



*The*  
**Clarion**

Volume 22, Issue 12, December 2017

A Monthly Publication



*Christmas Eve*  
*Sunday, December 24th*

**2:00 PM: Quiet Service with Holy Eucharist**

**4:30 PM: Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist**

**9:00 PM: Festive Holy Eucharist with Choir and Strings**

**Baby Jesus needs his fruit and veggies!**



Our longstanding custom at Christ Church is to bring baby food for the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve and place it at the crèche during the singing of the doxology. The baby food is then given to the Parent Infant Center for hungry babies in Springfield. According to the Parent Infant Center, this year the baby Jesus needs his fruits and veggies, and they report that they are quite low on those items.

**\*\*\*\*\* There are no morning services at Christ Church on December 24. \*\*\*\*\***

**The Clarion****Volume 22, Issue 12**

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[www.christ-in-springfield.org](http://www.christ-in-springfield.org)

*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

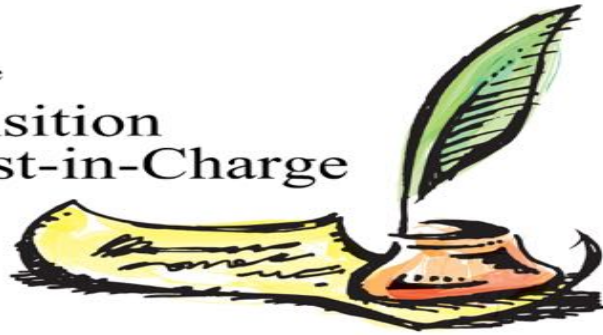
**Parish Life Coordinator:**  
TBD

**Facility Manager:**  
Paul McAfee

**Bookkeeper:**  
Gayle Culler

**Clarion Editor:**  
Joyce Spangler

From the  
**Transition  
Priest-in-Charge**

**Advent Waiting**

**"O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear."**

When you think about December, what words come to mind? Harried? Rushing around? Busy? Or perhaps lonely? Left out? Sad? Grieving for the people with whom you used to celebrate Christmas?

Advent offers another word: Waiting. Even as we're surrounded by Christmas displays that have been up since before Halloween, some of them; even as we're besieged by the message that December = shopping = spending money, and we'd better get at it; our lessons and hymns all call us to a different task. To wait, and to open our hearts to the Christ who is coming.

Barbara Crafton, an Episcopal priest and spiritual writer, tells about the year she and her husband decided it was time for a smaller tree. Wrestling with their usual 8 foot one had gotten to be too much; it was time for a tree that would sit on a table.

She said she had always thought she'd feel sad when that day came. Then she realized this: Smallness and quiet call me now, and something deep within me answers with joy, untinged with even the slightest wistfulness.

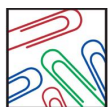
Perhaps the joy of Christmas lies not in its specialness. Perhaps what is special about it is precisely that it is an ordinary day. An ordinary day in which heaven comes to Earth and transforms it, so that henceforth no day, however ordinary, is untouched by holiness.

So, there need be no letdown after Christmas day. Because it is afterward that the blessing of it walks the world.

That's a promise for us all. Whatever is going on with you this Advent, whatever joy or sorrow or burden has come your way, make some quiet time to tell the One who is coming about it. And then pray for those in Houston and Puerto Rico, who are also waiting. Ask Christ to come and touch their very difficult ordinary days with holy love.

A very blessed Advent to you all,

**Margaret Holt Sammons+**



**Office  
Closed**

**The church office  
will be closed on  
Monday, Dec. 25  
and Tuesday,  
Dec. 26.**



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



Since some visitors need to avoid cross-contamination with the wheat wafers, the Altar Guild has made arrangement for gluten free wafers. These 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.

**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

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

| Date     | First Lesson   | Psalm            | Second Lesson           | Gospel            |
|----------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 12/03/17 | Isaiah 64:1-9  | 80:1-7,<br>16-18 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9     | Mark: 13:24-37    |
| 12/10/17 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | 85:1-2, 8-13     | 2 Peter 3:8-15a         | Mark 1:1-8        |
| 12/17/17 | Isaiah 61:1-4  | 89               | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28 |

## Worship... continued



### SEARCH Committee

The Search Committee is happy to report that we have

several candidates in the pipeline. We are optimistic about the prospect of having a wonderful priest on board in the early part of 2018.

Marilyn Howat, Communicator



### 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!



### Taizé Service and Light Supper Meditative Service of Prayer, Song and Scripture in Candlelight Sunday, December 10, 5 PM

This Advent we are starting a new tradition. For many years Highlands United Church of Christ held Taizé services; now unfortunately they have closed. So Rick Incorvati gathered a group of people in the community who are interested in helping these services continue. The result is that Christ Church is partnering with First Baptist to offer Taizé worship four times a year. The first service will be at Christ Church, Sunday, December 10, at 5 PM.

