

Crossings

Christ Church Grosse Pointe



December 2009

Gifts and Greens Sale

A weekend of giving to benefit local charities

What event in the month of December has the potential to be great fun for you and a big blessing to others? Christ Church's annual Gifts and Greens Sale, December 4-6.

The annual fund-raiser, which has raised as much as \$20,000 for a variety of charities, will benefit two important local organizations: St. Peter's Home for Boys, a residential and educational program for adolescent boys with a history of neglect and abuse, and Habitat Grosse Pointe Partners, which assists Habitat for Humanity Detroit to accomplish its goal of rebuilding the Detroit community one house and one family at a time.

The weekend's events begin with a Preview Party at the church on Friday, December 4, from 7 to 10 pm. This special evening will include a live auction and silent auction (which will continue through Sunday, December 6 at 1 pm), exhibitor preview, hors d'oeuvres and beverages and holiday entertainment. Everyone is invited and tickets are just \$35 per person. They are available by calling the church office at 313.885.4841.

At the Gifts & Greens Sale on Saturday, December 5, 10 am to 4 pm, and

Preview Party (\$35)
Friday, December 4, 7-10 pm

Gifts and Greens Sale
Saturday, December 5, 10 am-4 pm
Sunday, December 6, 10 am-2 pm

Sunday, December 6, 10 am to 2 pm, shoppers will find unique gifts by local artisans, fair trade items, home-made baked goods, a Santa's Workshop for kids' shopping and a silent auction. In addition, Michigan-grown Black Hills Spruce and Fraser Fir Christmas trees will be available for purchase.

Some of the items up for auction include a week at Pinnacle Place, a 3-bedroom town home at the peak of Prospect Hill overlooking Lake Michigan and the Manitou Islands, nestled in the midst of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Glen Arbor; an Epiphany decanter created by artist Jason Ruff; a sunset cruise for up to six adults; and four nights' accommodations in a charming hand-built log cabin facing the Wind River Range in Wyoming. Come prepared to place a bid on these and many other fabulous items.

To donate a bakery item, please contact Mary Kay Blaine at 313.882.2877 (h) or 313.995.0937 (c). If you can help prepare for or work during the sale, please contact Joan Dennehy at 313.642.0815 or herbandjoan@sbcglobal.net.



From the Rector

Thanking God for the blessings of this parish family

Dear Friends,

We have been on quite a spiritual journey over the past year. With the Detroit area as the epicenter of economic challenges facing our country, I have noticed that those in our community who have maintained or even flourished through these tough times have taken on some of the attributes of survivors' guilt. A friend of mine who lives on the west side and is doing very well financially (his business is not Detroit-dependent) has said to me more than once that being successful in the midst of so much loss is spiritually and emotionally challenging. He is a very faith-filled person and I pray regularly for his journey, while also celebrating his success.

Whether the past year has been one of struggle, success or somewhere in between for you, I hope you have found strength and sustenance through your participation in parish life. You all are amazing people of God and I give thanks every day for being blessed to be a part of your lives.

I think of two parishioners in particular who have walked an interesting road together. Jane and Sue (not their real names) had known each other for some time. Sue was a very expressive Christian, always willing to talk about Christ and how important Christ was for her life. Jane, on the other hand, spoke of herself as a Christian out of duty – more of a thinking follower of Christ. She actually proclaimed that she wasn't really sure she had what it took to be a Christian.



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From the Rector

Continued from page 1

While Sue worried about Jane and her faith journey, and often shared her concerns with me (sometimes with a bit of judgment), Jane would confide in me that she just wasn't one of those "Bible readers and Jesus talkers." My response to both of them was the same, "Some of us come to faith through our hearts and some come

through our minds; there isn't a right or a wrong way. God created both our hearts and our minds and is pleased to have us either way!"

Sue died several years ago and her life is one that now resides in the heavenly kingdom; she has become a new creation. And so has Jane. Through

her involvement in this parish family in the last couple of years, Jane has had that Spirit of God move from her head to her heart and back again! She now speaks of her Christ in ways that are far more expressive and personal than she had before (especially back when she was being resistant to the nudging of friends like Sue and others around her).

Let me be clear, this doesn't make Jane a "better" Christian now; it is simply her personal journey into a life where she is more open to sharing who God is in her life. Jesus loves us no matter where we are on the road of faith and is elated that we are on it with him.

Pray as we move into the season of Advent and then into Christmas, that your faith is supported and deepened by your fellowship with others in this parish. I know mine is. You have loved me in ways that have led me to be a better person and a more joyful follower of Christ. Isn't that a great early Christmas present!

