



The

Clarion

Volume 29, Issue 1, January 2025

A Monthly Publication

SAVE THE DATE!!



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, February 23rd (more details to follow in the Newsnote and bulletins). 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 Nominations

The Vestry's Nominating Committee, which includes Scott Yeazell, Steve Sharp, Lori Swafford, Joy Meyers, and Bill Hicks, along with ex officio member The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard, is seeking nominations for new members to join the Vestry for a three-year term starting in March 2025. We are also accepting nominations for the positions of Senior Warden and Junior Warden, which are one-year terms. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for any of these Vestry positions, please contact Scott Yeazell at scott@triec.com or Rev. Michelle at mmboomgaard@christspringfield.org.

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's annual meeting each February.

To be eligible for Vestry, members must:

- attend worship regularly
- make a pledge, or otherwise financially support the parish
- be able to attend and participate in the Vestry meetings, held the second Thursday of each month from 6–8 PM.

The Nominating Committee will contact nominated individuals and will present a slate of candidates at the Annual Meeting.



January Happenings

Wed. 1/1 Office Closed

Sun. 1/5 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM;
Adult Forum @ 11:30

Wed. 1/8 PANTRY: food delivery
@ 8:00 AM

Thurs. 1/9 PANTRY: food
bagging @ 9:00 AM **Virtual
Noonday Prayer Service;
Vestry Meeting @ 6 PM**

Sun. 1/12 Worship @ 8 & 10
AM; **Children's Chapel @ 10;**
Adult Forum @ 11:30

Wed. 1/15 PANTRY DAY 8:15 AM

Thurs. 1/16 Virtual Noonday
Prayer Service; **Game Night
Potluck in the Parish Hall, 6-8
PM**

Sun. 1/19 Worship @ 8 &
10 AM; **Children's Chapel @
10; Adult Forum @ 11:30;**
Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Mon. 1/20 Office Closed

Sun. 1/26 Worship @ 8 & 10
AM; **Adult Forum @ 11:30**

The Clarion**Volume 29, Issue 1**

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Office: 937/323-8651
www.ChristSpringfield.org

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Bishop:**

The Rt Rev. Kristin Uffelman White

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

Senior Warden:

Scott Yeazell

Junior Warden:

Steve Sharp

Treasurer:

Ken Bladh

**Program Director and
Parish Administrator:**

Kelly Zeller

Music Director:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Nursery Attendant:

Madison Smith



The Church Office will be closed on **1/1 for New Year** and **1/20 for MKL Jr. Day**. Please plan accordingly.



On an Abiding Season

We (okay, I) make much of the fact that the new liturgical year begins each year— not on January 1, as people might expect—but on the first Sunday of Advent as we wait expectantly for Jesus. But I wonder if we think much about the logic of the liturgical year after that.

Our year starts with Advent, followed by the twelve days of Christmas. More than just fodder for a popular song about the gifts of an overly lavish suitor, the twelve days of Christmas actually celebrates several high points of Jesus's childhood. We celebrate his birth, of course. We also mark the slaughter of the Holy Innocents as we remember the children Herod murdered in his attempt to hang on to power and Jesus's flight into Egypt and life as a refugee. On the first Sunday after Christmas, we read the prologue of John, a reminder that the Word (Jesus) was with God in the very beginning, long before He came to Earth. Christmastide includes the feast of the Holy Name on Jan. 1, seven days after his birth, when, according to Jewish law, he would have been circumcised and given his name. It concludes with Epiphany, when the Wise Men from the East came to visit.

And then? And then... we enter "The Season after Epiphany." I sometimes refer to this as the "Short Green Season" in reference to the colors of the altar hangings and because it's shorter than the "Long Green Season," which comes after Pentecost. But, neither of those names really does the season justice. Because, although we often forget it, our liturgical year links our lives together with the life of Christ. If in Advent we wait for Him and in Christmastide we celebrate His birth, after Epiphany, we mark His time with us.

It begins with the Baptism of our Lord on the Sunday after Epiphany. After that, we hear about the life of Jesus as he begins his ministry. We hear him call the disciples. We hear about his teaching and his early miracles—the moments when people began to wonder who this Jesus of Nazareth might be.

If we are supposed to wait expectantly during Advent, and rejoice at Christmas, what do we do in this season after Epiphany?

(continued on p. 3)

(Michelle's Musings, Continued)

Perhaps the answer can be found in the hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," by Episcopal priest Phillips Brooks. In the last verse we sing, "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!"

What would it be, for Jesus to abide with us, this season?

When Jesus called the disciples, he did, in fact, abide with them. They learned by following him around—watching, listening, and asking questions. In fact, John's account of the calling of the disciples (John 1: 35-41) has the disciples follow Jesus and spend the day with him where he is staying. This passage prompted a mentor priest friend to wonder aloud, "What would it be like to just hang out with Jesus for a day?"

How many of us have spent some portion of the Christmas season either visiting or being visited by family? How much deeper have those

experiences been when we've been able to just abide with each other, listening, caring, noticing what the other needs, or what the other avoids. I remember trips to visit my extended family that taught me a lot. My older cousins taught me how to be cool, of course, but my grandparents taught me about respecting my elders, and about resilience during difficult times like the War or the postwar years.

