

CHRIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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from the desk of Senior Warden Chris Nelson

Welcome to our 1st Christ Episcopal Church newsletter! I hope you enjoy this latest effort to get the goings-on of our Church family to you. A BIG shoutout to our editor Holly Wells for coming up with and initiating this publication, as well as updating our website, and incorporating Advent readings and quizzes into our social media.

We have recently returned to our almost normal schedule of worship with 8:00 and 10:15 services on Sundays, and a noon service on Wednesdays in the Chapel. Please spread the word! We love having our Church family with us as we worship and learn about our Risen Lord. Hopefully, once this virus and all of its descendants are defeated, we will return to having Sunday School and/or the Children's service at 9:00 Sunday mornings.

Our Christmas Eve schedule has been set: 5:00 pm Family service including the pageant featuring our very missed young members, and a 10:30 Eucharist followed by a Wassail gathering in the library and Church office. Let's welcome Christmas together!

As you know, we are in the search for a new rector. Our Search Committee has worked very hard to prepare for the search and will soon (hopefully) be interviewing candidates vetted by the Bishop. I was very impressed with the video they did for the Ministry Fair and how they represented CEC to potential candidates. If you would like to see it, go to www.DioBeth.org

and click on "About", then "Clergy and Staff Openings".

Vestry will be busy formulating a budget for 2022. That budget very much depends on the Stewardship pledges sent in by many of you these last few weeks (Thank you!!). We have not received as many pledges as in years past, so please—if you have not pledged, please do so! Our budget was healthy the last two years because so many of you continued to honor your pledges even while we were not open (again THANK YOU!), but this next year we will be challenged to make ends meet with paying for a new full-time rector—who will need health insurance (Father Doug already had that so we didn't have to pay it) which is a huge portion of the projected budget, and with having to somehow stop water from leaking into the dungeon which is causing mold and mildew throughout the downstairs.

I do want to thank each and everyone of you for your loyalty to our Church, and for your enthusiasm, ingenuity, and pure muscle in helping to insure that we continue to be a living, breathing, growing ministry for our Parishioners and the local community. I'm proud of our little Church and our Church family.

Merry Christmas!

Priest Post

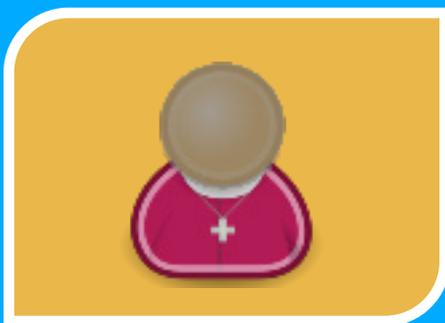
Our beloved parish, Christ Episcopal Church, has traveled far in 2021. By the grace of God we have successfully navigated the difficult passage from the retirement of our long-term rector Father Doug Moyer to being ready to call a new rector in 2022! In the interim, with God's guiding hand firmly on our backs, we have grown in love for one another and discovered new gifts of ministry among ourselves. In the midst of this transition, which is hard in the life of any parish, we have also been living with the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has forced us to find new ways to worship our loving God and to be together as the Body of Christ here on 7th St. Thanks be to God for all the gifts and graces God has bestowed on us this past year!

In this newsletter you will find an update from our search committee chair, Mary Ellen Whitely. The search committee has worked hard all summer and fall, learning about our parish and its hopes and dream for the future God wishes for us, and translating those hopes and dreams into a dynamic Parish Profile. Now we wait with anticipation to learn who might be called to become our next rector!

Let me update you on our plans for the next weeks and months. We have reinstated our traditional Sunday service times of 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. Unless we are faced with another government close-down, we will continue with those in-person services through the winter. Also, unless public health guidance changes, masks will remain optional. However, I strongly urge anyone who is unvaccinated to wear a mask. Further, if you are unvaccinated I plead with you to consider prayerfully your own health and the health of your fellow parishioners and to get vaccinated.

In January and February Dan and I will be acting on a long-standing plan to spend two months in Florida. I have arranged with our Senior Warden to return for ten days in January, so that I will be present at the services on January 23 and 30. On the Sundays I am away we will have supply clergy. If our new rector is not in place by the end of February, I will return on Sunday, Feb. 27, and continue as your Assisting Priest through Lent and Easter. I have faith that during my absence the wardens and vestry will continue with their strong leadership of the parish.

Please accept my best wishes for a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and know that you are always in my prayers.
Blessings,
Mother Sidnie+



Rector Search Update

The search committee has been working diligently these last several months. We gathered information from the church survey, small focus group sessions, and conversations with parishioners about who we are as a church and where God is leading us in the future.

Following the new diocese search process implemented by Bishop Kevin, we have written a 2021 parish profile and a parish portfolio. We then created an 8-minute video to introduce Christ Episcopal Church and our parish family during a live streamed Diocese of Bethlehem Ministry fair.

