



InSpire

Christ Church Staff

The Reverend Charles C. Caskey
Interim Rector
Allene Wright
Senior Warden
Jim Vega
Junior Warden
Jim Sauls
Administrative Assistant
David Bennett
Organist/Choirmaster
Cosette Hardwick
College Coordinator
Cathy Caldwell
Christian Education
Melissa Robinson
Youth Group
Kathy Kapp
Sexton
Tim Swinchoski
Clerk
Joanne Phillips
Treasurer

Church Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. 9 am-1 pm

Wed., Thurs. Fri. 9 am-4 pm

December Events

Wednesday, November 30

6 pm Advent Potluck Dinner and Study

Thursday, December 1

5 pm Transisiton Committee

6:30 pm St. Fursey at Boudreaux's

Friday, December 2

10 am Staff Meeting

12 pm Holy Eucharist 1

Sunday, December 4

2 Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist I

9-9:45 am Breakfast

10:00 am Holy Eucharist II

Sign Up Sunday ODFK

Wednesday, December 7

6 pm Advent Potluck Dinner and Study

Thursday, December 8

6 pm Vestry Sack Dinner

6:15 pm Vestry Meeting

Newsletter

December 2011

Advent Reflections on the Liturgy

At the 10 AM service this Advent we are using one of the Eucharistic Prayers from *Enriching Our Worship*. You might be interested to know that in the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*, there is no reference to the Kingdom of God or the Second Advent. Jason Fout has written about the church reclaiming these images. Some of his reflections are shared with you in this article.

In the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, Prayer A includes a looking forward to Christ's return and a petition that we may be brought into God's "eternal Kingdom." *Enriching Our Worship* includes three Eucharistic prayers that include an anticipation of Christ's return, echoing the prayers of the early church. Prayer Two, which we are using this Advent, expresses the comprehensiveness of the coming Kingdom drawing from Revelation 5: "bring us with...all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet... If we consider petitions that the church might be made one, or that we might proclaim Christ's love to the world, or that we might be people of justice and peace as references to the reign of God, then the recent rites are filled with images of the coming of God's reign. Eucharistic Prayer Two in *Enriching Our Worship* even mentions the meals Jesus ate with others: "He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor." These meals are themselves a sign of the coming Kingdom.

One specific way in which the eschatological sense present in the Eucharist may be heightened in our worship is an increased focus on the passing of the peace. This practice was not a part of the American liturgy of word and sacrament prior to the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*. It is nevertheless an important, anticipatory segment of the Eucharist. When we pass the peace in an authentic way, and take the opportunity to be reconciled with our brother or sister before taking part in the Eucharist, then we are participating in the coming reign of God in an anticipatory way.

One of the greatest barriers to reconciliation lies in the fragmented and segregated nature of our churches. If people with genuine differences are to be reconciled - or at least begin that process - then they will have to learn to worship in proximity to each other. This will take a great deal of effort, as we have worked rather hard at segregating ourselves in many ways: race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, political stance, theological conviction, and so on. We might consider an introduction to the peace such as is used in the Church in Sudan which connects our unity in Christ with our passing the peace:

In the ♥ of St. Joseph since 1851

Friday, December 9
12 pm Holy Eucharist I

Saturday, December 10
11:30 am Clergy Lunch,
Springfield

Sunday, December 11
3 Advent
8:00 am Holy Eucharist I
9:00 am Church School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist II
Donation Sunday ODFK
Youth Cooks for ODFK following
10 am service

**5 pm Saints and Sinners Party at
the Bram's**

Monday, December 12
11:15 am Service Day for the Open
Door Food Kitchen

Wednesday, December 14
6 pm Advent Potluck Dinner and
Study

Friday, December 16
12 pm Holy Eucharist I

Sunday, December 18
4 Advent
8:00 am Holy Eucharist I
9:00 am Church School
10:00 am Advent Lessons and
Carols and Holy Eucharist II
2 pm Transporters Living
Community

Tues. Dec. 20-Tues. Dec. 27
Kathy Kapp Vacation

Wednesday, December 21
6 pm Advent Potluck Dinner and
Study

Friday, December 23
12 pm Holy Eucharist I

Saturday, December 24
Eve of the Nativity
7:30 pm Caroling
8 pm Festival Holy Eucharist II

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day
Single Service No Music
No Church School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sun. Dec. 25-Mon. Jan. 9
Charlie + Vacation

Monday, December 26
Office Closed

Sunday, January 1
The Holy Name
10 am Single Service Holy
Eucharist II, Bob Bee, Presider

Priest: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the Cross. We meet in His Name and share His Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

or

We are the Body of Christ. In the Spirit, we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for the peace and builds up our common life: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of the peace.

Reclaiming these images of the early church helps us to see the Eucharist as a foretaste of the messianic feast, an anticipation of the second advent of Christ, and the manifesting of the first fruits of the Kingdom of God. These images have repercussions for the mission and unity of the church, especially when it comes to issues of justice, mutual reconciliation, and peace. They help us to connect the message of the gospel with our lives, growing deeper in our faith in and love for God and love for those around us. Please give us your feedback.

