



THE CROWN

December 2023

| Issue 28

| Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern

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PRACTICING AND OBSERVING ADVENT

Advent is a time of reflection and preparation. We aren't just thinking about the first time Jesus entered the world, but remembering that his eventual return is part of our faith and belief, too. Advent can be a time of taking on an extra intention or devotion like one might do in Lent. It could be that you commit to praying for a specific person or purpose, giving of your time or money to a cause that helps share the love of God with people, or taking a few minutes to read (or read more) scripture.

Between the 8:30 and 11:00 services Sunday/today, Suzanne and I will have a time in the Chapel where we talk about the meaning of Advent and what you can do to hold it as a sacred time, even while the world around us feels like it is spinning faster and faster. We will also have all the things for you to make an Advent wreath at home.

During Advent, you'll notice some additional encouragement to be more intentional in our worship.

Before the Service, speak to the Lord.

During the Service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the Service, speak to one another.

During the season of Advent, we encourage you to enter worship in silence and to remain quiet until the service begins. Silence allows us to center ourselves and prepare to meet with God. Silence calls us out of the noise of the world and acts as a threshold into the holy space of worship. Silence molds us into an attitude of humility before our Creator—being slow to speak and quick to listen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

In Christ,



Christmas at Christ Church

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

3 pm: Children's Service &
Pageant

7 pm: Eucharist Rite II

10:30 pm: Choral Prelude

11 pm: Eucharist Rite II

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am: Eucharist Rite II

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 31

10 am: Christmas
Lessons & Carols

*The Offices of Christ Church will be closed
December 25, December 26 and January 1.*

ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH



CHRIST CHURCH
AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA
FOUNDED 1715, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA
 Our Vision: To be a church that loves the way God Loves

MISSION

The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to welcome and inspire all people to faith, hope and spiritual growth through worship, Christian fellowship, and service to one another and to the community beyond.

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY

Rector: The Rev. H. Paul Canady, III
Associate Rector: The Rev. Suzanne Hood
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Lisa Kirby

CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

Director of Church Life: Jimi Paderick
Director of Music: Jacqueline Nappi
Director of Growing in Grace: Debbie Fodrie
Finance Coordinator: Cindy Tripp
Communications Coordinator: Betsy Downard
Volunteer Coordinator: Sarah Risty-Davis
Sunday School Coordinator: Page Litfin
EYC Coordinator: Sydney Kitchen
Nursery Staff: Heidi Powell

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursdays: 9am - 4pm
 Fridays: 9 am - 2pm
 Click [here](#) to download the "Who to Call" directory. Click [here](#) to schedule a meeting time with Paul. Click [here](#) to schedule a meeting time with Suzanne.

Please indicate if you're requesting to meet face-to-face, via phone or via video conference.

GIVING OPTIONS

- Make an online payment [here](#).
- Mail checks to PO Box 1246 New Bern NC 28563
- Text "FUNDS" to 833.233.8760
- Contact [Cindy Tripp](#) regarding automatic withdrawals.

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY

Term through 2023:
 Howard Furnas III, John King, Elizabeth Livingston (*Senior Warden*), Sims Wayt
Term through 2024:
 Tony Embrey, Phyllis Fox (*Clerk*), Rebecca Buchanan Leahy, Susan Moffat-Thomas
Term through 2025:
 Randy Bogle (*Junior Warden*), Stephanie Bratton, Holly Craighead, Kim Huddle

FIND US ONLINE

If you're viewing this newsletter online, click the links below to see our social media sites. You can also find the links on our website:
www.christchurchnewbern.com
[Main Facebook Page for Christ Church](#)
[Christ Church Children and Youth Facebook Page](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Youtube](#)

CONTACT US

Physical Address:
 Christ Church
 320 Pollock Street
 New Bern, NC 28560
Mailing Address:
 PO Box 1246
 New Bern, NC 28563
Phone Number:
 252.633.2109

The Crown is regularly distributed on the first Sunday of the month. In order to ensure our deadlines, our office needs all articles and photos by the 15th of the previous month. All copy and photos needing to run in the January 2024 edition of *The Crown* should be sent to communications@christchurch-newbern.com by December 15, 2023. Please make sure to plan ahead for your events so we don't miss the printing deadline! If you have any questions, please contact our communications coordinator, Betsy Downard, at betsydownard@christchurchnewbern.com.