The name *Taizé* comes from an ecumenical religious community in France. After WWII, young adults from all over Europe flocked to it, looking for healing and reconciliation. To help these people of many different languages worship together, the monks of Taizé wrote simple, beautiful, moving chants, which are easily learned. We have often used one of them, "Ubi caritas," here at Christ Church. Taizé continues to be a pilgrimage destination for young people—now from all over the world—and their simple, quiet worship is held all over the world, as well.

During this Taizé service, we will listen to God through simple, meditative song, Scripture, prayer and silence. Come, find refreshment for your souls in this busy time.

## STAFF HOURS

**Transition Priest, The Rev. Margaret Holt**

**Sammons:** Tuesday–Thursday

**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

**Pastoral Care Coordinator:** Denise Wells

**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



## Worship... *continued*



### Christmas Gift Tree

### Take a tag— return a gift!

**Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 3**  
**Red tags:** \$25 gift card (Kroger, Meijer, Wal-Mart) for residents of Shawnee Place  
**Green tag:** new, unwrapped gift for a child, for the Promise Neighborhood Christmas Shop. This allows parents have the dignity of choosing and paying for gifts for their children, at a greatly discounted price.



### 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.



### Aka HOG Sunday! Sunday, December 17

Wear your ugly Christmas sweater to church (or anything red or green if you don't have one) and plan to stay after the 10 o'clock service to decorate the church

for Christmas. There are trees to trim, garland to hang, a crèche to set up, and other areas of the building to decorate.



### Short Advent

Thanks to the way our calendar works out, we have a very short Advent this year. Advent often *feels* short, when we have so much to do, but this time it really is! To find the first Sunday of Advent, we count backwards from Christmas Day. Since Christmas Day is on Monday this year, it means that the 4th Sunday of Advent is December 24, which is also of course Christmas Eve. Talk about liturgical multitasking!

So as you'll see on the front page, we won't have morning services on Sunday, December 24. As has been the custom when this happens, we treat the day as Christmas Eve, and gather for worship at 2:00, 4:30 and 9:00 PM.

(But at our house we're going to get out the Advent wreath one week early!)

-Margaret Sammons





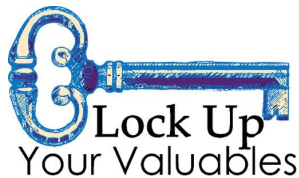
## *Hospitality...welcoming, nurturing, and supporting the members of our parish and greater community.*



### Shawnee Place Quarterly Birthday Parties 2017

At each of the four events, we served 50 people—to their great pleasure and ours. This year, as in the previous two years, we gave each birthday honoree a special glass commemorating the celebration and the year. At the party on November 16, the residents enjoyed fellowship long after the servers had finished cleaning up and departed for home. We were also delighted to see Deacon Otto Anderson at the event. He will continue to lead their weekly devotions for the foreseeable future. This outreach is significant and the efforts of the following people have been particularly notable: Joann Albright, George Anderson, Anita Beardsell, Ann Chitkara, Dodi Holmes, Justin Lehman, Sally Schwarz, Joyce Spangler, Marj Vasileff, Stacy Whitt, Bill and Laura Yeazell. As the point person on the parties, I have been particularly blessed to work with them and with Joanna and Brenda who have been our excellent contacts at Shawnee Place.

Gwen Scheffel



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

### Thank you from...

... Children's Rescue Center/The Ark for the continued support and donation.

### Thank you to...

- ... the **Stewardship Committee and Vestry** for the delicious celebration breakfast!
- ... the **Food Pantry Volunteers!**
- ... **all** who worked and/or prepared food for the Shawnee Place Apartments Birthday Party!



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](mailto:jahurley500@gmail.com)).



“Advent” means “coming,” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so—a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether—an invasion of holiness. That’s what Advent is about.



## Nominating Committee

The Vestry's Nominating Committee is asking for nominations for new members to join the Vestry for a three-year term beginning in February 2018. We are also accepting

nominations for Senior Warden and Junior Warden for one-year terms. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for any of these Vestry positions, please contact Bonnie Shelburne, either in person or by email [yshelburne@gmail.com](mailto:yshelburne@gmail.com). The Nominating Committee will contact nominated individuals and will present a slate of candidates at the Annual Meeting in February 2018.

### About the Vestry . . .

The Vestry functions as a board that oversees the spiritual, pastoral, and operational aspects of Christ Episcopal Church. It is composed of the rector and members of the congregation who have been elected at the parish annual meeting each February.



## ECW CHRISTMAS PARTY

All women of the church are welcome to attend the Annual ECW Christmas Party that will be held at the home of Joann Albright, 1970 Wedgewood Circle on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will meet for the Chapel Service at 10 AM and carpool to Joann's following the service. It will be a catered luncheon, with the cost being \$9.00. Make the check payable to Shirley Artis. Reservations must be made on or before Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please call Dodi Holmes (390-0764) or Juanita Artis (399-4237). We look forward to seeing you there.



