



The Good News Weekly

December 14, 2014



Sixth and Main Streets
Clarksburg

www.christchurch1853.com

721 Hall Street
Bridgeport

This Week

at Christ Church and St. Barnabas Chapel

- 12/15 Monday: **Staff Lunch** at noon
12/16 Tuesday: **Thankful Tuesday Dinner** at 5:30
Youth Choir at 6:00 p.m.
Adult Book Study at 6:15 p.m.
12/17 Wednesday: **Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.
12/18 Thursday: **Yoga/Meditation /Class** at 8:30 a.m.
Communion at **Maplewood** at 3:00 p.m.
12/21 Sunday: **Voice Choir** at 9:00 a.m.
Worship and Children's Pageant at Christ
Church at 9:30 a.m.
Cast Party at 10:45 (no Sunday School)
Backpack Packing at 11:00 a.m.
Worship at St. Barnabas at 5:30 p.m.

Serving Ministries for December 21, 2014

9:30 a.m. at Christ Church

Chalicerist / Lector: Guy Gage
Ushers : Bill and Dee Trimbach
Crucifer: Thomas Flowers
Altar Guild: Kitty Clovis, Brenda Barnes,
and Carolyn Wilbourn

No Christian Education

5:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas

Lector/Chalicerist: Beth Sickles
Usher: Nancy Cotten
Altar Guild: Beth Sickles

The Advent Wreath



The custom of the Advent wreath originated with pre-Christian Germanic peoples whose evergreen wreaths and fires signified hope in the darkness of December. Christians maintained the tradition and the

wreath has come to symbolize hope for Christ's coming. The candles in the wreath have specific names which we can reflect on as we light them and pray: the first is hope, the second peace, the third joy and the fourth love.

The pink candle, a symbol of joy, is lit the third week of Advent and reminds us that there is an appointed time for everything (Eccl. 3:1). The time now is for rejoicing—because the Lord is coming soon!

Christmas Help....

On December 24th at 10 am we will be making stuffing for 600 in our Church Kitchen to support the local Church effort to feed these 600 people a Christmas Dinner. If you are able to give a couple hours it would be appreciated. See Anne for more details.

It is still the plan to get Ashley and her daughter into their new apartment before Christmas. Look for emails as we get clearer on what things she may need once she moves from the Mission.

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

Christmas message 2014



The altar hanging at an English Advent service was made of midnight blue, with these words across its top: “We thank you that darkness reminds us of light.” Facing all who gathered there to give thanks were images of night creatures – a large moth, an owl, a badger, and a bat – cryptic and somewhat mysterious creatures that can only be encountered in the darkness.

As light ebbs from the days and the skies of fall, many in the Northern Hemisphere associate dark with the spooks and skeletons of secular Hallowe’en celebrations. That English church has reclaimed the connection between creator, creation, and the potential holiness of all that is. It is a fitting reorientation toward the coming of One who has altered those relationships toward new possibilities for healing and redemption.

Advent leads us into darkness and decreasing light. Our bodies slow imperceptibly with shorter days and longer nights, and the merriness and frantic activity around us are often merely signs of eager hunger for light and healing and wholeness.

The Incarnation, the coming of God among us in human flesh, happened in such a quiet and out of the way place that few noticed at first. Yet the impact on human existence has been like a bolt of lightning that continues to grow and generate new life and fire in all who share that hunger.

Jesus is among us like a flitting moth – will we notice his presence in the street-sleeper? He pierces the dark like a silent, streaking owl seeking food for hungry and defenseless nestlings. He will overturn this world’s unjust foundations like badgers undermining a crooked wall. Like the bat’s sonar, his call comes to each one uniquely – have we heard his urgent “come and follow”?

God is among us, and within us, and around us, encountering, nudging, loving, transforming the world and its creatures toward the glorious dream the shepherds announced so many years ago, toward the beloved community of prophetic dreams, and the nightwatch that proclaims “all is well, fear not, the Lord is here.”

May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide. May his light burn in you, and may you labor to spread it in the darkness. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and it is the harbinger of peace for all creation.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve and Christmas day Services

- December 24 - Christmas Eve Services
5:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church
- December 25 - Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m. at Christ Church
- December 26 thru January 2 - Church office is closed.