Peace,

The Rev. Brad Whitaker

Parish Life in Review

Animal Blessing

A good number of parishioners and their beloved pets filled the parking lot on Sunday, October 4, for the annual St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals. Though the weather forecast called for rain, it turned out to be a joy-filled time of worship and prayer for everyone. Our thanks to Brendan Ross and Robin Maghielse who captured the special moments shown here.



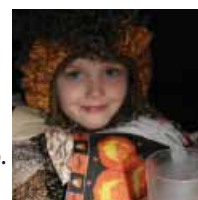
Photos 1, 6, 7 by Brendan Ross; Photos 2-5 by Robin Maghielse © 2009

Halloween

Those who attended the intergenerational Halloween Party at Tuesdays Together on October 27 will tell you it was a blast to see all the costumes and watch children and adults alike having a great time together. Everyone took part in fun games — including Roast the (Marshmallow) Ghosts. Party-goers enjoyed hearing stories around the warmth of a bonfire, as well as a tasty meal served up by Mike Fournier.



Our thanks to Debbie Miller, who coordinated the event with the help of Julie Schuetze, Ann Eatherly and Cyndee Harrison, and made it such a great time of fellowship.



Photos by Cyndee Harrison © 2009

Christmas Gift-Giving Program



We have approximately 150 names from Church of the Messiah and 55 names from Alternatives for Girls for this year's Christmas Gift-giving program at Christ Church. Gift Tags, which include the age, gender, sizes, needs and interests of the recipients, along with instructions for you to follow, can be found in the Undercroft. A giving limit of \$30 per person is recommended. Gifts must be returned to the church by December 13. If you have questions or concerns or would like to join the committee or offer assistance, please contact Eldonna L. May at 313.886.7957 or ad8192@wayne.edu.



Advent and Christmas at Christ Church

May God's Peace, Love and Joy fill our hearts
as we celebrate Jesus' birth

Celebrate the season with meaningful traditions and activities

Home-made Christmas Cards to brighten lives

We are looking for cards to include with the annual poinsettia delivery to those in need of encouragement on Sunday, December 13. Children are encouraged to make a card that will spread Christmas wishes with members of the parish family. Cards need to be turned in to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 9.

See page 5 for more holiday events offered by our music department.

Advent Pageant

Children in the fourth and fifth grade Sunday School class will bring to life the story of Mary and Joseph as they make their way to Jerusalem in the Advent Pageant on Sunday, December 20, during the 9 am service. Children, ages 3 to fifth grade, who do not have speaking parts are encouraged to dress as angels, shepherds or sheep. Some costumes are available here at CCGP to borrow. A dress rehearsal for those with

speaking parts will take place on Saturday, December 19, at noon. Pizza will be provided.

Crèche Procession

All children are invited to participate in bringing up different pieces of the crèche when the story is told and will set the stage for Christmas Eve. The procession will take place at the 4 pm service on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, and children should arrive in the Undercroft no later than 3:30 pm.

☞ Join us at the annual Open House at the Rectory — Thursday, December 10, 6-8 pm ☞

Intergenerational Blessing of the Gifts Sunday, December 27 at 10:15 am

during the Children's Sermon

This is an opportunity to experience the joy of giving. The Rev. Brad Whitaker will invite anyone who has brought a newly acquired gift to come forward to share or show their gift. Rev. Brad will then say a blessing over them.



Advent and Christmas Services

Sundays in Advent

November 29 — Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:15 am
December 6, 13, 20 — Holy Eucharist 8, 9 and 11:15 am

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4 pm — Holy Eucharist with Crèche Procession and Choir*
8 pm — Holy Eucharist with Choir
10:30 pm — Choral Prelude with Carols
11 pm — Holy Eucharist with Choir (with irritation-free incense)

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

10:15 am — Holy Eucharist with soloist

*Nursery care is available for children up to 3 years of age.

The Gift of Giving

An update on the annual stewardship campaign

The Christ Church First Committee (CCF) is happy to report that the 2010 Gift of Giving Stewardship Campaign is well on its way to reaching its goal.

"Parishioners have been very generous, beginning with the Vestry, whose individual members set the bar high by being first to pledge their support," said Peggy Beadle, Christ Church First Committee Co-chair. "Though we have a long way to go to reach our \$1.2 million goal, we remain confident that every member will recognize the importance of regular giving and respond with their commitment to support the many ministries at Christ Church."

The campaign's goal of \$1.2 million will allow the church to move forward in providing funding for Christian Formation ministries for children, youth and adults.