## Birthdays

Al Hurley ..... 1-Dec  
 Peng Chen ..... 2-Dec  
 Fred Bartenstein ..... 4-Dec  
 Doug McGregor ..... 4-Dec  
 Anita Beardsell ..... 5-Dec  
 Andy Dunn ..... 5-Dec  
 Dianna Maddox ..... 5-Dec  
 Sam Schmitt ..... 5-Dec  
 Blake Holland ..... 6-Dec  
 Bryce Holland ..... 6-Dec  
 Liz Wheeler ..... 6-Dec

Kathy Schmitt ..... 7-Dec  
 Richard Spangler ..... 8-Dec  
 Marilyn Krohn ..... 15-Dec  
 Ken Benne ..... 17-Dec  
 Lauryn Tuggle ..... 17-Dec  
 Chris Wells ..... 19-Dec  
 Leeza Wheeler ..... 19-Dec  
 Isabelle Durrenberger .... 21-Dec  
 Bill Hicks ..... 21-Dec  
 Caroline Oldstone-Moore  
 ..... 21-Dec  
 Rick Incorvati ..... 23-Dec  
 Dawn White ..... 23-Dec  
 David Reichel ..... 24-Dec  
 Margaret Holt Sammons  
 ..... 24-Dec

Marty Smith ..... 24-Dec  
 Joanne Harris ..... 27-Dec  
 Silas Brooks Hedstrom .... 28-Dec  
 Bill Yeazell ..... 28-Dec  
 Chris Durrenberger ..... 29-Dec

## Anniversaries

Scott Dooley &  
 Lisa Pankratz..... 18-Dec  
 Carl & Marie Hutchins 18-Dec  
 Norm & Pat Silliman .. 21-Dec  
 Jack & Toni Goble ..... 28-Dec  
 Bill & Laura Yeazell..... 29-Dec





### “Day of Change” Results



As the clocks were falling back one hour, we brought our change to church. Thanks to your generosity, \$154.63 has been given to the Christ Church Food Pantry to support their work in

feeding hungry people of Springfield.



### Christ Episcopal Church 2018 Stewardship Campaign

#### Every Pledge Matters

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2018. If you've not yet returned your card, please do so as soon as possible. Every pledge matters as the Vestry begins to work on the 2018 budget. If you need another pledge card, or want to send in your pledge via email, contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com) or 323-8651.



### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The flowers that adorn the church at Christmas are given by parishioners in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones. To contribute to the beauty of our Christmas Eve services, fill out the form below by December 10<sup>th</sup> and put it in the offering plate with a check made to Christ Episcopal Church and marked “Christmas Flowers.”

---  
CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS  
& THANKSGIVINGS

Donor’s Name & Phone

---

In memory of

---

In thanksgiving for

---

### Celtic Advent Calendar

In this year of the short Advent, a friend pointed me to a calendar that makes Advent longer! It began on November 15 and goes through the Epiphany, January 6. Each day, it suggests a way to stop and experience God's love, in the world around us, and in one another. For example: *Visit a beautiful spot in or near your home. Breathe and listen. How is God preparing you for Christ’s birth?* Copies of the calendar are available in the East Entrance.







**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.

### Do Your Christmas Shopping on Amazon and Support the CEC Food Pantry!

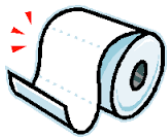


You can help raise funds for our Food Pantry. The **Amazon Smile program** allows us to earn 0.05% on all purchases originating

from our web site. Here are two ways to do it:

(1) Go to <http://christsspringfield.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 December 20!

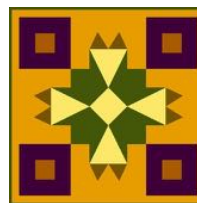
Thank you to those who helped with the November Food Pantry! Pantry volunteers come from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and other faith communities. The next Pantry date is Dec. 20 from 11 AM–2 PM. Volunteers are needed to help pick up, unload, and pack food and provide customer service. To volunteer, contact the church office at 323-8651 or [zellerko611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerko611@gmail.com).



### How Far Will a Penny Go?

#### 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.



### The Peace and Patches Quilting Group

will hold a mini bazaar on **December 10th** in the Guild Room. We are offering a number of items that could be used as

Christmas gifts. Please plan to visit our tables after both services. Contact Dodi Holmes or Charlene Schreiber for raffle tickets for the handmade Jelly Bean Quilt by the Peace and Patches Quilting group and the handmade Christening doll.



### **Your Vestry**

**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

## **Volunteers Needed** *Promise Neighborhood Christmas Shop & Dinner*



**Would you like the joy of seeing parents find gifts for their children?**

The shop is open December 6, 7 and 8, at the Clifton Avenue Church of God.

There are two shifts: 3:30–5:00, and 5:00–6:30 PM.

Volunteers are also needed to help serve Christmas dinner, Saturday, December 9, from 3:00–5:00, and 6:00–8:00 PM. Sign-up sheets are in the East Entrance.