanctuary.

We look forward to working with the Worship Committee to continue our tradition of fine music while trying to provide music that inspires and uplifts a new generation. We welcome your feedback and specific suggestions.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Under Ann Grady, an effort was made to collect information regarding parishioners' birthdays and anniversaries. Does anyone have that information? It seems to have disappeared. I would like to include a section in each Chronicle in which we celebrate the lives and accomplishments of those we love. In order to do that, I will have to ask you to provide that information again. I promise I will take very good care of it!

In the meantime, anyone in the congregation who has a birthday in the next several weeks, Happy Birthday!! Anyone who will be celebrating a life milestone of whatever stripe, Happy Anniversary!!

For those of you who may feel uncomfortable with this kind of public forum, I have two thoughts: participation is entirely voluntary (and I will include a disclaimer with every Chronicle to apologize for most assuredly having missed somebody's special day); and perhaps inclusion will seem less intrusive or unpleasant if you think of it as being a sacrifice of love to your family and friends who rejoice in your presence in their lives and simply want to show it.

Rejoicing in the gift of each other,
The Editor Pro Team

Bulletin, Chronicle, Web Site, Blog, Facebook...I'm soooo confused!!

As the ways that we can pass information to one another become bewildering vast and complex, a little clarity may be in order. Let me suggest ways that might make communication of information just a little easier.

If you have an announcement of approximately 25 words or less, submit it to the bulletin. If you have a message that requires longer explanation or has a lot of information, submit it to the website. If you're looking for feedback, submit it to the blog or to Facebook. Contact Diane Holland for the bulletin, and Dick Mansfield for the website, blog and Facebook. The Chronicle, by its very nature, is better suited for opinion and background information. If you have ideas for future Chronicle issues, contact Diane Holland.

Christ Church Calendar

Advent/Christmastide 2011

The Lectionary for Saints Days can be found at www.io.com/~kellywp/; biographies of the saints can be found at wikipedia.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 Advent III Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 AA: 7p - 9:15p (PH)	12 AA (closed) 6 - 8p (MR)	13 Healing Service 12:15p Bible Study - 1p	14 Soup Kitchen 8a - 1p AA: 6p - 8p (PH)	15 Holy Eucharist 5:30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols - 7 pm	16	17 Parish Work Day - 9 to noon
18 Advent IV: Children's Christmas Pageant Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 AA: 7p - 9:15p (PH)	19 AA (closed) 6 - 8p (MR)	20 Healing Service 12:15p Bible Study - 1p	21 Soup Kitchen 8a - 1p AA: 6p - 8p (PH)	22 Holy Eucharist 5:30 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Family Service - 4 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with Full Choir - 11 pm
25 Christmas Day Holy Eucharist - 10 am AA: 7p - 9:15p (PH)	26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr AA (closed) 6 - 8p (MR)	27 John, Apostle and Evangelist Healing Service 12:15p	28 Holy Innocents Soup Kitchen 8a - 1p AA: 6p - 8p (PH)	29 Holy Eucharist 5:30 pm	30	31
1-Jan Holy Name Day Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 AA: 7p - 9:15p (PH)	2 AA (closed) 6 - 8p (MR)	3 Healing Service 12:15p Bible Study - 1p	4 Soup Kitchen 8a - 1p AA: 6p - 8p (PH)	5 Holy Eucharist 5:30 pm	6 Ephiphany	7

* PH = Parish Hall; MR = Meditation Room

2012 Calendar for Altar Flowers

The new calendar for altar flowers will be going up shortly. Please add your name to the calendar for the Sunday(s) you would like to supply flowers. A form will also be available for you to fill out and give to the church office. This will insure that the information appears in the bulletin for that week.

You will be responsible for obtaining the flowers for the altar. Flowers may be purchased from a local florist, from your own garden when available or from one of the grocery stores in the area. You may call Kathy Preis at 223-0019 to arrange a time to bring the flowers to church.

Saints' Day and Holy Days for Advent and Christmastide

Thomas, Apostle

Thomas has come to be known as the Doubter, but his curiosity, intelligence and integrity makes him easy for the modern Christian to understand and appreciate. His search for truth led him to place his hand in Christ's side, but the depth of his faith led far afield. He travelled far to the east, bringing Christianity to the western shores of India where he is still venerated as the founder of Indian Christianity.

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

As the church began to grow after Pentecost, the apostles needed to appoint disciples to tasks within the community to allow them to attend to weightier matters of doctrine. Stephen was one such discipline, standing firmly for the faith in his role as deacon when brought before the Sanhedrin. He was convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to stoning, becoming the first Christian martyr.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

John, with his brother James, were known as "Boanerges" or "Sons of Thunder", perhaps due to their father, Zebedee's temper, and were among the first apostles called by Jesus. With his brother and Peter, John witnessed many of the most important events in the life of Christ. With the writing of his Gospel, and, to a lesser extent, his letters, the John had a major impact on the nascent church. Though there is some disagreement as to whether the writer of the Gospel, the letters and the Revelation are all the same person, all of these writing have had, and continue to have a profound impact on Christianity.

The Holy Innocents

This day commemorates the massacre by Herod of all the infants in Bethlehem. The wise men came to Herod to inquire of him where the Christ is to be born. He directed them to Bethlehem, but the wise men are warned to go home by another way because Herod's duplicity may doom them. Indeed, in order to be sure that he rids himself of his infant rival, Herod orders that all male children under the age of 2 be killed in all Bethlehem.

Holy Name

This is the day that commemorates Christ's baptism in the temple. Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the temple and Simeon, who has been promised that he will not die until he sees the Messiah, gathers him in his arms. Upon beholding Jesus, he speaks the Nunc Dimittis - "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people, Israel."

Epiphany

The Epiphany is an "appearing" or "manifestation". This day celebrates the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child, in which the child is made manifest to the world (i.e., the wise men). Scholars describe epiphanies in Jesus' life as moments in which the full human and divine character of Christ are revealed, and have found many examples in His life that meet this definition. The Transfiguration is another example.



Christ Church
64 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Christ Church, Montpelier

The Reverend Paul Habersang, Priest in Partnership
paulhabersang@comcast.net

802 223-3631

www.christchurchvt.org

Facebook- <http://on.fb.me/ncqhmp>

Twitter - <http://bit.ly/oIaqsc>

Paul Harrington, *Senior Warden*

Ruth Beard, *Junior Warden*

Brian Webb, *Director of Music*

Bill Beard, *Junior Choir Director*

Elizabeth Wilcox, *Director of Religious Education*

Dorothy Albert, *Receptionist and Outreach Minister*

Diane Holland, *Chronicle Editor Pro Temp*