If you missed the opportunity to turn in your pledge card on Commitment Sunday, November 22, please do so no later than December 30, 2009.



Serving the church as a vestry member

Adapted from article by Betsy Creedon

The end of the year is drawing near and the Vestry Nominating Committee has been busy recruiting new members for the Vestry, the lay governance body elected by majority vote of the parish at the annual parish meeting. Fifteen members serve three-year terms, with five new members elected each year and third-year members rotating off.

"I'm happy to report that we have a full slate of candidates for the election in January," said Joe Maycock, senior warden and chair of the Nominating Committee. "They are Chris Harrison, Hope Hoffman, David Jones, Polly Ledyard, Betsy McCormick, Wendy Niven, Emily Tennyson, Beverly Walsh, Norah Williams and John Woodhouse."

Serving on the vestry is both an honor and a responsibility. As servant leaders, vestry members are entrusted as much with the spiritual life, ministry and mission of the church as the fiscal affairs of the parish. The actions of the Vestry are directly related to Christ Church's continued vitality, strength, and relevance in the world.



Vestry members must be a confirmed or received member of the Episcopal Church, a member of the parish and 16 years of age or older. They must be regular worshipers at Church Church for at least six months prior to being elected to the Vestry. He or she must demonstrate financial support by pledge or by being a contributor of record, and must have a history of participation in church activities.

This year's Nominating Committee includes Joe Maycock (Chair), Susan Heinen, Susan Larsen, Pat O'Brien, Don Sweeny, Kit Tennyson, Al Torp and Sarah Wheeler.

Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church Grosse Pointe is scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 10:30 am. Services will be at 8 and 9 am and there will be Christian Formation for children only that day. Note to Ministry Team Chairs: Year-end reports are due to Kay Yntema-Gruner (kyntema@christchurchgp.org) by December 14.

New Members

We are happy to welcome the following new members to Christ Church.

Heather Bossler (returning member)
Karen Davenport
Kathryn Gieske and Scott Oranchak
Sarah Hididd and Evan Pile
Mijael and Jamie Jimenez and daughter, Allison
Ross and Marilyn Richardson
Marla Ruhana
Chris and Greta Shires
Mark Stohlberg

"What makes a church great in the eyes of God? Participation, proclamation, preservation, and propagation. Every church ought to exhibit all four!"

O. S. Hawkins

Music Notes

Once in Royal David's City

By Scott Hanoian

I am willing to bet that for most people, the official beginning of the Christmas season is marked by a specific event or instance. For some, it is that old familiar "seasonal favorite" heard on the radio. For others, it is that woeful moment when Walmart begins advertising the "big sale" during prime time television programming. Yet, there are still many throughout the world whose "official Christmas" begins the moment they hear that lone boy chorister sing the first verse of Cecil Frances Alexander's hymn "Once in Royal David's City" at a Lessons and Carols service at their local church.



For those trying so hard to preserve the sanctity of the expectant Advent season amidst a sea of Black Friday sales, retail pushing and shoving, and lines for Santa Claus, it is becoming more and more difficult to save some Christmas spirit for those 30 seconds in the afternoon of the fourth Sunday of Advent. Still, year after year, the patient ones are rewarded by our beloved boy choristers in that quiet, candlelit moment.

The unfortunate reality is that, waiting to hear that boy soprano singing about Jesus' "mother mild" on Advent 4 or Christmas Eve (as is the tradition begun at King's College in 1919) may become moot when one looks into a crystal ball. With each passing year, choirs with singing boy choristers are nearing extinction throughout this country and the world.

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Soaring Sounds in a Sacred Space

Music at Christ Church Grosse Pointe



Special Services

Advent Procession

Sunday, December 6
at 4:30 pm

The Choir of Men and Boys will sing during this service of readings and music celebrating the Advent of Our Lord.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 20
at 4:30 pm

The Combined Choirs of Christ Church Grosse Pointe will participate in this candlelight service of nine lessons and carols,

including readings and music celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord.

Holiday Concert

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 13
at 4:30 pm

As part of our commemoration of Handel's death 250 years ago, the Christ Church Chorale presents a complete performance of George Frideric Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah*, scored for chorus, soloists, and orchestra. Tickets: \$20, \$5 students.

