



The *Clarion*

Volume 23, Issue 1, January 2018

A Monthly Publication



Dear Friends,

The wardens and vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Springfield, Ohio are delighted to welcome the Reverend Margaret (Maggie) Leidheiser-Stoddard as our next rector! Maggie's first Sunday with us will be January 21, 2018.

The search committee unanimously recommended that the Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard be called as rector of Christ Church. The vestry accepted the recommendation and unanimously voted to extend the call to Maggie. The vestry was particularly impressed by this excerpt from the search committee's letter:

"The Rev. Leidheiser-Stoddard has experience, strengths, and talents consistent with the five characteristics listed as important in the parish profile. She is a gifted preacher with a warm delivery that delivers fresh spiritual insights. We believe that her academic background, which informs her preaching, will be appreciated by both young and old in our parish. She is a strategic thinker who has demonstrated the ability to create and grow programs and bring new people into the church. The committee was impressed with the faith and perspective she brought to questions about church growth and current trends in membership. Her youth will be an asset as we seek ways to attract new faces to our congregation. She is a trusted counselor with experience in both hospital and parish settings. She is very approachable and invites conversation. She is an attentive listener and her ability to form genuine relationships with others is a clear strength. She has also demonstrated administrative abilities in a variety

of roles, and her leadership style seems like a fit with Christ Church."

Maggie is originally from North Carolina, but has lived in central Ohio for the past seven years. She graduated from Bexley Seabury Seminary in May 2016. Maggie graduated from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and has Master's degrees from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Maggie was ordained to the priesthood at Christ Church Cathedral (Cincinnati) in June 2017 and has been serving as Assisting Priest and Diocesan Resident at St. John's, Worthington with the Reverend Phillip College since her ordination. She previously spent six years as Coordinator of Children's and Youth Ministries at St. John's. Maggie currently lives in Bexley with her husband Jon, son Jesse, and guinea pig, Mr. Chubbikins. She plans to commute from Bexley to Springfield for the first few months of her time at Christ Church, then she and her family will move to Springfield at the beginning of the summer (after Jesse finishes 3rd grade). Maggie shared in an email that she is "passionate about vibrant worship and preaching, pastoral care, education for all ages, and building meaningful relationships both within and outside the parish." Maggie concluded her email by saying she is "grateful, humbled, and EXCITED to embark on this new journey with God and the people of Christ Church!"

Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 21, 2018 to welcome the Reverend Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard. Thanks be to God, and welcome, Maggie!

Peace,

Bonnie Shelburne
Senior Warden

The Clarion**Volume 23, Issue 1**

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Christ Episcopal Church

in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Bishop:**

The Rt Rev Thomas E Breidenthal

Transition Priest-in-Charge:

Margaret Holt Sammons+

Senior Warden:

Bonnie Shelburne

Deacon:

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Organist:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:

Kelly Zeller

Parish Life Coordinator:

TBD

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Gayle Culler

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler



Office Closed

The Christ Church Office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1.

Next Month

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Combined Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM

Annual Parish Meeting Immediately Following



The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, February 11, at 10 AM. In order to allow more time for discussion during this critical transition time, we will have one combined service at 9 AM. All members of Christ Church age 16 and older are asked to be present for this once-a-year meeting.

Who can vote? According to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, voting members are those who are: members of Christ Church and at least 16 years old, regular in worship, faithful in giving, and active in the ministry of the Parish.

Vestry Elections: Senior Warden: Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden: John Richardson

Three-year Vestry terms: 1. Kathleen Schubert

2. Brian Shelburne

3. Chris Oldstone-Moore

Winter Gift

“God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, ‘Fall to the earth’; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise Sabbath—the gift of grace-time—when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work – his place—in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann



Worship... Offering meaningful, relevant, and welcoming worship in the Episcopal tradition for people of all ages.



The Altar Guild has made arrangement for gluten free wafers. Since some visitors need to avoid cross-contamination with the wheat wafers, the gluten-free wafers are being kept in a small white container. You'll notice one of the acolytes holding the container during Communion, ready for whomever needs it. Thank you to the Altar Guild for this generous act of hospitality.



2018 Altar Flower Dedication Chart

In the East Entrance on the kiosk is the chart for 2018. If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers in memory of, celebration or in thanksgiving for someone, please sign up on the chart. If you have donated in the past, please check to see if you're signed up on the correct date, if your date is already filled you can share a date. The suggested donation is \$45. For more information or questions, please contact Gretchen Hicks at 937-390-2342.

Revised Common LECTIONARY

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
1/7/18	Genesis 1:1-5	29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
1/14/18	1 Samuel 3:1-10	139: 1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
1/21/18	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62: 6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
1/28/18	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Worship... continued



Activity Bags for Children

Quiet activity bags, books, and coloring sheets are on a cart in sanctuary. We know that children are excellent multi-taskers, and in fact often absorb more of the liturgy when their hands are busy. So, they are welcome to choose an activity bag to use during the service. Please return it to the cart after the service. Thank you!