- Deadlines to get articles, prayer requests/calendar submissions into *The Messenger (weekly)*: Wednesday by noon
- Deadline for submitting weekly information and pictures running in the Midweek Messenger Email: Wednesday by noon

PRAYER REQUESTS

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, and Caroline Schnoebelen.

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, Sandy, Pam, Belinda, Brittany, Laura, and Norman.

For our deployed military: Lt. Christopher Miller

For refugee families and those seeking asylum.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Advent, Williamston; Vestry Elections & Annual Parish Meetings

*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](#).

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Did you notice that all of the church's regularly scheduled events are not listed on our calendar? We have updated the way the calendar appears in our publications. If there are no changes to your regularly scheduled event, it might not appear below. The entire calendar can be viewed online at christchurchnewbern.com/calendar and in the Sunday morning *Messenger* 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 DEC. 3	MONDAY DEC. 4	TUESDAY DEC. 5	WEDNESDAY DEC. 6	THURSDAY DEC. 7	FRIDAY DEC. 8	SATURDAY DEC. 9	SUNDAY DEC. 10
<p>BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY</p> <p>VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS</p> <p>8:30am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)</p> <p>9:45am: Sunday School for All</p> <p>11am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / online)</p> <p>6 pm: EYC (Harrison Center) - Location Change</p>		<p>7am: Al-Anon Meeting (2nd Floor Living Room)</p> <p>8:30am: Eucharist (Chapel)</p> <p>11am: Altar Guild Meeting (Library)</p> <p>6:30pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)</p>	<p>4pm: Committee / Commissions Leadership Meeting (Parish House)</p> <p>6:15pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)</p>	<p>10am: Cookie Walk - Boxing Day (Parish House)</p>	<p>GREENING OF THE CHURCH EXTERIOR (BUILDING AND GROUNDS)</p> <p>10am: Cookie Walk - Plating Day (Harrison Center)</p> <p>6pm: ArtWalk Carol Sing-Along (Nave)</p> <p>7pm: ArtWalk Carol Sing-Along (Nave)</p>	<p>9am: Holiday Arts and Crafts Market (Church Yard)</p> <p>10am: Cookie Walk (Harrison Center)</p>	<p>8:30am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)</p> <p>9:45am: Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am Annual Meeting</p> <p>11am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / online)</p>

AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

GIG Students and Mentors Celebrate Thanksgiving

The children and their mentors were treated to a wonderful eighth annual Thanksgiving Lasagna dinner! The ECW ladies did a wonderful job, and everyone left with a very full belly! Thank you so much to our Christ Church ECW group!



November 20 Vestry Recap

- Vestry discussed adding a Replacement Fund to the budget. This would be used to replace or repair items around the church.
- Revenue from the rental of the spaces in the parking lot will be used to replace signs and stripe the lot.
- The Director of Christian Formation position remains open, and vestry is hopeful for the position to be filled in early 2024.
- Staff will have modified December hours based on staff and volunteer schedules.
- Discussion around Annual Meeting on December 10th. In addition to providing the Treasurer's Report, we will bring a question to the congregation for discussion. We will have a discussion on how we could change bylaws to change how new vestry members are nominated.
- There was continued discussion around the sound system. Speakers will be replaced. The system itself needs adjustment, and the church is looking into adding the ability for those with hearing aids to be able to connect to the system.
- The AED's are here and will soon be installed. We have also added Narcan to all the first aid kits at church.
- Vestry approved changes to the commissions structure.

MINISTRY COMMISSION REPORTS

Stewardship - The campaign is going well, and pledges have been coming in strong.

Building & Grounds - Pumpkin Patch had a record year. Committee is preparing to "Green" the church yard and grounds in December

Outreach - Over 100 backpacks were prepared and donated.

