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A Word from Paul Walker

As Christie and I were breaking down an extra crib at Church to give to a family in need, I was struck once again with the ludicrousness of the Son of God's mean birth. As we sing every year, "*away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.*"

No crib for his bed – not even the basic and elemental security and comfort we take for granted, even from the beginning. According to Jesus, things didn't really get much better in this department throughout his life. He said, "*Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*"

The ironies of the Christmas story shimmer anew each year. As we read in John's prologue, "*He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*" Not only did his own people not receive him, there was literally no room for him in the inn. The One "*from whom every family in heaven and earth receives its name*" was born out of wedlock. The first witnesses of the event longed for by the kings and prophets of old were animals and shepherds, out in the middle of nowhere.

These Christmas ironies, ironies that began the life of a carpenter who died on a wooden cross, a King who stripped off his robes and washed his disciples' feet, a God who won life for us by losing his own. Maybe this Christmas you might see your own ironies – the deepest satisfactions in giving rather than getting, a look of love from an unexpected corner, the Spirit of Christmas stealing upon you unawares.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Ever Yours,
Paul

We hope that you and your family and friends might be able to join us for Christmas services at Christ Church. Please note the schedule inside on page 2.





ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**THESE SERVICES
WILL BE BACK IN
THE CHURCH!**

- Dec. 18th** **9 a.m.** Children's Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 18th** **5 p.m.** Lessons & Carols (Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir)
- Dec. 24th** **5 p.m.** Christmas Eve Service (traditional service with choir and organ) **Nursery provided at 5 pm**
- 9 p.m.** Christmas Eve Service (traditional service with choir and organ)
- Dec. 25th** **10 a.m.** Christmas Day Service

Christmas Pageant News

Mark your calendars for the annual Christmas Pageant during the 9 o'clock service on Sunday, December 18th. Come and see the story of Jesus' birth as told by the Christ Church children! Rehearsals take place during Children's Chapel and Sunday School each Sunday leading up to the pageant. We will have a Dress Rehearsal (meet in Meade Hall) for all participants at Christ Church on Saturday, December 17th, from 10-Noon. A cast luncheon will follow rehearsal. We would love for everyone to be there!



Christmas Program

Other Sunday School News

There will be no Children's Chapel or Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st. We will resume on Sunday, January 8th. See you in the New Year!



The Annual Greens & Goodies Christmas Sale

**Sunday, December 4th
from 8 a.m. until
1 o'clock**



Greenery, Baked Goods, Gifts, Cookies, Jellies and much more! All provided by our own creative congregation.

Please drop off your Greens or Goodies on Saturday, December 3rd from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. or bring them to church Sunday morning.

There will also be delicious soup for sale in the downstairs kitchen to take home for lunch after you shop!

For questions or more information, contact Lee Taylor at 466-3512 or e_lee_taylor@yahoo.com.

Come all ye Christ Church 20s & 30s! You are warmly invited to a Christmas party on Friday, December 16th, 7-10 pm at the home of Dave and Cate Zahl (1810 Winston Rd, just off Rugby). Santa will be

Hey! 20's-30's!



providing beverages, but we could use some help with appetizers and desserts. Please email Addie Jenkins at addie.jenkins@gmail.com if you'd be able to bring something. Also do RSVP to Dave Zahl at dz@christchurchville.org as soon as you know whether or not you can attend. Hope to see you there!



2012 Stewardship Report

As of December 1st, we have received 228 pledges totaling \$850,921. Thank you! Of those 228 pledges, 31 are new. These new pledges are a wonderful reflection of the growth God has given us at our church. The Vestry has calculated that we will need a minimum of \$930,000 in pledge income for the General Budget they have set of \$1,163,810. In addition to the pledge income we receive during the course of a year, donations come in through loose plate offerings, non-pledged income, trust income, donations for flowers, etc. This helps to make up the difference between the pledge income and the set budget goal. If you have not pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so.

Other Financial News



**Don't Forget
Your Tithe**

We are grateful to those parishioners who have made their pledges for 2012. If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider pledging and send in your card (or email it in) as soon as possible so that we can plan our operating budget for the new year.

