

CHRIST CHURCH

The Messenger

PO Box 1246 • 320 Pollock Street • New Bern, NC
www.christchurchnewbern.com

November 24, 2024

252.633.2109



Bishop Skirving Announcement

On November 16, the Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving announced that he has asked the Diocese's Standing Committee to begin the process that will lead to the election of his successor. It is his hope that the new Bishop of the Diocese could be elected and ordained by some time in mid-2026.

In a letter to the people of the Diocese of East Carolina, the Bishop stated "By mid-2026 I will have served in ordained ministry for 40 years, including almost 12 as your bishop. In my heart and soul, I believe that the people of this diocese deserve to have someone new as their bishop, someone with more energy than I am currently able to bring to this role."

"The Standing Committee, led by the Rev. Michael Singer, will work with The Episcopal Church's Office of Pastoral Development to engage a search consultant to support them in developing a robust search process, holding an election, and supporting the bishop-elect's transition into this new role. Along the way, the Standing Committee will endeavor to communicate regularly and effectively with the people of East Carolina."

You can read the Bishop's letter in its entirety on the Diocese website or by clicking [here](#).

Welcome to the Nursery, Allison

We are ecstatic to welcome Allison Robinett to our nursery team on Sunday mornings! Allison will be graduating from East Carolina University in December and plans to continue her career as a Family Advocate. She has spent the last few years working in ABA therapy, but has recently found her love for advocacy. Allison was born and raised in New Bern. She is grateful to have found her way back to New Bern after college! She spends her free time hanging out with her cats or hanging out with her niece.



Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie!

We look forward to seeing you at 6 pm, Wednesday, November 27, for our Thanksgiving Eve service, followed by pie and fellowship in the Parish House. Please join us and bring a pie of your choice to share with church members and friends.



Vestry Nominations

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place this today at 9:45 am in the Nave. Voting for Vestry will take place during both the 8:30 am and 11 am services. In addition, we will have "drive-up" voting from 10:00 - 11:00 am on Pollock Street in front of the gates to the church.

We are grateful to the following parishioners who will stand for election to the Vestry of Christ Church:

- **Vinson Bowers**
- **Liz Coble**
- **Patty Conard**
- **Susan Husson**
- **Heather McCloud-Huff**
- **Ernie Williams**

Biographies for all nominees have been mailed to parishioner households and are available at <https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/quick-links>. We hope you will be prayerfully discerning who God is calling you to vote for to lead Christ Church for the next three years.

Countdown to Cookie Walk

Calling all Bakers - Countdown to Cookie Walk has begun! Did you know that you can freeze your cookies? Most cookies freeze well because there is little to no water content in them. Click on this [link](#) for a guide to freezing all types of cookies and will help you decide in what order to start baking.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of Cookie Walk, we will be holding Cookie Workshops at the Harrison Center (311 Middle St.). Join Tony Embry and Joe Russo on December 2 (9am-4pm) and December 11 (9am-3pm) and learn some new recipes. Please sign up [here](#) to attend.

Since it's the Cookie Walk's 25th Anniversary, we have an additional special event. If you make 25 dozen cookies in honor of the 25th anniversary, your name will be put in for a drawing. Grand prize is a "New Bern Staycation," including a night at the local Benjamin Ellis House B&B and dinner at Cypress Hall!



Holiday Arts and Crafts Market

The Second Christ Church Holiday Arts and Crafts Market will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 9 AM until 4 PM. The Holiday Market will provide locals and visitors with an excellent opportunity to meet local artisans and purchase their creations for home and holiday gift giving.

Vendors will have their booths set up in individual covered canopy tents, and the event will be held rain or shine. The event will be on the grounds bordering Middle and Pollock Streets in Downtown New Bern. Proceeds from the space rentals will support the ministries of Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern, NC. The vendor application can be found online [here](#).

Market contact: Tony Embrey, 828.774.9592, holidaymarket@christchurchnewbern.com.



