

CHRIST CHURCH

The Messenger

PO Box 1246 • 320 Pollock Street • New Bern, NC

www.christchurchnewbern.com

December 10 - 17, 2023

252.633.2109



Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections

Today is our annual meeting, the once-a-year gathering to conduct the business of the church. This year we will be doing things a little differently. The Vestry will be leading small-group discussions about a potential change to our bylaws affecting how members of the Vestry are nominated and elected. We will also continue the tradition of honoring one of our own as an Outstanding Servant Leader in our midst. The business meeting will begin at 9:45 am in the nave of the Church.

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

Stephen Clayton	Peter Mnatzakanian
Laura Overman	Elmer Praul
Wayne Rowe	Graham Underhill.

Biographies for all of the nominees, as well as a letter from the Rector and Senior Warden, have been mailed to parishioners' homes and are available [here](#).

Voting occurs during today's Annual Parish Meeting. Parishioners must vote for FOUR nominees. You must be present to vote.

We will also have "drive up" voting from 10 - 11 am. That will occur on Pollock street in front of the gates to the church.

We encourage you to pray for all of the nominees and pray about how you will cast your ballot.

The Longest Night: A Worship Service for the Weary



Grief, loneliness, and longing are emotions many of us experience daily, sometimes for years, sometimes for a season. We carry these burdens, often quietly, without really talking about them. At this time of year, it can seem as though we are the only ones without an easy smile and endless good cheer. Holidays alone, or without those we've lost, make us want to retreat from community. Christ teaches us that together we are stronger. Join us on Thursday, December 21st at 5:30 pm in the chapel for Eucharist and a worship service focused on The Longest Night.

Although the season of Advent is joyful for so many, we also know that the holiday season can be drenched in fatigue, grief, and loneliness for many of us. Let us gather together as a community to draw near to God and to allow space for healing and prayer. We are stronger together.

Join us for
2023 Advent Lessons and Carols
at Christ Episcopal Church



Sunday, December 17
5:30 pm
320 Pollock Street, Downtown New Bern

Greening of the Church

9 am - 12 noon
Saturday, December 16

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

From the Church Office...

- During the week before and the week after Christmas, the church's office hours will be 9 am - 3 pm, Monday - Thursday and 9 am - 12 noon on Friday. *Please note that the office is closed December 25 and 26.*
- During the week between Christmas and New Years, most classes and gatherings, including Tuesday morning Eucharist, are canceled.
- The deadline to submit cash or check payments to the Financial Office is **12 pm, December 28.**
- Online payments must be set up with start and/or end dates of **December 27** on your account. These can take several dates to transmit, so confirm that your payment date shows no later than **December 29.**



Organ "Sneak Peek"

In anticipation of our organ's arrival in early 2024, we will be previewing some photos of the building progress. Look for more pictures and explanations in the January issue of *The Crown*.



News from St. Cyprian's

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED, WHAT WE ARE DOING

Harry Gormley gave a tour of St. Cyprian's to Laura Smith's Fourth Grade class from the Epiphany School of Global Studies. This class is a member of the NC-statewide Tarheel Junior Historian Club, sponsored by the NC Museum of History. In the spring Mrs. Smith's class will make a competitive presentation at the annual State Convention of the Club. The students are very interested in the history of St. Cyprian's as an African-American church with significant presence in the community through the years. They want their presentation to heighten awareness and understanding of St. Cyprian's at the NC State level. Before going to the State Convention, the class will make their presentation at school, and interested visitors are invited to attend. Outreach to the schools is one of the important works St. Cyprian's seeks to do.

BUILDING REPAIR AND RESTORATION

St. Cyprian's continues to file grant funding requests to move forward with building repair and restoration. In the meantime, the African-American Historic and Cultural Center holds meetings and does business in the St. Cyprian's undercroft, making good use of the space.

CONTACTING SAINT CYPRIAN'S CHURCH

By phone, call Mrs. Shirley Guion, Senior Warden, at (252) 288-2812. By email, send your message to: StCyprianofNB@gmail.com.

Support St. Cyprian's restoration by sending checks to: Post Office Box 809, New Bern, NC 28563-0809

Donations and support of St Cyprian's are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Join us for worship at 11 am, December 17.