We've worked closely with the Diocese's Office of Transitional Ministry's Canon Melinda Artman to advertise our clergy opening within the diocese as well as nationally in the Episcopal News Service. The profile, portfolio, and video should give prospective applicants a good overall picture of Christ Church.

The diocese is accepting applications until mid-December. Your prayers are greatly appreciated as we continue through this search process.

Thank you,
Mary Ellen Whiteley



[Parish Profile](#)



[Video Profile](#)



[Website](#)

Daughters of the King

Updates from the Ruth & Naomi Chapter



In Other News...

- **You are invited to submit names in memory or honor of your loved ones for printing in our Christmas Eve bulletins.** Please send your memorials to christchurchsburg@gmail.com by Wednesday, December 15.
- **Also, poinsettias have been ordered to help decorate the Church for Christmas!** We are asking for donations to help pay for the flowers—you may do so through the offertory making a note of your donation in the memo line of your check or with a quick note included with a cash offering.
- **The Annual meeting will take place on January 23 DURING a potluck held after the service.** We will hold one service at 9:30, followed by the potluck/annual meeting.
- **We need two acolytes for the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve to be torch bearers.** Even if you have never acolyted, it is easy and fun. If you are interested please let Chris Nelson know.

Do you have news?
Let Holly know at wellshollym@gmail.com.
Deadline for January contributions is January 1.

During the months of December and January, we will be collecting personal care items for the people who are helped by "Street2Feet" Outreach Center, a homeless day center open Monday–Friday 10a–2p & Saturdays 9a–12p in Stroudsburg. Services range from showers & laundry to Case Management and much more in between. They are looking for personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, simple food such as cup-a-soup, healthy snack bars, Ramen noodles and hand and feet warmers. They are also in need of pens, notebooks and envelopes to use for learning how to fill out applications and resumes for work. Most of the items can be found at the \$1.25 stores. A basket will be in the Narthex for the items to be deposited. There will be a sign on it to prevent it from getting mixed up with food pantry donation items.

We also do the coffee hour the third Sunday of the month and would welcome any member of the parish who would like to help. It does not have to be on a regular basis, just when the Spirit moves you!

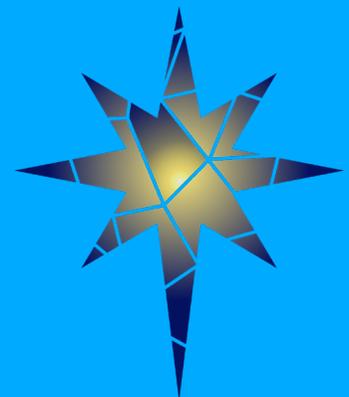
During the month of January we will be holding an information meeting during a coffee hour (to be announced) for women who may be interested in joining our Ruth and Naomi Chapter. Following this we will schedule discernment classes that will lead to initiation into our chapter. If you are interested in joining, you can talk to any of our current members. We are identified by the Daughter's Cross we wear, or contact Patti Alleger, 570-269-1300, palleger@ptd.net.

Future Columns

There's a lot going on behind the scenes at CEC.

Starting next month, we plan to include updates from the following groups and more:

- Prayer Chain
- Food Pantry
- Book Club
- Usher Committee
- Coffee Hour
- Altar Guild
- Counters
- Flower Power



End-of-Life Planning

Our funeral and burial plans are important parts of our lives as Christians. Today, with families scattered across the country if not the globe, our nearest and dearest may not be aware that we have a parish home, or desire to be buried out the church.



It is very important that you communicate these wishes to your family and especially to anyone who holds a medical and/or legal proxy for you. Otherwise, when the time comes your clergy may not be informed of your illness or death, and will not be able to minister to you as you might wish. Christ Church stands ready to help. We can assist you with writing up funeral instructions, which should be given to your next-of-kin and filed at the church office. These instructions can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. If you would like to discuss end-of-life plans, please contact Mother Sidnie to make an appointment.

Services Schedule

Tuesdays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Mo. Sidnie](#) for the Zoom link.

Wednesdays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Patti Alleger](#) for link.
12:00 PM: Holy Eucharist & Healing Service at the Church with Mo. Sidnie

Thursdays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Cynthia Leenerts](#) for link.

Fridays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Mo. Sidnie](#) for link.
8:00 PM: Compline prayer via Livestream with Lorelei Whitlock.
Click [here](#).

Sundays

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 AM: Adult Forum with Mo. Sidnie (in person and via Zoom)
10:15 AM: Live Stream Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*Merry
Christmas*

Christmas Schedule:

5:00 PM: Family Service/Pageant
10:30 PM Eucharist/Incense
Following 10:30 service: Wassail Gathering

This Is Your Newsletter!

If you have content that you want us to include in one of our monthly issues or on our website, please get in touch with us by emailing the church at christchurchsburg@gmail.com, Mo. Sidnie at sidniewhitecrawford@gmail.com, or Holly Wells at wellshollym@gmail.com.

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