Advent InGathering

For many years, Christ Church has provided gifts for the children of incarcerated citizens. We have partnered with Angel Tree to identify families, and parishioners have been unbelievably generous in providing for those children. Over the past several years, we have provided gift cards to the parent or guardian to ensure the child receives the gifts they most need and want. This year, our efforts will look a little different. Thanks to the generosity of so many people at Christ Church, we will not need to do a collection for Angel Tree. The families counting on our support will have it due largely to a surplus from last year's collection. Camp Hope is another ministry we support that is primarily with and for those affected by incarceration. We are grateful for the ongoing support from Christ Church to provide a camp experience at Camp Trinity for local young people. At this time, we are in a good financial position with regard to Camp Hope.

Our history of support for those in the prison system spans many years and reaches in multiple directions. Given the generosity of all of you, we are able this year to turn our efforts in new directions. This year's collection will benefit two areas of ministry with those who are incarcerated: Tried by Fire/My Sister's House (<https://triedbyfireinc.org/>) and Prison Fellowship (<https://www.prisonfellowship.org/>). Tried by Fire/My Sister's House is a newer ministry for women coming out of prison and has a history of recent support from Christ Church. Prison Fellowship is a national organization that operates in prisons in Eastern North Carolina.

If you would like to donate to our Advent InGathering please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the reception area. Each tag has an amount on it as well as a code. Please add your name and the code on your tag(s) to the signup sheet, which can be found on the InGathering Collection Table. We will be accepting funds throughout the season of Advent. Payments can be made online, or by placing cash or checks in the box in the reception area. Please be sure to check your name off the list when you have returned your donation. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to one of the clergy or a member of the Vestry.

In peace we pray to you, Lord God

For parishioners who have requested

prayers: Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstor*, Jim Keeter, Evelyn Hunter, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, DJ Bessack, Carol Kross, Rena Knott, Mike McCulley, Betsy Primavera, Robert Lane, Vickie Evans*, Joan Kunkle, Margaret Scott*, Jim Gruenebaum, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine*, Geoff Wood, Charlie Henke, Ken McCotter, Bob Nelson, Liz Praul, Cathy Monid, Rosie Wood, Betsy Phillips, Nicholas Pridgen, Margaret Phaup, Pat Robinson, Pat Holmes, Cathy O'Brien, and Charles Peterson.

For our friends and families: Liesel, Niels, Bambi, Jake, Don, Cristina, Barbara, Jeff, Lois, Mason Ann, Frankie, Marty, Jeanette, Nancy, Jean, Carly, Richard, Corey, Jane, Seb, Gloria, Greg, Cheri, Katie, James, Danny, Nancy, Ashleigh, Vaughn, Elizabeth, and Denni.

For refugee families and those seeking asylum.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Christ Church & Galilee Mission, Creswell; St. Luke's & St. Anne's, Roper

**These parishioners live out of the area but have requested to remain on the Christ Church prayer list.*

In an effort to keep our prayer lists current and accurate, names of friends and family members will normally remain on the list for six months. If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, please contact [Betsy Downard](#).



REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Please note that not all weekly church events are listed here. If there are no changes to your regularly scheduled event, it might not appear below. The entire Christ Church calendar can be found at www.christchurchnewbern.com/calendar and in the Sunday morning email. Signs with the complete calendar are posted on the kiosk in the Reception Area and the bulletin board across from the Library. Daily calendar signs are posted on the church's exterior doors.

Sunday, November 24

Annual Meeting

Christ the King Sunday

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages

9:45 am: Coffee Hour (Parish House)

11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

Monday, November 25

1 pm: Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Conference Room)

Tuesday, November 26

7 am: Al-Anon Meeting (2nd Floor Living Room)

8:30 am: Eucharist (Chapel)

6:30 pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)

Wednesday, November 27

6 pm: Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist followed by pie (Nave / Parish House)

6:15 pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Holiday -- Offices Closed

Friday, November 29

Thanksgiving Holiday -- Offices Closed

Sunday, December 1

Birthday and Anniversary Sunday

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages

9:45 am: Coffee Hour (Parish House)

9:45 am: Advent Wreath Workshop (Parish House)

11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

Giving Tuesday

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement that was created as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. It is celebrated annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, which this year is December 3. You can donate [online](#) or by writing a check (made out to Christ Church with Giving Tuesday in the memo line).