Thank you for your continued generosity to Christ Episcopal Church! According to IRS regulations, all contributions for 2011 must be received in the Church Office in 2011 (or postmarked in 2011). We will send out one last statement of giving to our pledging parishioners in the beginning of December. As always, your statement of giving for all of 2011 will be mailed out within the first two weeks of January.



Did you know that you could make a contribution to Christ Church (for our College Ministry) through the UVA Fund? Our account number with them is FSOD487. Their contact information is: 434-243-9000/alumni-



Attention!

UVA Alumni!

Confirmation Class



2011-12 Youth Confirmation

The Youth Confirmation Class will begin **Sunday, December 4** and run through Sunday March 18, with confirmation taking place at the 11:00 service on **Sunday, March 25**. The youth confirmation class is open to any 8th grader, as well as high school students who have not been confirmed. **Classes will be held Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:50 in the Magruder House** (across the street from Christ Church, next door to Hill & Wood Funeral Home) and taught by Dave Johnson, assisted by Win Pratt and Addie Jenkins of the Christ Church Fellows Program. We'll cover a lot of topics, including grace, scripture, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and the Apostles Creed. We're also having a weekend retreat February 24-26. For additional info or to register, please contact Dave Johnson at dave@christchurchville.org or 434-293-2347, ext. 102. Looking forward to a fun class ☺!

Attention—Women!

The women of the parish are cordially invited to the home of Valerie Knapp on Thursday, Dec. 8th at 6:30 p.m. (4165 Saddlewood Dr.).



Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a dozen cookies for a cookie exchange! If you have any questions, please contact Valerie at 227-0526.

Directions: Head southeast on Route 250 East toward Shadwell Station Lane. Take the first right onto Co Rd. 729/N Milton Rd. Turn left onto Co Rd. 729/Milton Rd. Turn right onto VA-53 W/Thomas Jefferson Pkwy. Take the first left onto Buck Island Rd/Co Rd 729. Turn left onto Co Rd 618/Martin Kings Rd. Take the 2nd left onto Saddlewood Dr. Valerie's house is on the left.



The Chancel Renovation:

The dust wall is down and the chancel floor framing is complete. R.E. Lee is still on schedule to complete their work (installation

of the hardwood floor, placement of the new reredos, installation of the new pulpit and communion rail) by Feb. 3rd.

Nave/Narthex Renovation:

- The painting is completed in the Nave. As of this printing, only narthex and west entry vestibule ceilings remain.
- The hardwood flooring is fully installed and stained, sealed and finished.
- Heat pipe leaks that endangered the new oak flooring have been repaired.
- The cleaning subcontractor cleaned the walls, window wells, columns and various other nooks and crannies from all the construction dust!
- The stone flooring has been completed in the Narthex and West Entry Vestibule, and the inset walk-off mat material is installed.
- The carpet on the balcony stairs and in the balcony is installed. The “little” organ will move to the balcony the week of Dec. 12th. The same style & color carpeting will be installed in the Meade Hall entry

vestibule and in the hallway to the church after completion of the chancel renovation (early February).

- The piano has been relocated to its “Praise Band” location in the west transept and will be tuned.
- The pews and related kneelers will be installed starting Monday, November 28th, and will be completed on or before Friday, December 16th. Additional repairs will be performed on some pews as needed during this installation period.
- The center aisle carpet will be installed on Thursday, December 15th.
- Final cleaning will occur during the week of December 12th.

**Sanctuary will be ready for Sunday Services on
December 18th ! Welcome back home!!**

Memorial Garden: Your Senior Warden, Mike Sadler, personally weeded and roto-tilled the entire Memorial Garden. On Saturday, Nov. 19th, Hock Hockensmith led a cleanup team to level the ground, remove the weeds and plant an annual rye grass in the Memorial Garden. As soon as R.E. Lee is finished using the alley to the new blower/mechanical rooms, the new drainage system will be installed.

To God Be The Glory!

Prayer Requests

Pray for your fellow parishioners: Kay Orrick, Martha Dabney Jones, Anne Odend’hal, Paige Peyton, Carol Harlee, Marjorie Sample, Helen Wick, Ronnie Winship, Ruth Swift, Anne Worrell, Tom Bass, Marcia Hutchinson.

