



In Spire

Christ Church Staff

The Rev. Mimi Savidge

Rector

Jim Sauls

Administrative Assistant

Dr. David Bennett

Organist/Choirmaster

Carolyn Johnson

Director of Christian Ed.

Cosette Hardwick

College Coordinator

Melissa Robinson

Youth Group

Kathy Kapp

Sexton

James Vega

Senior Warden

Ron Hardwick

Junior Warden

Linda Justin

Clerk

Joanne Phillips

Treasurer

Church Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. 8 am-12 pm

Wed., Thurs. Fri. 8 am-4 pm

Mother Mimi Sat. 8 am-12 pm

December Events

Wednesday, December 2

6:0 pm Advent Family Night and Potluck Dinner

Friday, December 4

12:05 Holy Communion

Sunday, December 6

2 Advent

8:00 am Holy Communion

No Church School on Breakfast

Sunday's

9-9:45 am Breakfast

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sign Up Sunday ODFK

Tuesday, December 8

6:15 pm Vestry

Wednesday, December 9

6:0 pm Advent Family Night and Potluck Dinner

Potluck Dinner

Thursday, December 10

6:30 pm St. Fursey's

Women's Group Movie Out

Newsletter

December 2009

From the Rector

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of the Virgin Mary, Messiah, the One who was and is and is to come, the judge of the living and the dead, the Son of God, we should perhaps ponder who this person is to us here in this day and age.

Many other faiths recognize Jesus as a prophet, a great moral teacher, and even one of the pivotal forces for good in human history, but fall short of naming him the Son of God. Unfortunately, we Christians have not always lived up to his teachings and have distorted the truth about him. Each time we respond violently when we are confronted with teaching that oppose our own beliefs, we repudiate His teaching to turn the other cheek, pray for our enemies and heap good on the heads of our enemies.

At the same time, it is difficult to live in this century and know only the historical life of Jesus of Nazareth as portrayed in the four Gospels. CS Lewis say, the things He said about Himself are either true or insane, "I and the Father are one...no one comes to the Father but through me...unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you cannot live." It doesn't make rational sense, does it? And yet we are believers that this babe born in a manger was God become human.

When the animals in the stable bumped up against him, it hurt. When he was picked last at yeshiva school for kickball, he was hurt. When his mother scolded him for letting the wine run out, he became upset with her. God became human so he could know from the inside what it felt like to be human. So humanity would not be just subject and creation - but part of an eternal process of divine change. The Bible tells us "the measure you give will be the measure you receive" (from God). We can change God's mind even yet.

Christmas is more than a pretty story about a good family giving birth to a beautiful baby in a barn who grew up to be a wonderful and wise person. It is a profound world altering event who's ripples are still felt the world over. By becoming one of us, God showed himself as love and allows us, his beloved creation, the power to hurt, confuse, or delight Him.

Christianity isn't just a crib and a cross - we are 'just a little lower than the angels', and yet unlike them, are part of the creative impulse of love. In Bethlehem, God gives the greatest gift - the ability to reach out, in love, hate, despair, or disdain, and touch His divine heart and to know we have changed his heart. He's more than just a baby born in a manger - He's love in all its awful, delightful, dreadful, magnificence. No wonder most of the world finds Him confusing.

As I walked through the isles of the grocery store with a free range turkey and Velveeta cheese in my cart, it struck me as strange that in these days we live in such conflict. The church says beware of the danger of germs and goes to such extremes to prevent any contact while the grocery stores have free samples of dip and say, "Come, taste and see. It is good."

Have a blessed Advent and a Very Merry Christmas
Mother Mimi +

Friday, December 11

12:05 Holy Communion

Saturday, December 12

Office Closed Bishop's Advent Luncheon, Springfield

Sunday, December 13

3 Advent

8:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 am Church School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Donation Sunday ODFK