May you have a Blessed Advent as we prepare for Christ's birth in our hearts this Christmas!

Charlie+

The next scheduled meeting of the **Vestry** will be on Thursday, **December 8**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a bring your own supper, followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

As we **begin Advent** this year, we have the opportunity to **share a potluck meal together at 6 pm each Wednesday evening, beginning on November 30**, and see two outstanding films. We will have you on your way by 7:30 PM. On the first two Wednesday evenings in Advent, we will have the opportunity to view a new documentary entitled *The Book that Changed the World: The Amazing Tale of the Birth of the King James Bible*. The film is appropriate for ages 12 and up. On the last two Wednesdays in Advent, we will see *A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art*. Each passage of Scripture from Luke and Matthew is illustrated and interpreted by the beautiful artwork of John August Swanson and commentary from members of the faculty of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Meals on Wheels for December. Allene Wright will deliver each Wednesday of December. If you would like to become a member of this worthwhile ministry please contact our coordinator, Ginny McLaughlin.

The **Youth Group** will meet Sunday, **December 11th**, after the 10 a.m. service. We will cook for the Open Door Food Kitchen.

Christ Church's newly formed **Transition Committee** consisting of Lisa Bird, Ben Caldwell, Debbie Fite, Gladys Freeman, Richard Jacks, Charlie +, Jim Vega and Allene Wright, will meet at 5:00 p.m., **Thursday, December 1**.

In **winter** we all want to be warm-especially if you are homeless. **Please share** your coats, sweaters, caps, gloves, sweatshirts, heavy socks and boots by bringing them to the church so that the less fortunate men can be more comfortable. It will give you a warm feeling too. There is a box in the Parish Hall for these items to be placed. Thank you for sharing. Nancy Hampton.

Breakfast will be served on Sunday, **December 4**, from 9-9:45 a.m. If you would like to help by preparing a dish, serving or with clean up, speak to Sue Means. Phone: 387-8715.

New issues of **“Forward Day by Day”** for November, December 2011 and January 2012, are now available in the tract rack by the table in the hallway across from the Chapel. For those of you unfamiliar with this publication, the booklet contains a Bible verse with a meditation written by a cleric for each day of the month. This is a great way to begin to discover and discern the Bible on your own. Pick one up and see if it might be something useful to you in your daily Christian Life. We ask for a small freewill donation for the booklet. You may leave it in the tract rack.



Bill Vega is shown at the left with the 12 point buck he harvested at dusk from one hundred and fifty yards on the last day of the hunting season. This is Bill’s first year to hunt.

During this special time of the Liturgical year, why not **consider sharing the gift of music** with our congregation. The **choir will be rehearsing** following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist on December 4, 11, and 18 in preparation for our Service of **Lessons and Carols on December 18** and the Festival Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve. No prior musical experience is necessary and all are invited to add their voices to our celebrations of the birth of Christ.

Saint’s and Sinner’s Party. This years party beginning at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 11, will be at the home of Peter and Jane Bram, 802 Taylor Street, Maysville, MO 816-449-5672. 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. Everyone attending is asked to **RSVP on the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board across from the church office** or email or call Jim Sauls in the church office, 816-279-6351, 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. To reach the Bram’s home from St. Joseph go east on Highway 36 toward Cameron, turn left going north on Highway 33, proceed about nine miles on 33 into Maysville, you will pass a nursing home on your right and turn left onto Grant Street, continue on Grant to Taylor Street and turn right onto Taylor, the Bram’s home is the 3rd house down at 802 Taylor Street. If you need a ride give Jim Sauls a call in the church office. Telephone number is above.

Adult Education at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday *Walking the Bible* based on the book by Bruce Feiler Each week will be a “stand alone” part of the journey. Charlie+

The loose plate collection on the first Sunday of each month is directed to the **Rector’s Discretionary Fund** for use within the community to help those in need. Please be generous with a small donation to help with this worthy cause.



The next meeting of the **Brotherhood of St. Fursey** will be on **Thursday, December 1**, at 6:30 p.m. Our chief chef, Jim Vega, will not be able to attend this month so after polling everyone we will meet for dinner at Boudreaux’s. Come on out and join the rest of the men for food and fellowship. You can see what fun David Ford and Jim Bush are having in the picture to your left! Come and join us.

During the season of Advent, there will be a **service of Holy Eucharist 1 at 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.** This includes the dates of December 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Reply to the email from the Transition Committee. We need to know your story.

How did you become an Episcopalian?

I attended confirmation classes taught by Rev. Sid Breese and joined the church as an adult. I'm not sure how many years ago/ somewhere around 2000 I think.

What brought you to Christ Church?

My neighbor Helen Woods (now 107) was unable to drive to church so I started transporting her to Christ Episcopal and tried to continue attending Marvin McMurray Methodist where I was an active member. After several months, I realized that trying to be involved in both churches was not working for me. Helen's attendance in church was very important to her and I felt comforted and enriched by the worship service and felt compatible with the other parishioners so I decided to join the church.