Coming in the New Year

Epiphany Procession

Wednesday
January 6, 2010
7 pm

Featuring the
Choir of Men and Girls

A service of readings
and music celebrat-
ing the Manifestation
of God in the form of
Jesus Christ

Save the Date — June 3-6, 2010

The 26th annual Christ Church Antiques Show raises funds to support Music and Outreach at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Renowned designer Barry Dixon, who specializes in high-end residential interiors, will be our guest speaker. At this time of year, remember that Antiques Show gift certificates (available in the church office and the Cloister Bookshop) make the perfect holiday stocking stuffer. To make donations for the auction or for more information, please contact antiques@christchurchgp.org.

Mariners Inn honors Christ Church and Rev. David Dieter



Christ Church was awarded the Safe Harbor Award for its commitment and leadership to the mission of Mariners Inn through our Outreach Funding Committee.

The Very Rev. David Dieter, senior associate priest, accepted the award on behalf of the church at Mariners' annual fund-raising event, River Rhythm, on November 6 at the Roostertail in Detroit.

Rev. David was also honored with a Spirit of Detroit Award from the Detroit City Council "for over two decades of caring for the needy in the Detroit metro area."

"I knew Christ Church was receiving the award, but I had no idea I was receiving one myself," said Rev. David.

In letters addressed to Rev. David, Governor Jennifer Granholm commended Christ Church for its efforts to help the homeless, and Detroit mayor David Bing praised Reverend Dieter and Christ Church for "your contributions to support recovery efforts, help with homelessness issues, and help to bring to the forefront the needs of the homeless."

The awards are on display near the entrance to the Undercroft.



Habitat for Humanity Second Saturday

Providing homes for those in need

By Matt Schuetze

A crew of eight volunteers represented Christ Church Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church at the Second Saturday Habitat for Humanity build on September 12.

After raking out some rocks and ruts from two of the foundations, the team split into two groups — one helped prepare the hospitality tent for the Fall Blitz Build, and the other prepped the pre-fabbed walls for Monday's kickoff work day. Even though all the wall units were pre-fabbed in the Habitat headquarters and mock assembled with numbered edges and

corners, we still found a few pieces that needed additional work. As such, we had quite a bit more real construction work than initially planned, but all enjoyed the beautiful Saturday outdoors and began to feel the vibes of the Blitz ready to commence on Monday, September 14. Our thanks to Harriett Whitaker, Helen Santiz, Jim, Sharon Blain, and Gar and Scottie Knight for coming out.

As a followup, I attended the Fall Blitz Build opening ceremonies on Monday, September 14. Devotionals included a blessing from the minister of the local church in Morningside, testimonials from one

prospective and one long-time Habitat home owner/home partner, and recognition of the volunteers who came from far-flung places like California, Texas and Tennessee for the week-long event. The Merik family (including seven grown daughters/nieces and proud father) sang two hymns that struck an immensely personal and moving chord for the crowd there. Your help in setting up provided a great boost to ensure the Blitz volunteers hit the ground running, and from all appearances on Monday, they were aptly armed and ready.

Thank you again for everyone's continued involvement.

CCGP's Outreach Funding Committee approved grants to the following organizations this fall. **The Detroit Institute for Children**, Detroit (\$5,000); **Crossroads**, Detroit (\$5,000); **Ruth Ellis Center, Inc**, Highland Park (\$2,000); **Bishop H. I. Mayson Scholarship Foundation**, Ypsilanti (\$500); **Bound Together**, Pontiac (\$3,500); **Canterbury House**, Ann Arbor (\$1,000); **St. Frances Cabrini Clinic**, Detroit (\$8,000); **Sunshine Community Preschool**, Detroit (\$2,500); **Eastpointe's Family Supper**, East Pointe (\$1,000); **Ecumenical Theological Seminary**, Detroit (\$500); **Adult Well-Being Services**, Detroit (\$3,000)

Pastoral Care

Career network makes transition to E.T.C.

The Career Transitions Network of CCGP is now partnering with other area churches in order to provide more information, resources, support and networking opportunities to eastsiders in a career transition.

Called "Eastside Take Control: Ecumenical Career Network Group, or E.T.C., the new network meets the first through the fourth Monday of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 am under the following rotation: 1st Monday – Grace Community Church; 2nd Monday – St. Paul's Catholic Church; 3rd Monday – St. Ambrose Church; and 4th Monday – Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Topics scheduled for meetings in December are as follows:
Dec. 7 — Tips for Successful Business Networking (Grace)
Dec. 14 — Tune-up your Job Search Plan (St. Paul's)
Dec. 21 — Success Stories (St. Ambrose)
Dec. 28 — Spirituality's Role in the Job Search (CCGP)

Though CCGP's group has merged with E.T.C., the Very Rev. David Dieter said that he will still be available to parishioners for individual counsel and will convene a CCGP group for discussion or updates upon request. Contact him at ddieter@christchurchgp.org or ext. 105

For a calendar of E.T.C. events, visit www.stpaulonthelake.org/Take Control.

