



THE SPIRE

Christ Church, Ithan

Volume I1, Issue 5
DECEMBER, 2001

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

In Sync? Happy New Year and Merry Yuletide!

There is a popular singing group called "N'SYNC." In fact for some reason people refer to them as a "boy band." I must not be "In Sync," because I always thought "band" meant they played instruments. Maybe I'm not n'sync.

Well, the new year in the church begins with the first Sunday of Advent but that's a month ahead of the world's new year. We don't seem to be in sync with the rest of the world. The world seems to anticipate the celebration of Christmas at least two months ahead. For the Church Christmas begins on Christmas Eve and lasts until January 6th. For the rest of the world it ends December 26. No wonder! We are tired of it before it begins!



Enjoy the one but don't forget the original. The first Christmas is the one that is the most important. All those years ago in a cave used for a stable, a homeless couple received the love of God in an undeniable way. God now dwelt with man to redeem us from ourselves and our slavery to sin. Now we were "n'sync" with God.

I wouldn't know what to do to correct the situation except to live with the ambiguity of two Christmases, one belonging to the world and one belonging to The Body of Christ, His Church. Who really cares if we are not in sync with the world?

Ron+

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

CCI donated approximately 40 boxes filled with Christmas Goodies. We received a thank you from Samaritan's Purse this past week and were advised that our boxes would be sent with others to the children of Afghanistan.

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Special Dates

- ??December 5,12 and 19 at 7:30-8:30 pm– **Advent Series.**
- ??December 15 at 9:00 am **Greening of Church.**
- ??December 24– 5:00 pm **Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant.**
- ??December 24– 10:00 pm **Midnight Service.**
- ??December 25– 10:00 am **Christmas Day Service.**
- ??December 26 & 27 Office closed.



CCI Angel Tree

A great part of the joy during the Christmas Season is in the Giving of gifts. This year, we would like to spread some joy with families from IHN, Anna's family and a local mother.

Our Angel Tree is located in the Parish Hall, outside of the Rector's Office. Each Angel has a name of a child, their age and sex. In order to get the gifts to the families, we must have them back no later than Sunday, December 16th. Please place your Angel Tag on the gift.

"Good sleep is the foundation for a healthy and productive life"

Helping Hand Fund

"To give blankets and beds to those without"

We often take for granted that we have warm, comfortable beds in which we sleep. Unfortunately, there are many people who are not so fortunate— they sleep on the cold floor or on a old mattress without proper support. Recognizing this basic need, several parishioners at CCI coordinate the nonprofit Helping Hand Fund that gives blankets and beds to those without.

Since March 2000— the Helping Hand Fund has delivered over 190 beds and almost 400 blankets!

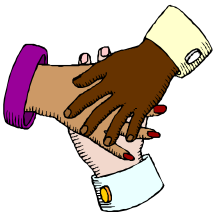
Won't you help?

Your tax-deductible contribution will buy needed beds and blankets. For example, a \$10 donation can purchase 6 bed frames, \$39 buys a box support, and \$61 will buy a mattress.

Please make all checks payable to "Christ Church, Ithan" and forward to:

Helping Hand Fund, Christ Church, Ithan, 536 Conestoga Rd. Villanova, PA 19035.

Your contributions are fully deductible for federal and state tax purposes.



Medical Equipment?

Do you have need of medical equipment ? CCI can help! We have for loan the following items:

—————▶ Wheel chair, commode, crutches, tub chair, elevated toilet seat.

Call Nancy at the office or Anne Saville at 610-353-5506.

The wheel chair is in the office in case of emergency during church services.

News from the Garden of Remembrance

On Sunday October 21st , seventeen members of the Parish gathered in the Garden for a workshop. Alice Farley , who designed the Garden, conducted the event. Following the plan for the garden's layout, she took everyone on a tour, plant by plant. She suggested alternate ways of caring for some of the plants. One suggestion was naming the plants with their specific botanical and common names so that labels can be added to each plant. She complimented CCI on how well the garden had been cared for. She admired our "garden cart" which was donated by Jack Condon and our irrigation system which is installed in the garden.

Refreshments were served by the Beausangs from the back of their truck. All in all, this was a grand afternoon. Hopefully, the Garden of Remembrance will be used for future garden parties.