STAFF HOURS

BY APPOINTMENT:

Senior Warden: Bonnie Shelburne

Junior Warden: Dana Waggoner

Deacon: The Rev Rick Incorvati

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Denise Wells

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:

Kelly Zeller: Monday–Friday, 8 AM–12 PM

Organist/Choir Director: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger: Sunday mornings and by appointment

Facility Manager: Paul McAfee: Monday–Friday, 7–11 AM

Bookkeeper: Gayle Culler: Tuesday and Thursday, 8–10 AM

PRAYERS

FOR

Healing



Most Sundays at the 10 o'clock service, prayers for healing are available to the right of the lectern. Any and all worshippers are welcome to come to the station either before or after receiving Holy Communion. If no one is present, remain after worship and Margaret will pray with you.

If you desire prayer for any reason, simply state your concern. You will be anointed with Holy Oil and the Trinitarian blessing followed by prayer. You will receive a card during the week with the message that you will continue to be remembered in prayer.

Currently, it is my honor and privilege to offer this blessed ministry. I am a retired social worker and former ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). I have attended Christ Episcopal Church since 2006. I welcome your questions and prayer requests anytime. (937) 768-0965

Blessings,
Myra Dean Banion (937) 768-0965



Dear people of Christ Church

We are coming to the end of our Sing a New Song Stewardship campaign. We, unfortunately, did not sing as well as we might have. Of our target of \$202,000, we have only received \$176,000 in pledges for next year. Because of this shortfall, we may have to cancel projects or take money from the Endowment, which we would prefer not to do. We sincerely thank all who have pledged. For those who have not, there is still time. If you plan on making a pledge for next year, please do so as soon as possible so our budget can be finalized. If you need another pledge card, or want to send in your pledge via email, please contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com or 323-8651.

Chris Wells and Kay Koeninger
Stewardship Co-Chairs 2017



Hospitality...welcoming, nurturing, and supporting the members of our parish and greater community.

Shawnee Place Christmas Outreach Project

The Shawnee Place residents were excited and appreciative to receive 87 gift cards donated by Christ Church. The Shawnee Place Apartments serve people age 55 and over who are on a very limited income, so our gifts helped make their Christmas a little brighter! Thank you for your generous support of this project.

Thank you to...

- ... the **Search Committee** for their hard work!
- ... the **Food Pantry Volunteers!**
- ... **all** who worked and/helped at the Shawnee Place Apartments Christmas Party.
- ... **all** who helped with Promise Neighborhood Store and Christmas Dinner!



Inclement Weather Policy

- If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 2 snow emergency, Christ Church is closed. This includes the office, Pub Theology, choir practice and any other Christ Church activity.
- If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will do our best to send out an email, post on Channel 7, and put it on the Christ Church voice mail.
- Be safe! Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgment to be safe.



Margaret Mattox	4-Jan
Graham Waggoner	4-Jan
Audrey Chitkara	5-Jan
Emily Hasecke	6-Jan
Carol Harbaugh.....	10-Jan
Abbey Mowad	10-Jan
Martha Chaney	12-Jan
Dan McGregor	19-Jan
David Farrar.....	21-Jan
Denise Sharp	27-Jan
Steve Sharp	30-Jan



Promise Neighborhood Christmas Store Thank You

Thank you so very much for all the toys that were collected by your congregation. I was truly overwhelmed by the quantity of it. The Christmas Store has never been so well stocked. On behalf of everyone from the Promise Neighborhood I thank you from the bottom of my heart. This community is blessed with a lot of caring people. Please thank your congregation for their generosity.

Marlies Hemman, Covenant Presbyterian



To our dear friends at Christ Church,

There are times in life when words are just inadequate. We find ourselves at a loss for words to express our gratitude to all of you. Your prayers, calls visits, more prayers, cards, and all that food. Thank you with sighs too deep for words. (see Romans 8). We are “waking up from the nightmare” and grateful for healing in many ways, on many levels. You all have truly been the Body of Christ for us!

~ Myra Dean and DJ Banion

Epiphany Wonder

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on Earth, Earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look ... their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—Peter Chrysologus (5th century)



Dear Christ Church friends,

I was so overwhelmed by the lovely farewell on December 10. The beautiful poinsettia from the 8 AM congregation is now gracing our living room and reminding me of all the Eucharists and all the conversations we've shared.

The cake after the 10 AM was the loveliest I've seen—thank you. And your gifts! I have so admired the drawing of Christ Church, and I'm thrilled to have one, so beautifully framed. The copy of Matthew 17:20, “Our faith can move mountains,” with your names and kind notes on the back, moved me to tears. I will keep it in front of me as I go through surgery and healing.

The Hollenbeck House ornament has found a home in my study window, while the Cat's Meow of Christ Church sits above the door. And the beautiful plaque is in our kitchen. Thank you for all these lovely reminders of a tremendous parish.

Most of all, thank you for taking me in to your parish family, and for your kind words and prayers as I left. This has been a wonderful chapter in my life, I will always be grateful for the privilege of knowing you, learning from you, and serving Christ with you.