GivingTuesday donations are added to our Christ Church Trust and Outreach Grants. To learn more about GivingTuesday, visit their website at www.givingtuesday.org/.

**Greening of
the Church**

9 am - 12 noon
Saturday, December 21

Come help us beautify the interior of Christ Church for the Christmas season. Please drop in any time. All ages welcome.
simswayt@embarqmail.com

THE GOODS

Holiday Gospel Brunch

On Sunday, December 8, Tried by Fire (My Sister's House) will be having a Gospel Brunch in the Harrison Center from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. The cost will be \$40, of which half will go to supporting this outreach ministry for post-incarcerated women. The Flame, a most-beloved restaurant in town, will be catering this affair, and Bonita Burney Simmons will be our Gospel singer.

Christ Church has agreed to be the sponsoring church, so our hope is to fill the Harrison Center. Truly this will be Soul Food -- delicious food, a great cause, and a performance by a Gospel singer extraordinaire. Bring your friends! Tickets will be available at the Reception Desk. Please make a check out to Tried by Fire.

See you there! Contact Ellen Chance at 252.259.5214 if you have any questions.

ECW Christmas Party

Please join us at 11 am on Monday, December 9th for our annual Christmas Pot-luck Party this year again at the lovely home of Gail Dorman in Carolina Colours. All women of the church are welcome.

Bring a dish to share (drinks provided) and wear your party smile! Ugly Christmas sweaters optional! We will be signing and addressing Christmas cards for some of our shut-in and older parishioners.

As usual, we will not be meeting in January but we'll see you again in February on the 10th!

If you have any questions, please email me (rodneyhayes@yahoo.com) or call 203-640-2638 and leave a message.

Thank you for continuing the work of Episcopal Church Women at Christ Church by supporting the 2024 Cookie Walk. Start baking if you haven't already! The 25th Annual Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 14th!!! If you need freezer space, contact me.

See you at the Party!

Join us for a Planting Party

It's a Post Thanksgiving Planting Party! Please join us as we plant 240 daffodil bulbs around the grounds of the church.

Please bring a spade or small shovel, a trowel and your agile knees and we will get it done in no time! Meet in the Church parking lot at 10 am on Saturday, November 30th and work off some of that turkey and pumpkin pie!

Any questions, please email, text or call rodneyhayes@yahoo.com / (203) 640-2638

Thanks for your help to make our beautiful church really sing this spring!

Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** Click [here](#) to serve in our November services. To volunteer for our December Services, click [here](#). For more information contact Sarah Risty Davis at sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com.
- **Volunteer Receptionists:** Reserve your your November shifts [here](#) and your December shifts [here](#).
- **Coffee Hour:** We invite you to host our weekly 9:45 am Coffee Hour. For more information and to volunteer to host or provide snacks, click [here](#).

Publication Deadlines

- *The Crown* - the 15th of the month prior to publication
 - Weekly (Sunday) email: noon on Thursday
 - Thursday email and printed *Messenger*: noon on Wednesday
- Please send all pictures, articles and questions to communications@christchurchnewbern.com.

December Crown

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the December issue of *The Crown* will be published on Sunday, December 8.

Advent Wreath Workshop

On Sunday, December 1st, we will be making our Advent Wreaths in the Parish House during the regular Sunday School time. We will talk about how to use our wreaths throughout Advent.

The Church will provide candles and foam. Please bring some greenery to share. This is a great time for families and households to come together and share advent traditions. Please know that all are welcome to this workshop. See you then!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2