Parish Life - Volunteers are always needed. Recent meeting was well-attended, with positive good energy.

Pastoral Care - We continue to look for Lay Eucharistic Visitors and anyone who may like to have communion brought to them. If interest is shown, there will be training session for Stephen Ministers beginning in January.

Stewardship Campaign Update

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN
UPDATE AS OF
11/28/2023

Pledge Amount
Received: \$732,718
Number of Pledges
Received: 180



AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

From the Church Office...

- During the weeks before and 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 your payment date shows no later than December 29.



Neighbors in Christ Potluck

The *Neighbors in Christ* River Bend group had a potluck meal on October 27.



Candidates for Vestry

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 candidates, as well as letter from the Rector and Senior Warden, have been mailed to parishioners' homes and are available [here](#) and on the website.

Voting occurs during the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held Sunday, December 10th. Parishioners must vote for FOUR nominees. We encourage you to pray for all of the nominees and pray about how you will cast your ballot on December 10th.

Cookie Walk Countdown

Cookie Walk is this week! Yes, you have time to make two more dozen cookies, so pull out your favorite recipe.

Please drop off your six dozen (or more) cookies Thursday, December 7, between 10 am - 12 pm in the Parish House or on Friday, December 8, between 9 am - 4 pm in the Harrison Center. Volunteers are also needed both days.

Cookie Walk will be held from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday, December 9, and, of course, we'll need volunteers that day, too! Click [here](#) to volunteer Thursday, Friday or Saturday. A paper sign up is also located in the Reception Area. All of the proceeds from this event are returned to our community. Contact Sims Wayt at simswayt@embarqmail.com with questions.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

24TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

HOME BAKED COOKIES FROM OUR KITCHENS TO YOU

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY ONE COOKIE AT A TIME

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 / 10AM UNTIL 1 PM
THE HARRISON CENTER / 311 MIDDLE STREET

AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

ECW Update

November has been a busy month for your Christ Church All Saints ECW gals!

But first, we would like to thank all those who went on our Annual Trolley Tour back in October. Interesting info on New Bern's own Nicholas Sparks! And another BIG thank you for all of you who so generously gave to the United Thank Offering. We are so proud of Christ Church and their dedication to this wonderful program.

At our November 13th meeting our speakers were Mitch Lewis and Paula Al-Saihati from Arts to End Genocide, an interesting and dedicated group that helps support and train African women in peril to support themselves and their community through the sale of ATEG's member art works. Pictured are Mitch, our Jane Broaddus and Paula.



On Thursday, November 16th we provided and served a Thanksgiving Celebration dinner to roughly 28 Growing in Grace (GIG) students and mentors. This year our leader was Andy Britton (pictured serving lasagna). She and our volunteers did a bang-up job. It was great fun to see the kids and watch their eyes light up when the cupcake lady, Pam Miller, served them - not to mention many coming back for thirds on lasagna! A great group.

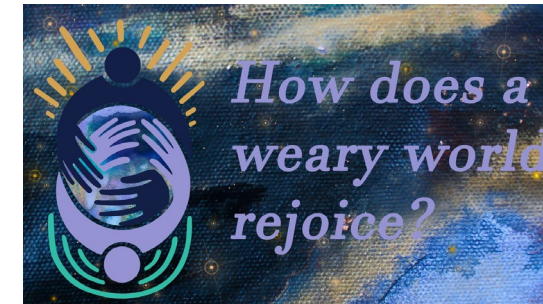


Our December meeting is our Christmas luncheon, and we look forward to celebrating! We do not meet in January, however, our February (12th) meeting we will have a speaker from NC Child, an organization devoted to ensure that every child in North Carolina has the opportunity to thrive. More information on their important work will be addressed in January.

All Saints members wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas and hope to see you at one of our meetings in 2024!

AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

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.