Cursillo Welcome Home

East Carolina Cursillo's, Trinity Ultreya had their *Welcome Home* on Sunday, November 19. Such a glorious time and a moment closest to Christ.



In peace we pray to you, Lord God

For parishioners who have requested prayers:

Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Bob and Joan Burnett,* Champ Mitchell, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstol*, Jim Keeter, M. Carolyn Lawson, Evelyn Hunter, Katherine Gill, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, David Watrous, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, DJ Bessack, Carol Kross, Carol Athing, Rena Knott, CB Evans, Mike McCulley, Willis Stevens, Betsy Primavera, Mollie Bales, Robert Lane, Sheridan Holstein, Judy MacDougall, Vickie Evans, Joan Kunkle, Margaret Scott*, Jim Banks, Jim Gruenebaum, Ann, Kaye Frampton Brown, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine, Eugene Simon, Frank Rice, Bruce Baker, Geoff Wood, Maggie Bagg, Charlie Henke, Patty Willis, Peter Mnatzakanian, Darrin Embrey, Tony Embrey, Caroline Schnoebelen, and Ken McCotter.

For our friends and families: Liesel, Niels, Trinity, Mary, Ann, George, Anne, Bruce, Nancy, Lynda, Mike, Connor, Stephen, Inez, Ed, Karen, Bob, Cortney, Craig, Larry, Eleanor, Julie, Denni, Santa, Teresa, Monika, Margie, Laurissa, Paul, Stephanie, Pam, Ellen, Kate, Corey, Stephanie, Bambi, Justin, Judy, Nancy, Paula, Kelly Ann, Lois, Laurissa, Martha, Melissa, Melissa, Anna, Dave, Elle, Halle, Mariya, Laura, Christina, Mary Ann, Billy, Bob, Ted, Rosemary, Bill, Naomi, Carol, Joseph, Jimmy, Grant, Eunice, William, Marie, Melanie, Sylvia, Aline, Rose, Rosemarie, Shelly, Susie, Larry, Anne Marie, Ginny, Lisa, Louise, Selma, Jackie, Kathi, Julia, Ardean, John, Peggy, Patty, Margaret, Jackson, Julie, Butch, Jim, Joan, Wes, Gerry, Mandy, Jim, Larry, Hamp, Belinda, Brittany, Laura, Norman, Claudia, and Cathy.

For our deployed military: Lt. Christopher Miller

For refugee families and those seeking asylum.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro

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

If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, 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, December 10

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School

9:45 am: Annual Meeting (Nave)

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

Tuesday, December 12

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

8:30 am: Eucharist (Chapel)

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

Wednesday, December 13

6:15 pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)

Thursday, December 14

3:30 pm: GIG Christmas Party (Harrison Center)

Saturday, December 16

9 am: Greening of the Church Interior

2 pm: Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols (Nave)

Sunday, December 17

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages

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

5:30 pm: Lessons and Carols (Nave)

ECW Updates

Happy Advent, all! The All Saints chapter of the Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church want to thank all those who so generously gave to the recent United Thank Offering campaign. We were able to send UTO a check for over \$2,100 to further their efforts.

We also have begun our new project to help Camp Hope and their ministry. We will be sending Happy Birthday cards to campers throughout the year, and all will be getting Christmas cards. We love supporting Camp Hope!

Our Christmas Party is at 11 am, Monday, December 11. We are thrilled to have Mike and Gail Dorman Wilson's kind invitation to have our party at their home in Carolina Colors. If you need their address, please email Rodney Hayes at rodneyhayes@yahoo.com. We ask that you bring a dish to share and hope to see you there. From all of us in ECW, we wish you a Merry Christmas!

8:30 Choir Notes from Jackie

We are looking for more singers to join us in the 8:30 Choir - there is a particular need for more men. If you love to sing, whether it's with a group or alone in your car, we'd love to have you! No previous choral singing experience is required, and you do not have to be able to read music in order to participate.

This is a fun group that is committed to supporting worship at the 8:30 service through fellowship in singing. Practice is on Tuesdays from 5:30 until 7:00 pm. Please consider joining us!