I'd like to thank the Rev. Rick Incorvati; as I said at the service, it has been such a privilege to work with him—I could not ask for a kinder, more thoughtful colleague. My thanks, as well, to our wardens, Bonnie Shelburne and Dana Waggoner, who re-upped for a second year, to help us all through this interim; to our treasurer, Ken Bladh, who has been an invaluable source of wisdom and guidance; to our staff: Chris Durrenberger, Paul McAfee, and Gayle Culler.

And a special word of thanks to Kelly Zeller. She has been such a great help during these 15 months. She cares so deeply about this parish and each of you, and I know your new rector will find her a joy to work with, as well.

Blessings always,

Margaret

Peace and Patches Quilting Group



The Peace and Patches Quilting group sold 376 tickets for the Jellybean quilt and porcelain doll. The winner of the Jellybean quilt was Audra Trillana, and the winner of the porcelain doll was Joy Bayes. Congratulations!



Interfaith Hospitality Network

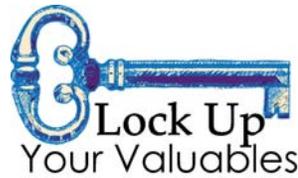
Christ Church is responsible for providing dinner to the guests staying at Interfaith Hospitality Network on Sunday, January 14th and Saturday, January 20th. The sign-up sheet is located in the East Entrance. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact Lori Swafford at lori.swafford67@gmail.com.



A Penguin “Parable”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disasters, and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



Remember to put anything of value in your trunk or out of sight, when you use our parking lot.



Prayer shawls are available in the East Entrance. The Prayer Shawls can be given to anyone needing comfort during difficult times. Please complete the last line of the card and place in the box on the table. If you have any questions contact Joan Hurley (jahurley500@gmail.com).



Join the Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, January 9th at 11:30 AM at Teaberries, 1600 E. Leffel Lane, Springfield, Ohio.

This group welcomes all men and women who are available at lunchtime for some good food and fellowship. Please RSVP to Anita Beardsell: anitabeardsell1234@gmail.com. If you need a ride, please let Anita know that as well.



Outreach... helping to provide the physical, material, social, and spiritual needs in Springfield and beyond



Kroger Community Rewards Program

Christ Church participates in the Kroger Community

Rewards program. We receive a rebate quarterly based on purchases tied to Kroger Plus Cards enrolled in the program. These rebates are used to support our outreach. If you have questions, or do not have a Kroger Plus Card, call the office.

Order from Amazon and Support the CEC Food Pantry!



You can help raise funds for our Food Pantry. The **Amazon Smile program** allows us to earn 0.05% on all purchases originating

from our web site. Here are two ways to do it:
(1) Go to <http://christspringfield.org>. Scroll down to **Quick Links**. Click on **Amazon Smile Program**. As you shop, you can see the amount you are earning for the Pantry.
(2) Go to **Amazon.com**, and in the search bar enter "Amazon Smiles," then enter "Christ Episcopal Church Springfield Ohio" as your charity of choice. Supporting the Food Pantry could not be simpler!



Toilet Paper Reminder

Our pantry is one of the few to give out toilet paper. While T.P. is something most of us take for granted, this necessity cannot be purchased with the SNAP card. A donation of a package of toilet paper is a great contribution to this amazing ministry!

PANTRY NEWS

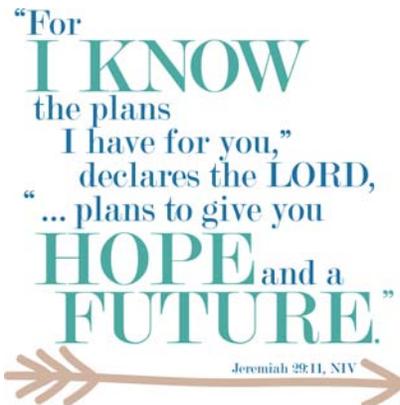
Pantry Day Is January 17th!

Thank you to those who braved the cold to help with the December Food Pantry! Pantry volunteers come from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and other faith communities. The next Pantry date is January 17 from 11 AM-2 PM. Volunteers are needed to help pick up, unload, and pack food, and provide customer service. To volunteer, contact the church office at 323-8651 or zellerko611@gmail.com.



Keep saving those pennies!

The pennies collected are used to help support the Warder Literacy Center in Springfield. Once the pennies total \$25, a check is sent to the Warder Literacy Center to help support literacy in Clark County. What an easy way to help someone learn to read! If you have any questions please contact Dodi Holmes at 937-390-0764.





Transition Priest in Charge: The Rev. Margaret Holt Sammons

Senior Warden: Bonnie Shelburne

Junior Warden: Dana Waggoner

Treasurer: Ken Bladh

Deacon: Rick Incorvati

Secretary: Don Wheeler

Vestry at Large:

Don Wheeler
Ann Chitkara
Marilyn Howat
Dawn Ivy
Jake Studebaker
Chris Wells

Youth Representative: Sophie Smith



Rainbow Table

January is our month to help serve lunch at St. John's Lutheran Church each Friday. There are two shifts:

- The first shift prepares the meal and sets up from 9 AM to 11 AM.
- The second shift comes in at 11:30 AM to serve and clean up, finishing at 1:30 PM.

See the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the East Entrance.