Outreach

Bread to feed the multitudes

Thank you to all those who ordered bread last month to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. Purchasing one two-pound loaf at a cost of \$5 allows Gleaners to feed six people. With more than 84 loaves purchased and generous donations given by Christ Church, we were able to feed more than 1,260 people! Rev. David said he plans to offer the fund-raising effort for Gleaners several times a year. For more information, contact Rev. David at ext 105.



"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope!" — Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

The Hope of Healing Hysterical Holiday Habits

By The Very Rev. David Dieter

Senior Associate Rector for Pastoral Care

We are in the midst of what for most of us is the favorite time of year celebration-wise. Thanksgiving, though not actually a religious event, starts the pace for what is more than a month of family and friends, food and fancies, gifting and granting, gratitude and graciousness, church and creativity, plus hopefully prayer and peacefulness.



It is the latter two that we most consistently miss. It has been a tough time for many of us since the last holiday season. We may be faced with choices not considered before. Actually, this may be a good thing if we relax into a fresh look at what we do and who we really are to those we love and those things most crucial in our lives.

Quite regularly, time with family brings up every unresolved pathology, anger or grief. Most of us deal with this in less-than-helpful, let alone healing, ways. Traditions, whether familial or religious, are only as wonderful as the meaning is relevant. Only the reality of God's love for us remains constant and is always relevant. This can be especially precious to remember when our individual realities change. God, in Christ and the Holy Spirit, is ever available to help us to rediscover what is really important. To guide us toward fulfilling the title of this piece I offer the following:

The Christmas Pledge*

Believing in the true spirit of Christmas, I commit myself to:

- Remember those people who truly need my gifts
- Express my love in more direct ways than gifts
- Examine my holiday activities in the light of my deepest values
- Be a peacemaker within my circle of friends and family
- Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth

May the Peace of God which passes all understanding keep you and yours this Advent, Christmastide and always!

**Unplug the Christmas Machine: A complete guide to putting love & joy back into the season. (See the Cloister Bookstore for complete book information.)*

Parish Life

Third Thursdays

If you are in your 20s, 30s, 40s or 50s, you will want to make plans to join this new fellowship group at Christ Church. While they won't turn away anyone outside that age range, the group has planned casual venues that will allow participants to hang out with friends from church while enjoying fun and inexpensive activities – like game nights, paddle tennis or bowling.

"We wanted to create a new opportunity to experience Christian community beyond our times together on Sundays," said the Rev. Brad Whitaker. "This group has the potential to bring people together in a way that helps them develop real connections with other parishioners."

The group met for the first time on November 19 for a Wii tournament, games and a cookout. Their next gathering is scheduled for December 17. Mark your calendar and join them.

Foyer Groups

Foyer Groups are being formed at Christ Church to begin meeting in January. These "strictly social, strictly fun" groups are made up of about eight people, all Christ Church members, some of whom you will know and others whom you will get to know better. Just as a foyer is the entrance to a home, so a foyer group gives entrance into each other's lives beyond the church environment. The groups will rotate meeting in the homes of group members for dinner once every month or so.

"Whether you're married or single, a great chef or an average cook, with or without a dining room, you can participate in these groups," said Mark Lorenger, who along with his wife, Sue, is handling coordination of the groups. "You could help others cook a meal or host at someone else's house."

Mark said the key to these groups is "breaking bread together" in a casual, low-key and fun way. There is no agenda and you can meet on any evening of the week or weekend, for dinner or even a Sunday brunch.

If you would like to participate in a group, please sign up on the sheets posted in the church lobby or during the Adult Forums on Sundays. For more information, contact Mark at 313.882.9726.



Music Notes

Continued from page 5

The challenge is in recruitment. With all that is available to our children, it is counter-cultural to ask a family to commit to something like a boys choir. Singing in a choir like the ones at King's College or Christ Church makes it difficult to participate in many other activities like sports, drama groups, or social clubs. To keep up with the rigors of worship, concerts and recordings, boys are asked to give up a great deal of time to "perfect their praises" week after week. Like a fine Olympic athlete, in order to become great at something, one has to devote the necessary time to hone their craft. This can only be done in rehearsals and private lessons. Add these to homework and family obligations, and there is little time left for anything else.