What if we made the season after Epiphany the season to hang out with Jesus, the way we might have hung out with relatives? Instead of a New Year's Resolution, what if we were to try to put more of his wisdom into practice? To live a bit more like his disciples this season? After all, the miracle of the Incarnation—the miracle that God came to Earth and dwelt among us—is not over at Christmas. As we look forward to hearing about Jesus's life and early ministry, we know the best is yet to come.

Abide with us, Emmanuel!

Michelle+



January 5th Is the Last Day to Donate Baby Food for Jesus!



Christ Church has a long tradition of donating baby food for little ones in need around Christmas. Please drop off your donations in the basket by the elevator by January 5th. Questions?

Contact Deb Southward 937-925-1977

(call/text) or email dpsouthward@aol.com.

We'll dedicate and bless donations at the 10:00 service on **Epiphany Sunday, January 5th.**



The Rt Rev. Kristin Uffelman White will be present at Christ Church on **February 9, 2025.** Contact Rev. Michelle if you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church on that day.



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

▶ Watch Us on YouTube

- 1) Open the YouTube app on your smart TV.
- 2) Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. A list will appear at the left of the screen. If you type *Christ Episcopal*, our church will not appear on the list.
- 3) Select Christ Church Springfield, about the third one down. That's all there is to it!

January Children's Chapel Services will be offered on the 12th and 19th. We meet at the start of the 10 AM service in the chapel on the lower level, down the hall from the nursery. We are using the lectionary-based Spark Program that reinforces the day's lectionary lesson and includes a fun activity page. The service takes 15–20 minutes. The children then go upstairs to the service or return to the nursery.

African Bible Study

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina) or African Bible Study is a group meditative approach through which members gain confidence in their Christian faith from Holy Scripture. To learn more or to receive the link, please contact Pat Cary at sisterpcocd2@hotmail.com, Keith Doubt at kdoubt@gmail.com, or Kay Koeninger at kaydavid7485@att.net

Virtual Thursday Noonday Prayer Services

Judy Johnson offers a Noonday Prayer service on Christ Church's Facebook page each Thursday. (facebook.com/christspringfield.org/) The text is located on p. 103 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at <https://www.bcponline.org>



Revised Common **LECTIONARY**



January				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Jan 5	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 12	Isaiah 43: 1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 19	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 26	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21





Margaret Mattox	4-Jan
Graham Waggoner.....	4-Jan
Carol Harbaugh	10-Jan
Dan McGregor	19-Jan
Alex Bickel	20-Jan
Denise Sharp.....	27-Jan
Steve Sharp.....	30-Jan



ONLINE GIVING

- Go to christspringfield.org or use the QR code at right.
- Go to the tab in the upper right-hand corner marked “Online Giving.”
- Click on the blue online giving link.
- Fill in the amount you want to give.
- Use the drop box **Pledged Giving** for a pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving.
- If you choose **Miscellaneous Giving**, choose giving type in the next drop box.
- Complete the rest of the form.
- Press “Continue.”
- On the next page, press “Continue.”
- Enter your **billing information**.
- Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.



2025 Altar Flower Dedication Chart



If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2025 in memory of, thanksgiving. or in celebration for someone or something, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.

Please be specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower. Suggested donation is \$45.

- January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th
- February 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd
- March 2nd
- May 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th
- June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th
- July 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th
- August 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th
- September 14th, 21st, and 28th
- October 5th, 12th, and 26th
- November 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd

Church Staff

- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard
- **Senior Warden:** Scott Yeazell
- **Jr. Warden:** Steve Sharp
- **Treasurer:** Ken Bladh
- **Clerk of Vestry:** Kelly Zeller
- **Program Director and Parish Administrator:** Kelly Zeller
- **Music Director:** Dr. Christopher Durrenberger
- **Facility Manager:** Paul McAfee
- **Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox
- **Nursery Attendant:** Madison Smith

Your Vestry at Large

Rick Everingham, Bill Hicks, Joy Meyers, Anne Strothman, Lori Swafford, and Marjory Wentworth



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



NEW FOR JANUARY!!!
Join the gang for a **POTLUCK DINNER and GAME NIGHT** Thursday,

January 16th, from 6–8 PM in the Parish Hall. Bring some food to share, a game you'd like to play, and a friend or two if you wish. We'll be discussing options for future game nights (including TRIVIA) as part of the evening's festivities. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org.




Episcopal Calendars

2025 Calendars are available in the East Entrance on the table. Thank you to Richards, Raff, and Dunbar Funeral Home for providing them for our use.

Check THIS Out!

Christ Church's Judy Johnson has a website with three blogs! Find them at <https://judyjohnsonwrites.weebly.com/>



INCLEMENT
WEATHER POLICY

If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 2 snow emergency, Christ Church is closed. If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will send out an email via Newsnote, post it on Channel 7, and put it on the Church's Facebook page and Website. Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement to be safe.