What means the most to you as far as the church is concerned?

Going to church on Sunday "feeds my soul" and gives me strength to carry out my personal mission: to help others. I was raised in the First Christian Church in Cameron and have a strong sense that taking care of those in need is God's challenge to each of us. Most of my community service is done away from the church but it is the feeding of my soul at Christ Episcopal that keeps me focused on helping others. I also like the rituals and traditions of the church. One of my main reasons for choosing the Episcopal Church is because it does not have a set of rules for being people of God. The church encourages us to use our minds to think for our selves using the Bible, traditions and our experiences to make decisions when living our lives.

What do you fear?

I presume this question means what do I fear for the church? I try to trust in God and not be fearful in my personal life. My fear for Christ Episcopal is that if that the trend of decreased membership in main line churches in our country will continue and our membership will dwindle to such a low number we will not be able to support the building and the work the church. I hope my comments are helpful. Joyce Edwards

New Creche for Christ Church. At Diocesan Convention this year, the mission congregation in Marshall was dissolved. Trinity Episcopal Church, Marshall was founded in 1872 and remained a mission until this year. As we arrived for Convention there were many items that were made available. The Reverend Sid Breese spotted a lovely crèche which he thought would be perfect for Christ Church. Our senior warden and our deputation gladly accepted it. You will find Mary and Joseph outside the Chapel of the Four Seasons, the shepherds and the sheep on the piano, the cow and donkey in the crèche, and the wise men in the Wayside Chapel. Baby Jesus remains hidden until Christmas Eve. We give thanks that the crèche from Trinity has found a new home!

Prayers will be offered for those sick or recovering from an illness: Winston, Ruby, Ted, Leroy, Tom, Terry, John, Bette, Pat, Nichole, Deborah, Louise, Brendan, Larry, Jeffrey, Michael, Melanie, Tyler, Martha, Charlene, Neva, Fred and David.

Our **sincere condolences** are offered to the family and friends of Catherine McCann, mother of Charles McCann, who died recently. May the peace of God's love be with all during this time of loss.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY: 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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Roxanne Dale 2, Charles McCann 3, Bill Vega 3, Isabelle Bram 4, Robbie Walling 5, Sue Means 6, Jeanette Hayward Anderson 6, George Hayward 6, Peter Johnson 10, Marjean McCann 13, Gail Robaska 13, Sandy Miller 17, Jill Edwards 20, Charlie Caskey + ordination 28, 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

Memorial and Thanksgiving Flowers

The four wreaths on the church doors are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Jack Tootle, by Kay Tootle.

The four wreaths on the Parish Hall doors and the Narthex doors are given to the Glory of God and in honor of friends and family by Allene, Mike, Terzah and Ted Wright.

December 4 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for family, and in loving memory of Dr. Willis and Catherine McCann by Charles, Marjean, Chris and Jonathan McCann. The cascade is given in loving memory of her brother, Arthur Joseph DuPree, by Gladys Freeman.

December 11 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Clark and Nancy Hampton.

December 18 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Patricia Means, by her daughter, Susan Means.

December 25 The flowers for 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 in the front hallway across from the youth bulletin board on the office door and fill out one of the attached donation forms. The cost is \$25.00 per vase and \$25.00 for a cascade.

Contact Information for The Reverend Charles (Charlie) C. Caskey and his wife Thayer.

The Reverend Charles C. and Thayer Caskey
1300 South 11th Street #501
St. Joseph, MO 64503

Charlie + cell: 847-644-5203
email: charlesccaskey@gmail.com

Thayer cell: 847-644-4648
email: thayer_caskey@hotmail.com

Florida address

24410 Reserve Ct. #103
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Christ Episcopal Church
207 North Seventh Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Parish Office: (816)279-6351

Fax: (816)279-9258

Email christchurchsj@sbcglobal.net

Web page: <http://www.episcopalstjosephmo.org>

Fall and Winter

8:00 AM-Holy Communion & Homily
9:00 AM-Church School
10:00 AM-Holy Eucharist & Sermon

Advent through New Year's

Wednesday, November 30
6 p.m. Potluck and Advent Study

Friday, December 2
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist I

Sunday, December 4, 2 Advent
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist II

Wednesday, December 7
6 p.m. Potluck and Advent Study

Friday, December 9
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist I

Sunday, December 11, 3 Advent
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist II
5 p.m. "Saints and Sinners Party" at the Bram's

Wednesday, December 14
6 p.m. Potluck and Advent Study

Friday, December 16
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist I

Sunday, December 18, 4 Advent
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist II

Wednesday, December 21
6 p.m. Potluck and Advent Study

Friday, December 23
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist I

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
7:30 pm Caroling
8:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
Single Service

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, No Music

Sunday, January 1, Holy Name

Single Service 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist II

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

**Wednesday, December 14 is the deadline
to order!**

Christmas Poinsettia donations in
thanksgiving or memory can be made by
filling out the form below and placing 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.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

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

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____