It is important to note that our friends in Britain are by no means immune to these difficulties. Just over a year ago, I attended a conference led by King's College's choirmaster, Stephen Cleobury. During a question and answer session, Dr. Cleobury mentioned that when he arrived at King's in 1982, there were easily 100 applicants for the four to five vacancies each year. Today, applications have dwindled to 35. While having 35 applicants for so few vacancies is a luxury most of us in the business would whole-heartedly welcome, that kind of reduction is ominous. If King's College, with its vast history and extraordinary credentials, has lost over 50% of their annual applications, what hope is there for the rest of us?

My solution has been to remain steadfast. Like in many things, I feel our mainstream culture has

temporarily shifted and we must not ignore those boys and families that would find a perfect home in the Christ Church Choir of Men and Boys. It demands a great deal from the boys in terms of time commitment and dedication, thus making it difficult to excel in multiple athletics or get a lead in the school play, that is, until they finish with the choir at the end of eighth grade. More importantly, one cannot overlook the great benefits available to those in the choir. Every opportunity I get, I say that graduates of the chorister program learned confidence, dependability, self-esteem, responsibility, stamina, courage, cooperation, self-discipline and self-reliance. Through the outreach experiences of our tours, our boys and girls offer their talents to people throughout the United States and abroad and get a glimpse of the divine as they sing in the great cathedrals and churches of the world.

Finally, I look to the parish, choir alumni and music supporters to help. It is all of you who know how this unique ensemble changes lives. Send relatives, friends and neighbors to a service or a Chorister for a Day program and boast of the achievements of your hard-working choristers. The extremely dedicated boy choristers who rehearse day after day and will provide the first notes of our Lessons and Carols service this December and in the coming years are looking to you for help in keeping this tradition alive. It is these same boys who will one day, in Cecil Frances Alexander's words, "like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around."

Christian Formation

Advent Study at Tuesdays Together

Repentance, Faith, Holiness, and Love

Savor the season of Advent by participating in this new study offered by the Rev. Lisa Flores at Tuesdays Together in December.

"We will explore various characters in the biblical story, and even a few others out of the annals of history, to think through how to 'prepare him room' during Advent," said the Rev. Lisa.

During the four-week study, the stories of these characters will be structured around the themes of repentance, faith, holiness, and love. The Advent study will be offered on Tuesday, December 1, 8, 15 and 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Tuesdays Together at Christ Church offers something for all ages and is a unique opportunity to break from the busyness of life to enjoy a time of worship, fellowship and formation. You will be encouraged and renewed as you take the time to gather in God's presence.

Episcopal Youth Community

The Episcopal Youth Community — or EYC as we like to call it — began meeting in October and is proving to be a positive addition to the Christian Formation opportunities we have here at Christ Church for youth in middle school and high school.

"We've met weekly for some time now and have averaged about 20 teens," said the Rev. Brad Whitaker, who formed a group of parishioners to help lead the group. "The emphasis is on fun and fellowship."

EYC events have included a picnic in the park, whirley ball, ultimate frisbee, a Wii tournament and dinner and a movie. The meetings always seem to include pizza!

Sunday Mornings

Choose from these offerings on Sundays in December from 10:10 to 11 am.

Adult Forums — December 6: No Forum; December 13: Sponsored by the Outreach Committee, representatives from Simon House, a shelter for women and children that specializes in HIV care, and Mariners Inn, a diocesan-owned residential substance abuse program for men, will be here; December 20: Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Undercroft; December 27: No Christian Formation (One combined 10:15 am service for the Christmas holiday).

Bible Study — The Gospel of Luke - Advent marks a new church year and this year our Gospel readings will come from Luke. All are invited to pop in to this study group whenever you can.

Life in the Episcopal Church — December 6 and 13. This five-part series to prepare individuals for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation in the Episcopal Church wraps up this month.

"I really like getting together with my friends from church at EYC. You get to know someone when you're playing a game together and it's cool just to hang out," said Sarah Whitaker.

In December the EYC group will volunteer their time at the Gifts and Greens Sale, December 5-6. On December 13, they will celebrate the season with a Christmas Party and "Grinch Christmas Gift Swap" between 2 and 4 pm. They are asked to bring a small and fun gift for the swap.

To know more about EYC, friend them on Facebook or contact Rev. Brad at 313.885.4841 or bwhitaker@christchurchgp.org.

Policing Advent?

By The Rev. Lisa Flores

Associate Rector for Christian Formation

As the holiday season begins to ramp up, I am reminded of a certain group of people. Those people are the Advent police! I had never met a member of the Advent police until I entered seminary. They look just like you and me, but they have a secret mission: to keep Advent holy. So, you might ask, "How did they keep Advent holy?"