Pray for friends and relatives of parishioners: Brenda Jones (mother of Trina Rogers), Phyllis Stayton (Kathy Brust’s mother), Bennett Helms (Jay Josey’s stepfather), Charles & Elsa Nagy (Jane Varga’s parents), Randy Brown (Lee Taylor’s mother), Joel Harrison (Tom Harrison’s son), Leonard & Ann Salmons (Aunt/Uncle of Marcia Hutchinson), Lula Bradford (mother of Marcia Hutchinson) **(Unless requested, remain on list for 1 month.)**

Pray for our leaders: Barack, our President; Bob, our Governor and David, the Mayor of our city.

Pray for those on the Active Duty list: LT Matthew Warnecke, U.S. Navy (Karen & John Warnecke’s son); Jason Morris (son-in-law of Eugene & Lanier Bogen).

Pray for the bereaved: Eileen Wilkins (Jeanette Wilkins, mother) Punkie Feil (Phyllis Childress, mother), Cheryl Bradbury (Robert Roberts, father), Lee Ann Barber (Walter Bass, father), Consi Palmer (Constance Daniel, mother), Marianne Braun (Grace Hilliard, mother).

Please Note: We will list the bereaved for 6 months along with the deceased **relative**, if we know the name.

Please make your requests for prayer known to us: 100 W. Jefferson St.; Charlottesville, VA 22902; Phone: 293-2347; Email: cec@christchurchville.org



If you are new to Christ Church, we have an **Email Prayer Chain**. There are approximately 75 parishioners on the chain at present. When we receive phoned-in prayer requests or email prayer requests in the church office, we send them out to the chain as quickly as possible for prayer. If you would like to participate and pray for the needs of others, please send an email to cec@christchurchville.org and we’ll add you to the list.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Adult Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30—9:00 in Meade Hall.	Children's Choir rehearses on Wednesday from 4—5pm in Meade Hall.	Handbell Choir rehearses from 6:30—7:30 in the Choir room on Thursdays	HC—Holy Communion MP—Morning Prayer	1 7-8 Men's Bible Study 9-11 Women's	2	3 8 High Street Hymns Concert
4 Greens & Goodies Sale! 7:45 HC Rite I 9 HC Rite II 10 Sunday School 11 HC Rite I 5 PM HC	5	6 Noon Loaves & Fishes	7	8 7-8 Men's Bible Study 9-11 Women's Bible Study	9	10
11 7:45 HC Rite I 9 HC Rite II 10 Sunday School 11 MP 5 PM HC	12	13 Noon Loaves & Fishes	14	15 7-8 Men's Bible Study	16	17
18 Back in the Sanctuary! 7:45 HC Rite I 9 Christmas Pageant, HC Rite II 11 HC Rite I 5 PM Lessons & Carols	19	20 Noon Loaves & Fishes	21	22	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve Services 5 pm
25 10 Holy Communion	26 Office Closed	27 Noon Loaves & Fishes	28 11:15 Communion at WCBR.	29	30	31

Honduras Mission Trip: March 3-10, 2012

This year Christ Church will once again be partnering with St. James Episcopal Church, Richmond for a week-long mission trip to Honduras. Our trip will revolve around work with and service to Our Little Roses, a home for 60 - 70 girls, ages 2 - 17 for approximately half of each day. This time will be spent connecting with the girls through games, worship, and Bible study. The other half of each day will be spent working at San Jose de La Montana, a squatters' church in Noueva Prima Vera. It is a rock solid congregation, part of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. The estimated cost is \$ 1,200 - \$ 1,500, and we need commitments by December 15th. **Prior to and in support of the mission, Vestry member Punkie Feil is leading a drive to ship brand new or almost new toys and clothing for the girls at Our Little Roses. A large box for donations will be placed in the church office. For more information about this mission for the mission, email Punkie at punkiefeil@gmail.com.** For more information about the actual mission please contact Cleve Brannock (clevebrannock@embarqmail.com) or Dave Johnson (dave@christchurchville.org). Thanks!