FIRST ANNUAL CHRIST CHURCH

Holiday

ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKET


Saturday, December 9, 2023
9 AM until 4 PM

Downtown New Bern
Christ Episcopal Church
320 Pollock St, New Bern, NC
holidaymarket@christchurchnewbern.com

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

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

Artwalk: Friday, December 8th, Christ Episcopal Church

Join us for a Christmas Carol Sing-along! A 40-min program of community carol singing at 6:00 and 7:00 pm.
Fun for all ages!



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

THE GOODS

Vestry-Appointed Committees

Each year, the Vestry is responsible for appointing new members to various committees in the Church. For 2024, the open positions are:

-- **Endowment Board** (one four-year term; meets quarterly to review the current assets in the Endowment and to review how those funds are allocated; a background in investing is very helpful)

-- **Finance Committee** (Two positions, three-year term; meets monthly to review the parish's financial position; serves an advisory role to the Vestry)

-- Note: Previous Finance Committee members must have been off the FC for two years before being re-appointed.

-- **Diocesan Convention Delegate** (Diocesan Convention is in Greenville, February 9-10, 2024)

-- Two positions for a three-year term (Must have been off for two years before re-appointment)

-- Two alternates for a one-year term

-- **Personnel Committee** (Two three-year terms, one one-year term; meets periodically to review policy and procedure and job descriptions)

For more information, please be in touch with Senior Warden Beth Livingston (elizabethcherrylivingston@gmail.com or (252) 617.9719) or the Rector, the Rev. Paul Canady (paulcanady@christchurchnewbern.com or (252) 633.2109).

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please complete the form found [here](#). You may check as many boxes as you feel called to check. Please also tell us a little bit about why you would be good for the role.

2023 Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree is a Christian prison ministry in which Christ Church has participated since 1984. We serve approximately 55 children who reside 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.

Since COVID, we now send gift cards to the custodial 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 this year. If we receive extra funds, we will also be able to send grocery gift cards and provide gift cards to our GIG children.

We are asking for donations in any amount for this wonderful and meaningful project. Donations can be made via check (with Angel Tree in the memo line) or online at www.christchurchnewbern.com/give. Please call Ellen Chance at 252.259.5214 with any questions. Thanks so much and Merry Christmas!

Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** Volunteer to serve in our upcoming services. December services, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 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 shifts.

- **Coffee Hours:** Coffee Hours have returned for fall and winter, but they can't happen without hosts. To volunteer to host an upcoming coffee hour, click [here](#). Thank you to Mary Lynn Guidage for hosting this week's coffee hour.

- **Christmas Memorials:** Make a loving tribute to remember or honor someone this year by contributing to the overall beautification of Christ Church, glorifying God as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Please complete the form found inside today's issue of *The Crown*. Additional copies can be found on our website, as well as in the Reception Area. The cost is \$35, payable to Christ Church. Submit form and payment by Friday, December 15, in order to have your memorial or thanksgiving printed in the Christmas bulletins.

- **Lay Readers and Eucharistic Ministers:** Want to try something new at Christ Church? If you are interested in reading the scriptures to the congregation during Sunday worship as a Lay Reader or Eucharistic Minister, please contact Linda McAlister, who coordinates these volunteers. She can be reached at 252.634.7984 or lindamcalister50@gmail.com. Training is offered for this ministry.

- **Interfaith Refugee Ministry:** IRM is in need of personal hygiene items for incoming refugees. Please drop your donations in the IRM box in the Reception Area. Items needed include: tooth brushes, toothpaste, shampoo, men's and women's deodorant, and bar soap.

- **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).



2023 Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings

Make a loving tribute to remember or honor someone this year by contributing to the overall beautification of Christ Church, glorifying God as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Please complete the form below. The cost is \$35, payable to Christ Church (write "Christmas Flowers" in the memo area of the check.) You can pay in-person (via the offering plate or at the Reception Desk) or online at www.christchurchnewbern.com/give (please note "Christmas Flowers"). Submit form and payment by Friday, December 15, in order to have your memorial or thanksgiving printed in the Christmas bulletins.

In Loving Memory of (please type or print)

In Thanksgiving for (please type or print)

Given by: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Order deadline is December 15.