Well, they made it their mission to remind us, not always gently, that this is a time to be quiet and slow down. That the greatest gift we could ever hope for or imagine was coming, but we had to wait. They made sure that decorations were in keeping with the season - no red or green, just blue or purple, depending on how you color Advent!

They wanted us to fully appreciate the season and to find time to wait with Mary and Joseph. They wanted us to slow down and not get caught up in the holiday trappings. They wanted us to be quiet enough to hear the cry of the Baby Jesus on that most magical of nights.

The season of Advent is the beginning of a new year in the Church. It is a time of expectation and anticipation. In "Godly Play" language, Advent is a time to prepare for the mystery of Christmas.

Now I have to admit, after some time I, too, became a member of the Advent police. Once you fully experience the season as it is intended, a whole new appreciation is given to you and the mystery of Christmas is even more special.



Green Team Report

MilPL Membership

CCGP recently joined Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MilPL), a coalition of congregations across the State of Michigan whose mission is to involve communities of faith as stewards of God's creation by promoting and implementing energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices. One of the many benefits to membership is having access to the video "Easy Energy Video - Simple Steps to Save Energy and Save Money" with Jacob Corvidae of DTE's WARM. You may see the video any time at <http://www.mipl.org>.

"This video can help us to begin the process of having our congregation become "Cool Congregation" members — energy efficient and saving money along the way," said Candy Sweeny, Green Team chair.

Ecumenical Gathering



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The Green Team Committee chose to participate in the International Day of Climate Action on October 24, calling it the "Ecumenical 350 Gathering." They rallied a diverse group for a "stand up and be counted" photo on the church lawn, representing concerned citizens from Christ Church Detroit, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and other Southeast Michigan communities.

If you would like to get involved with CCGP's Green Team, contact Candy Sweeny at candyclees@aol.com or 313.881.0831.



Feeding Detroit's homeless at Crossroads

Christ Church reaches out to those in need

A team of 57 volunteers gave a combined 198 hours of service to Crossroads of Michigan on Sunday, October 24, as they served meals to a record-breaking 1,027 clients (including 40 children under the age of 13) at the soup kitchen's new site.

In addition to our volunteers (which included a number of school-age children), Christ Church provided the food for the meal that day, which included a hearty bowl of chili, two bologna sandwiches, a banana, cookies and a drink (milk for the children).

"If we divide our

cost of about \$1,520 by the number of people served that works out to \$1.48 per person," said Ted Hagan, CCGP Vestry member. "That's less than \$1.50 to provide, in many cases, the best meal many had that week."

The Vestry approved the Outreach Committee's proposal that the loose plate collection on the days we serve at Crossroads be designated for the soup kitchen. More than \$600 was collected that day, at least a three-fold increase over an average Sunday.

"On behalf of Crossroads and the many served that day, we thank Christ Church for a delicious meal, candy



bags for the children and great spirit. You made a difference in their lives," said the Rev. Canon Sandra D. Richardson, Crossroads Soup Kitchen coordinator.

Christ Church will serve at Crossroads again on Sunday, January 3, 2010. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this rewarding and much-needed ministry to our brothers and sisters in our community.

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread." —Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist

Bible Study Group

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

All are welcome to join the Thursday night Bible Study group. "This is still a "drop in" group, meaning that you can miss a session or more and still get a lot out of the sessions you do attend," said Lisa Nielsen, group facilitator. The group was studying the book of James last month and had not yet determined their next study at the time of publication. "Sometimes we read something other than the Bible or watch DVDs as long as it somehow informs us about our Christian faith," Lisa said. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lisa at 313.469.7751 or lnielsen1234@comcast.net.

Cloister Bookshop sells Christmas Cards

This year's Christ Church Christmas card features the Baptismal Window donated to the church in 1936 by The Chapel School. Pre-orders can be made in the church office or via email at bookshop@christchurchgp.org. (20 cards for \$20, includes tax)



Deliver Poinsettias to Shut-ins

Be a blessing to someone during the holiday season by delivering poinsettias to those in need of comfort and encouragement during the holidays. Poinsettia plants will be available in the church lobby on Saturday, December 12 and will need to be picked up on Sunday, December 13 for delivery to recipients. All you need to do is sign the plant "out" so we know who has delivered the plant and then follow the available instructions as you make your delivery. If you have any questions, please contact Candy Sweeny at candyclees@aol.com or 313.881.0831.