Transporters Living Community

5 pm Saints and Sinners Party at Sid and Mary Breese's

Monday, December 14

11:15 am Service Day ODFK

Wednesday, December 16

6:00 pm Advent Family Night and Potluck Dinner

Thursday, December 17

12 pm Standing Committee, Mother Mimi out of office

Friday, December 18

12:05 pm Holy Communion

Sunday, December 20

4 Advent

9:00 am Lessons and Carols and Eucharist

No Church School

Intergenerational Birthday Party for Christ Child after service

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

8:00 pm Caroling

8:30 pm Festival Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

Office Closed

10:00 am Holy Communion

Saturday, December 26

Office Closed

Sunday, December 27

Christmas 1

8:00 am Holy Communion

No Church School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 28

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 30

6 pm Confirmation Class

Office Closed January 1, 2

Saint's and Sinner's Party. This years party beginning at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 13, will be at the home of The Reverends Sid and Mary Breese, 2533 Francis Street, St. Joseph, 232-2725. For those of you new to the party, this is a fun time for all to gather and share food, gifts and the spirit of the approaching holiday season. If you have not attended this annual event this is how it works. Everyone attending is asked to RSVP on the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board across from the church office and designate what you would like to bring to share either an appetizer, salad, vegetable, or desert (the main meat course will be furnished along with soft drinks or tea). If you would like a more ambitious libation you may bring what you would like to drink. Each person brings a small wrapped gift to exchange no names attached. Some of these can be pretty unusual! Numbers are drawn and starting with #1 each person in turn selects a gift to unwrap from under the tree. As each persons number comes up they may choose to select a gift already open or keep the one they have. While we love and adore the young ones this is an adults only party. Hope to see you all there. If you need assistance with transportation or would like to arrange transportation please speak to our Senior Warden, Jim Vega or contact the church office.

The **Stewardship Drive** is being completed. We are now running on a deficit budget. If you have not made a pledge and would like to help out financially or with a ministry, please fill out a pledge card. You can find them on the table across from the Chapel or contact the church office.

Women of the evening - Make plans to attend another movie night on December 10. We can decide on the movie and time after Thanksgiving. If you have a preference, let me know. Cosette.

Mother Mimi is in the process of forming a **Confirmation Class** for those who wish to be Confirmed into the Episcopal Church during Bishop Howe's next visitation on February 21, 2010. The classes will begin on Wednesday, December 30 and run for eight weeks on Wednesdays prior to Bishop Howe's visitation. If you would like to participate for Confirmation please speak to Mother Mimi and let her know of your interest.



Christmas and Special Services

Lessons and Carols

9:00 a.m. Single Service December 20, 2009

Intergenerational Birthday Party for the Christ Child follows this service

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2009

8:00 p.m. Caroling

8:30 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

December 25, 2009

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

No Friday Communion January 1, 2010

Report on Children's Basket Offerings and Church School

Through Sept. 30, 2009, the amount collected in the children's baskets during the 10 am service on Sunday mornings was \$2013.23. The children of Christ Church would like to thank you for your most generous contributions!! They have carefully chosen the following charities to 'shower' with an extra sprinkling of God's love during this church year: **Nationally/Globally. \$440 - The Heifer Project** [this was a special choice made by the preschool and primary church school children] \$ 120 Sheep; \$120 Goat; \$ 120 Pig; \$60 Trio of Rabbits; \$20 Flock of Chicks. **\$400 - Companion Diocese of Botswana**, "Where needed most", Orphan Day Care Centre - Mahalapye, St. Mary Magdalene Orphan Care - Palapye, St. Peter's Orphan Day Care Centre – Mogoditshane. **\$400 – Our Little Roses** - An Episcopal home/school for abused/abandoned Honduran girls, "Where needed most," **Locally \$390 - InterServ**, \$390 will feed a family of 4 for 6 weeks, 200. **\$375 - Second Harvest's Back Pack Buddies** (weekend food packs), \$375 sponsors 12 children for 4 school quarters, Thank you so much, Carolyn Johnson, on behalf of the great kids at Christ Church!

The Holidays are approaching. There will be **no church school** on Breakfast Sunday, December 6, December 20, 27 and January 3. Following the 9:00 Single Service Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 20 the church school will host an intergenerational "**Birthday Party**" for the Christ Child. Watch your Sunday Bulletins for more details.

The **office** will be **closed** on Friday, December 25, Saturday, December 26, Monday, December 28, Thursday, December 31, Friday, January 1 and Saturday, January 2. Mother Mimi will conduct a Christmas Day Service on Friday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. There is no Communion on Friday, January 1.