Adult forum will be on hiatus for January. Instead, please join us after the 10 o'clock service for coffee hour and informal conversation every Sunday.



Vestry Highlights

Highlights from the NOVEMBER 2024, meeting.

Vestry Highlights are published after minutes are approved at the following month's meeting. Vestry minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the Guild Room.

- The meeting started with a discussion on the Consecration of Samuel Seabury led by Rev. Michelle followed by the reading of the Collect.
- **Treasurer Report: Ken Bladh**
 - Report distributed via email.
 - Nov. 4 the DSO notified us that the method of determining parish Mission Shares for 2025 has been changed in two significant ways. First, it is based on the 2023 Parochial Report and not actual 2025 revenue. Most parish percentages have been reduced by 10%. Thus, our total Mission Share for 2025 will be \$37,354.23, not the projected \$48,111 in the current 2025 budget.
 - The installation of the replacement pipes in the organ is complete. Final payment from the Cat 4 endowment fund was made for a total cost of \$29,500.
 - Between 10/15 and 11/4/24, the parish received donations totaling \$1,718.29 (net of bank fees) for Haitian Ministries.
- The parish received \$1,000 for our food pantry from Christ Church Glendale.
- **Junior Warden Report: Steve Sharp**
 - Concrete work on the replacement fence had started.
 - Quote received from Above All Glass Shops to replace the Linden Street and Chapel exit doors. Total replacement cost is \$9870.00.
 - Steve reported that the doors' hardware is of midlevel quality, and that he would like to research higher-quality hardware for the Linden door. Motion made to replace the doors at a cost not to exceed \$13,400. Motion seconded and carried.
- **Nominating Committee**
 - Rev. Michelle moved that the Vestry appoint 2025 outgoing members Scott Yeazell, Steve Sharp, Lori Swafford, Joy Meyers, and Bill Hicks, and ex officio, The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard to the Nominating Committee. Motion seconded and carried.
- Rev. Michelle reworked Kelly Zeller's job description to create a new position that included her new responsibilities with the Food Pantry and children's ministry. Her new title will reflect her new responsibilities as Program Director/Parish Administrator.
- Anne Strothman moved that the Annual Meeting be held on 2/23/25 between services at 9 AM. Motion seconded and carried.



*Christmas Eve, 6:45 PM Service,
12/23/24*



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

A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the December Food Pantry, we served over a 345 clients with 35 new households! The clients were offered pork, chicken, hamburger, tomato sauce, spaghetti noodles, peanut butter, cheese, butter, vegetable oil, canned goods, and the extras of toilet paper, pet food, toiletries, and spices. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! Please contact **Brian Shelburne** bshelburne@wittenberg.edu **Kelly Zeller** zellerk0611@gmail.com or **Anne Randolph** annejrand@aol.com to volunteer.

The January Pantry dates are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

- help pick up and unload food,
- help bag food, and
- help with customer service.

	Time	January
Food Delivery	8:00 AM	8
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	9
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	15



Groceries are pre-bagged so that filled bags can be placed directly into client's cars on pantry distribution day. If you can commit a block of 3–4 hours on **Jan. 9**, let **Brian**

Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged for distribution by Jan. 15.

On **Pantry Day (Jan. 15)**, volunteers are needed to help unload food, pack food, and help with customer service starting at approximately 8:15 AM.



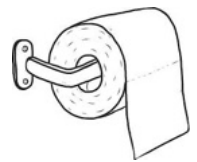
Reminder from the Outreach Team

Please continue to **SAVE PENNIES** for the Warder Literacy Center and **PULL-TABS** for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. Rolls or baggies of pennies and pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot or placed in the church building. THANKS for everyone's continual support!

Question: What are the most popular items at our pantry?

Answer: Toilet Paper, Pet Food, and Laundry Detergent!

These items are most requested by Food Pantry clients, and none can be purchased with the SNAP card. We are the only Food Pantry that offers toilet paper, and the clients often ask when they first arrive if we have it



that day. The rising costs of pet food are hurting some of our senior clients on a fixed income. One client comes with his dog at 4:30 AM and hopes we have dog food on the miscellaneous table. Laundry detergent and cleaning



supplies are expensive items asked about on distribution day. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and really make a difference!! Thanks!



RAINBOW TABLE

January is Christ Episcopal Church's month to volunteer at the Rainbow Table at St. John's Lutheran Church. Volunteers are needed each Friday in the various areas at the times listed below.

- 9:00–9:30** Help wrap silverware.
10:00–10:30 Help repackage baked goods.
10:30–11:30 Help set out desserts, salads, etc.
12:00–1:00 PM Help serve
- Hand out trays and escort those needing help to tables
 - Pour and hand out drinks
- 12:30–1:00 PM** Scrape dishes
- Clean Up - Wipe tables & chairs, stack chairs
 - Help in dishwasher room



Many of these activities maintain distance from guests. Therefore, you can choose to help where you feel most comfortable. Please remember to sign in and out noting you are from Christ Episcopal Church; the Volunteer Notebook is located in kitchen. If you have questions, please contact Deb Southward 937-925-1977.