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Peter W. Dawson

Philip H. Dawson, Jr.
Detroit Forest Products, Inc.
Citizens Management, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Wiswell
Elizabeth C. Scarborough
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey R. Reem
Michigan Council of Self-Insured
Group Administrators
Comprehensive Risk Services
Richard H. Burt
Heart Truss and Engineering
Alexandra S. Mackey

Kerry J. Smale
Hadley Mack French
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Judd, Jr.
Wimsatt Building Materials Corp.
Godfrey Hammel, Danneels &
Co., PC
Susanne and Ty Triplett
Diane V. Scarborough

In memory of Douglas G. Kurop

Sylvia K. Kurop

In memory of William P. Bonbright II

Marylin B. Morison

In Memory of Don Mac Rae

Ruth Mac Rae

In Memory of John T. Albrecht

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Huebner

In Thanksgiving for the Baptism of Addison Knoll

Jennifer and Richard Knoll

In Thanksgiving for the Kindness of Christ Church

Judith A. Thoma

Communications at CCGP

A new publication schedule has been developed for future issues of *Crossings*. It was designed to better accommodate the Church calendar and parish program year. Please send any articles or news items to JoAnn Amicangelo, director of communications, at jamicangelo@christchurchgp.org. Weekly communications content will be developed from the *Crossings* content. If you have any questions or concerns about the new schedule or would like to talk about publicizing your ministry's mission and activities, please contact JoAnn at ext. 121 Tuesday through Thursday.

January/February 2010 (Deadline December 1)

March/April 2010 (Deadline February 1)

May/June 2010 (Deadline April 1)

July/August 2010 (Deadline June 1)

September/October (Deadline August 1)

November/December (Deadline October 1)

Shop the ReStore

The ReStore of Habitat for Humanity-Detroit is a win-win-win-win-win proposition.

- Get a tax deduction for donating used or new housing goods/materials. The ReStore will even pick up if needed.

- Save money on remodeling projects by having The ReStore come and remove the fixtures carefully (e.g. kitchen cabinets, counter tops, lighting, etc.), leaving your spaces in good condition for the new items, and saving the costs of removal, discard, and wall preparation. This kind of "deconstruction," as opposed to "demolition," also offers a way to recycle usable materials that will otherwise just end up in landfills.

- Save money on needed household items by purchasing them at the ReStore at greatly reduced prices. There are even some new materials – leftovers or overstock donated by major retailers.

- Profits from the ReStore (there are very few paid employees) go entirely to help build new Habitat houses.

The next time you think of throwing out something or remodeling, think first of Habitat ReStore for disposing of your materials. The center is located at 12630 Greenfield, just north of I-96. Brochures are available in the church lobby. For more information, contact Matt Schuetze (313. 882.5224 or mpschuetze@sbcglobal.net), Mike Labadie (313.882.0412 or mplabadi1@comcast.net), or Helen Santiz (313.885.9220 or hsantiz@umd.umich.edu).

Christ Church Grosse Pointe

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Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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www.christchurchgp.org

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Services

Tuesdays at 5:45 pm

Part of our Tuesdays Together program, this mid-week service offers a variety of worship styles for all ages.

Wednesdays at Noon

Holy Eucharist

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

This Saturday evening celebration of the Holy Eucharist is a "come-as-you-are" service with no music.

Sundays at 8 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Traditional worship service with no music

Sundays at 9 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

This family-friendly service is accompanied by the Choir of Girls and Men and features a children's sermon and Children's Chapel.

Sundays at 11:15 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

A traditional service featuring a sung Eucharist accompanied by the Choir of Men and Boys

Clergy

The Rev. Bradford G. Whitaker, Rector
Ext. 106 • bwhitaker@christchurchgp.org

The Very Rev. David D. Dieter, Senior Associate Rector
for Outreach and Pastoral Care
Ext. 105 • ddieter@christchurchgp.org

The Rev. Lisa C. Flores, Associate Rector
for Christian Formation
Ext. 116 • lflores@christchurchgp.org

The Rev. Ron Spann, Director, Spirituality Center
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Patricia Gordon, Sexton

Scott Hanoian, Director of Music and Organist
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Jeff Ralya, Sexton

Kay Yntema-Gruner, Administrative Assistant to the Rector
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Vestry Members

Peggy Beadle, Libby Candler (Jr. Warden), Denise Crenshaw, Ted Hagan, Joseph Katulic, Paula Labadie, Susan Larsen (Secretary), Mark Lorenger, Joseph F. Maycock, Jr. (Sr. Warden), David McCoy, Patricia O'Brien, Donald N. Sweeny III, Amie Sweeney, Allan J. Torp, Jeff vonSchwarz