THE GOODS



Pray Gratefully | Serve Responsibly | Give Generously

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE AS OF 12/5/2023

Pledge Amount Received: \$773,578

Number of Pledges Received: 190

Dear Friends, as we approach the conclusion of the 2024 giving campaign, we are once again so amazed and grateful for the generosity of this parish. With three weeks until the end of this calendar year, we are three quarters of the way to our goals of household participation and in the amount of giving.

Matthew 6:21 says, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Your hearts are in the right place! The church is filled with worshippers, teachers, helpers, volunteers. Cookie bakers are busy, and volunteers stand ready to green the church inside and out. We look forward to each week in Advent as we reflect on the hope, peace, love, and joy the birth of Christ brings into the world.

Connection. This has been a theme this fall as we've looked at all the ways we connect with each other at Christ Church. "The Church is built on relationships: our relationship with God and with one another. The two are connected." (author unknown). If you haven't done so already, please strengthen that connection by sending in your pledge. Pledge forms are available at the reception desk, online at christchurchnewbern.com/stewardship, or by contacting cindytripp@christchurchnewbern.com. In this season of giving, remember we give because Christ first gave to us.

Jesus, as I meditate on the good news of Your kingdom, open my eyes to perceive You, realign my mind to believe You, and reawaken my heart to receive You, now and forever. Amen

NOTE: If you have already pledged, 2024 pledge envelopes will soon be available in the Parish House.

FOYERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

- Everyone is invited.
- Join us at the home of Liz and Elmer Praul -- 4702 Haywood Farms Rd., New Bern
- Saturday, December 16, 5 - 7 pm.
- Bring an appetizer to share, your beverage of choice, and glassware.
- RSVP eparlett4@gmail.com

FOYER
GROUPS



Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** Volunteer to serve in our upcoming services. December services can be found [here](#). For more information contact Sarah Risty Davis at sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com.
- **Volunteer Receptionists:** If you can help us answer the phones, welcome visitors, and complete odd jobs here and there, we'd love to have you! Click [here](#) for December dates.
- **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed:** We are looking for hosts in order to make Coffee Hours happen. To volunteer to host a December coffee hour, click [here](#). Dates for 2024 can be found [here](#). Hosting instructions are included on the Sign-Up Genius page.
- **Interfaith Refugee Ministry** is so grateful for the continuing support of Christ Church for over 30 years. We are happy to report that we are back to receiving more refugees than we have received the past few years. Our number of individuals since October totals 43, with 19 more expected by the end of the year. Although we have been able to stockpile many items, we are in need of the basics to furnish a home. This includes gently used bed sheets and blankets (twin, full and queen sized), gently used pots and pans, and new personal hygiene items. These items can be dropped off to 1913 Trent Blvd., New Bern, NC 28560, or purchased online and shipped to our office. We can also use gift cards in any amount. Thank you for helping us welcome the stranger.
- **RCS Seeking Volunteers and Clothing Items:** Religious Community Services is looking for a few extra volunteers this season for their clothing boutique. To start the volunteer process, visit <https://bit.ly/RCSvolunteer>, and then call RCS at 252.633.2767 to schedule a volunteer orientation. RCS is in need of the following NEW clothing items for men, women, boys, and girls: socks, underwear, winter hats, and gloves. In addition, they are looking for gently used shoes for men, boys, and girls and coats for all ages and sizes. Clothing can be dropped off at RCS (919 George Street) or delivered to Terry Brubaker (terrytb49@gmail.com).
- **Angel Tree** is a Christian prison ministry in which Christ Church has participated since 1984. The children we serve live in Craven and Pamlico Counties and have at least one parent who is currently incarcerated. The prisoners sign up for this program through the chaplain at their prison. With the funds that are raised, we send gift cards to the parents for him/her to purchase presents. We have received very positive feedback from the families, and they are overwhelmed by the generosity of Christ Church. We are hoping to raise at least \$5,000. If we receive extra funds, we plan to send grocery gift cards, as well as give gift cards to our GIG children. You can send a check to Christ Church (note Angel Tree in the memo line) or pay [online](#). Call Ellen Chance at 252.259.5214 with any questions.