



Sixth and Main Streets
Clarksburg

The Good News Weekly

November 9, 2014



721 Hall Street
Bridgeport

www.christchurch1853.com

Thoughts and Reflections on Giving

As we are preparing for our Annual Pledge ask and the preparation of our Budget for 2015 I share with you some simple thoughts and reflections.

I remember the first time Sam made some money babysitting for friends. I shared with him in a conversation that it was a good idea to return to God a portion of his earnings. I told him that scripture spoke of a tithe. That meant for every dollar he earned he would give 10 cents to the Church. I remember his response. "That means I get to keep 90 cents? I like that deal, Mom!"

What is the right amount to give to the church? I honestly don't have a simple answer. I know that with some of my giving I get my name on a list if I give above a certain amount. That motivates some to stretch their giving to get on the list. We don't have such a list at Church. The reward you receive in giving a meaningful gift to your church is knowing that you have contributed what you could to a community that offers all it has to everyone regardless of what they are able to give.

As far as I can recall the only person Jesus praised for her giving was the poor widow. The story says that Jesus praised her because he watched many people give great sums for the temple ministry but he knew that those large sums were just a small portion of what they had. The poor widow gave abundantly out of the little she had.

What I know for sure is that God will not love you more if you give more or less if you have less to give. God loves you unconditionally. Your giving to the church is your way of loving God back. I find that compelling and full of possibility.

Amidst all the conversation out there today about the church and shrinking numbers and the need to change I am still convinced that at the heart of a world that can feel weary the church is here to love, heal, feed, and serve. We are here to share God's love and that should never change.

Shalom, Anne+

Week at a Glance

11/10 Monday: **Staff Meeting** at 3:00 p.m.
Vestry Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

11/11 Tuesday: **Veterans Day**-Church Office Closed
Youth Choir at 5:15 p.m.

11/12 Wednesday: **Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.

11/13 Thursday: **Yoga & Meditation** with Valarie
Dunlevy at 8:30 a.m.

11/16 **Pledge Sunday**

Voice Choir at 9:00 a.m.

Worship at Christ Church at 9:30
followed by a **Brunch** hosted by
the vestry.

No Christian Education

Pack Backpacks after Brunch

11/16 **Choral Evensong** at 5:30 at Christ Church
No Service at St. Barnabas at 5:30

... knowing, living, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Serving Ministries for November 16, 2014

9:30 a.m. at Christ Church

Chalicerist / Lector: Chuck Critchfield

Ushers : Bill and Dee Trimbach

Crucifer: Thomas Flowers

Altar Guild: Jean Hardesty and Pam Riggs

10:45 a.m. No Christian Education

5:30 p.m. No service at St. Barnabas

Important Dates to Remember

November 16 Pledge Sunday

We will have one service this day at 9:30 to celebrate this parish with the ingathering of pledges followed by a brunch hosted by your vestry.

November 16 Choral Evensong at 5:30

If you have never been to an Evensong, gift yourself this November to a service of beautiful music and spirit.

November 23 Our guest preacher will be the new **Diocesan Youth Minister, Sara Gunter**. Youth will gather after the service to meet and greet Sara.

November 30 First Sunday of Advent
Our Annual **Advent Wreath** making event following the 9:30 service.

December 6 **Advent Retreat** with The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and retreat 10:00 to noon.

December 9 First **book discussion of *The Handmaid and the Carpenter*** following the Thankful Tuesday dinner.

December 14 **Annual Parish Meeting** following the 9:30 service. We will be electing three vestry members and deanery delegates.

December 16 Second **book discussion of *The Handmaid and the Carpenter*** following Thankful Tuesday dinner.

Homemade with Love

33 days and counting!



There is much to do to prepare for this Holiday Bazaar. We need every parishioner to volunteer in some way.

**Bake goods to sell
Bring in your holiday white elephant
Work at a table or in the kitchen
Invite friends
Gather or donate gift certificates**

Thankful Tuesdays in December

5:30 p.m. dinner followed by an Advent program

6:00 p.m. youth choir practice with Toni

We are looking for cooks for December 2, 9, and 16.

Come share your culinary skills with us.

Clarksburg Farmer's Market

Dates for Winter of 2014-2015

November 22
December 6
December 20
January 3, 2015
February 7
March 7
April 4
May 2



Summer market begins May 23, 2015.