Cecily Clark



December calendar

December	1	Christmas Bazaar
	2	Jazz Vespers – 7:00 P.M.- Zan Gardner Angel Tree
	5	Advent Series- Christmas Around the World – 7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
	12	Advent Series – Christmas Around the World – 7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
	15	Greening of the Church, 9:00 A.M. – Noon
	16	Flower Memorials due into Parish Office Gifts from Angel Tree due into Parish Office.
	19	Advent Series-Christmas Around the World – 7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
	24	Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant – 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Midnight Service – 10:00 P.M.
	25	Christmas Day Service – 10:00 A.M.
	26	Church Office Closed
	27	Church Office Closed

*“ Christmas Day
Service at 10:00 am”*

Vestry Nominations– Chair Person, Ellie Stewart

The Annual Parish Meeting of Christ Church Ithan will take place on January 27, 2002. At that time the church membership will elect members to fill the vacant vestry positions. This year there are four people whose terms are expiring. They include: Denise Carpenter, Peter Horan, Mike Beusang and John Trickett. At this time the proposed slate of candidates is being finalized. In early January I will send a letter to the parish membership, recognizing the people who are retiring from the vestry as well as proposing the slate of candidates, highlighting the background of each candidate.



Christmas Bazaar

The annual CCI Christmas Bazaar has proved to be a great event and a major fund raiser for CCI and its outreach programs. The success of this event is due in large part to the many "helpers" and most notably to the unrelenting efforts of the Bazaar's chairperson, Denise Carpenter.

The funds will help support families at Christmas and in contributing to expenses such as air-conditioning. Well done to all!



Christ Church Continues to Grow

We are delighted to welcome the following new people.

Mrs. Eleanor Anderson– Newton Square, Ms. Jane Backus– Rosemont, Mr. Jim Beatty– Villanova, Mr. Bill Dawe - Wayne, Mr. Dave Conaway, Wayne, Mrs. Gretchen Conaway, St. Davids, Ms. Jacqueline DeGroff– St. Davids, Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Gutsche– Paoli, Ms. Janet Hatch– Rosemont, Mr. Justin Hogan– Villanova U., Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hubbard– Berwyn, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Jalboot, Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Phillipp– Radnor, Ms. Leslie Potter– Glen Mills, Mr. Chip Rajca, Villanova U., Ms. Stephanie Storm– Wayne.

The "Welcome Newcomers" board is on the right side of the Parish hall. and includes photos of new faces.

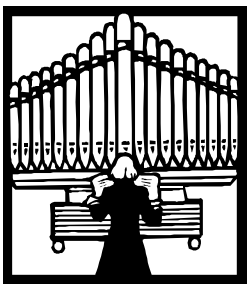
"Good sleep is the foundation for a healthy and productive life"

Music for a Sunday Evening

Music for a Sunday evening is an outreach of Christ Church, Ithan. It is a series of four performances by soloists, musicians and guest artists of CCI. The first performance on November 25 was in honor of Christ the King Festival and featured music by CCI soloists accompanied by Dr. Carol Ann Aicher on piano and John Frazier on the clarinet.

The next three performances will take place on:

- ?? Sunday, February 24, 2002 featuring Dr. Gordon Turk ,Organist in Residence at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, NJ and Organist/Choirmaster of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Wayne.
- ?? Sunday, April 21, 2002 the CCI choir and soloists will perform Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" This evening is dedicated to the memory of Eleanor Smith, a great supporter of the music at CCI. "Requiem" will be performed with orchestra and organ and will be conducted by David Clarke.
- ?? Sunday, May 19, 2002 featuring Carol Ann Aicher and Brad Hull on the grand Piano. Dr. Aicher and Mr. Hull met in the halls of Oberlin Conservatory and it was there that they developed their passion for music and began playing piano music for four hands. This is the Mail Line debut of the Oberlin Piano Duo!



The series is being funded entirely through the Eleanor Smith Music Fund, free-will offerings and contributions by sponsors. We welcome your support. Make checks payable to:

Christ Church, Ithan, Eleanor Smith Music Fund, 536 Conestoga Rd., Villanova, PA 19085.

For more information about these exciting Sunday Evening concerts, please call 610-688-1110 .

Christ Church, Ithan

The Rev. Ronald W. Parker, Rector
The Rev. Winfield Richardson, Deacon
536 Conestoga Road
Villanova, PA

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"A Growing Community In Christ"



Christ Church, Ithan will hold it's Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2002, following the 10:30 Service. In order to prepare for this meeting, we are asking all Committee Chairs submit their Annual Report to the parish office no later than December 20, 2001.

CCI Family Notes:

- We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Mary Lou Clauss and Nancy McLaughlin whose mothers passed away this past month.
- Chris Smith is recovering from her hospital stay at her mother's house in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- We welcome home from the hospital both Heathie Porter and John Clark. We are thankful for Nancy Churchman's successful back surgery. Our prayers are also with Hedy Carpenter who is in the hospital.
- The Women of CCI met last month at Debbie Payson's home to hear a very interesting talk on Islam given by our one and only Dr. Janya Gruen.
- KUDOS** to the anonymous provider of the new Bibles and to the angel who made and installed the book racks under the pews.



HANGING OF THE GREENS



Saturday, December 15, 2001 at 9:00 A.M.

If you would like to help beautify the church for Christmas, please contact Debbie Beausang, 610-688-1512.