The **Brotherhood of St. Furse** will have their next dinner at 6:30 p.m., **Thursday, December 10, in the undercroft**. If you will attend please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board across from the church office. All men of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

Advent Family Nights. Wednesday in Advent (December 2nd, 9th, 16th) we are having Advent Family Nights. They will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a pot luck dinner and then we will make an item that is related to Christmas/ Advent. Each family should bring a dish to share for the meal, an appetite and a smile. We will provide the rest.

News from Senior Express. Our Senior Express transportation program for those 60 and above is serving our clients well. Our drivers provided rides to doctor's appointments, to the hospital, and for personal errands during the month of October. One rider stated, "I'm eighty-three years old. I never learned to drive and so I was used to walking everywhere. Now I need to use a cane and can't do that anymore. So, for me, Senior Express is such a blessing. It lets me walk out my front door to the car and someone takes me to where I need to go." We are now signing up new riders as well as explaining this new program to our current clients. If you, a friend, or relative are 60 years of age or above and need transportation, please call the Faith in Action office at 271-7279 and we can talk with you and set you up as a Senior Express Rider. Also, if you would be interested in volunteering as a driver for Senior Express, you can call 271-7279.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Roxanne Dale 2, Mary Jo Lewis 2, Charles McCann 3, Bill Vega 3, Isabelle Bram 4, Robbie Walling 5, Jeanette Hayward Anderson 6, George Hayward 6, Sue Means 6, Marissa Reeder 7, Peter Johnson 10, Marjean McCann 13, Gail Robaska 13, Sandy Miller 17, Jill Edwards 20, Jim Michalski 20, Charles Anderson 31, Drew Brown 31. "O God, our times are in your hand; Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Alan and Kathy Kapp 16, David and Julia Robaska 18, P. Gordon and June Robaska 20, Mike and Allene Wright 27, Bill and Judy McMurray 28, Gordon and Pam Robaska, Jr. 28. "We thank you, most gracious God, for consecrating and sustaining these marriages in Christ's name. Lead them now and forever in love and companionship with each other and with you. And may the Spirit of Christ's peace which passes all understanding be with them now and forever." Amen.



Prayers will be offered for those sick or recovering from an illness, especially: Winston, Claudia, Allie, Anne, Wally, Kathy, Craig, Jeannie, Robert, Don, Jane, Tom, Gary, Cindy, Angel, Ruby, and Mike. Our sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of Jane Hayward who died this past month. May the peace of God's love be with all during this time of loss.

Memorial and Thanksgiving Flowers



Sunday, December 6 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for family and in memory of Dr. Willis McCann by Charles, Marjean, Chris and Jonathan McCann. The cascade is given in loving memory of her brother, Arthur Joseph DuPree, by Gladys Freeman.

Sunday, December 13 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Patricia Means by her daughter, Susan Means. The cascade is given by Mary Jo Lewis in memory of loved ones.

Sunday, December 20 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jack Tootle by Kay Tootle and family. The cascade is given by Mary Jo Lewis in memory of loved ones.

Sunday, December 27 The flowers from Christmas are given to the Glory of God.

If you would like to donate altar flowers or a cascade in Thanksgiving or Remembrance please contact one of our Flower Ministry coordinators, **Kay Temps (233-8179)** or **Ginny McLaughlin (901-0254)** or sign up on the flower schedule posted by the bulletin board and fill out one of the attached donation forms.

Worship Opportunities

Sundays

Summer

8:00 AM-Holy Communion
& Homily

10:00 AM-Holy Eucharist & Sermon

Fall and Winter

8:00 AM-Holy Communion
& Homily

9:00 AM-Church School

10:00 AM-Holy Eucharist &
Sermon

Fridays

12:05 PM-Holy Communion in the
Chapel

During Lent and other special seasons of the church year, opportunities are provided for additional spiritual growth and development. Please consult the Sunday bulletin or [InSpire](#) for details.

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Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Wednesday, December 16 is the deadline to order!

Christmas Poinsettia donations in thanksgiving or memory can be made by filling out the form below and placing it in the offering plate along with your check or by contacting our Ministry coordinators,

Kay Temps (233-8179) or

Ginny McLaughlin (901-0254).

Please let them know as soon as possible

if you would like to be included in this year's donation.

The price per poinsettia is \$20.00

Poinsettia Order Form



Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ **X \$20**

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____