PACEM JANUARY 16-28, 2012

The past few years we have had many people from Christ Church help out with **PACEM** (People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry), a local ministry that serves the homeless by providing shelter during the coldest months of the year. This year, Christ Church will be teaming up with Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church for two weeks, *January 16-28*. We need volunteers to make food, do laundry, and visit with the guests. For more information, contact Josh Bascom at bascom.josh@gmail.com or 434-996-6028.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

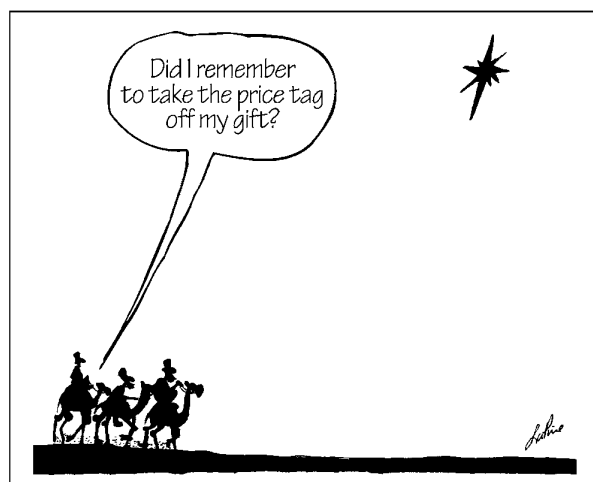
Psalm 91:1, NIV

Do we have your email address? Let us know if you would like to receive The Messenger electronically. That way, you can enjoy the pictures in color, instead of just black and white! Please send a message to us at cec@christchurchville.org.

Christ Church Classics Series Reading Schedule 2011-2013

The Classics group meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Gibson room. If you'd like to be on the email list, contact Abby Pratt: abbyfpratt@gmail.com.

- December 1, 2011: *Housekeeping*, Marilynne Robinson
- February 2, 2012: *Under the Net*, Iris Murdoch
- March 1, 2012: Selected poems by John Donne (TBD by Marianne)
- April 5, 2012: *Absalom, Absalom!*, William Faulkner
- May 1, 2012: *Under the Volcano*, Malcolm Lowry
- June 7, 2012: Selected short stories by Eudora Welty
- July 12, 2012*: *Dubliners*, James Joyce (*Week later because of July 4 holiday.)
- August 2, 2012: Selected poems by Elizabeth Bishop
- September 6, 2012: *Madame Bovary*, Gustave Flaubert
- October 4, 2012: *King Lear*, William Shakespeare
- November 1, 2012: *The Violent Bear It Away*, Flannery O'Connor
- December 6, 2012: Selected essays, poems by Wendell Berry
- February 7, 2013: *An American Childhood*, Annie Dillard
- March 7, 2013: *Travels With Charley*, John Steinbeck
- April 4, 2013: *Cane*, Jean Toomer

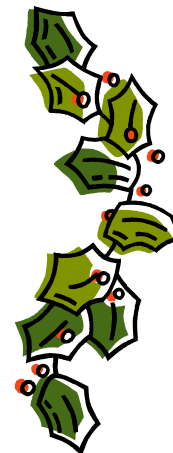


The Winter Youth Group Calendar



Sat, Jan 14
Sat, Jan 21
Thurs, Jan 25
Sat, Feb 4
Fri-Mon, Feb 17-20
Fri-Sun, Feb 24-26
Fri, Mar 23

Youth Group event
MS PACEM 6pm
HS PACEM 6pm
Chili Cookin' 12-4pm
HS Breakaway
Confirmation Retreat
Hunger Games movie



Vital Statistics

Christ Episcopal Church
Charlottesville, VA

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**Mailing Address/
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Phone: 434-293-2347

Fax: 434-977-1227

Email:
cec@christchurchville.org

Web:
www.christchurchville.org

THE VESTRY

Mike Sadler, Senior Warden
Bill Blodgett, Junior Warden
Jo Gitchell, Register
Dale Varga, Treasurer

Jill Bascom
Kathy Brust
Stewart Craig
John Desmond
Judy Drayer
Punkie Feil
Jo Gitchell
Joe Jennings
Jay Josey
Charlie Owen
Bill Sublette
Nelson (Tee) Teague
Anne Worrell
Vestry Contact info:
mike.p.sadler@gmail.com

The Lighter Side of Life



Christmas Poinsettia

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Amount Enclosed (\$15 per plant): _____

Choose (please keep it brief) :

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Make check your payable to Christ Church, indicate Poinsettia on the memo line of your check, and return your form **no later than Sunday, December 18th**.

