



Christmas 2011

A Newsletter of
Christ Church Ithan
Villanova, PA

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Christ Church Ithan
536 Conestoga Road
Villanova PA 19085
(610) 688-1110
www.christchurchithan.org

The Spire

A Newsletter of Christ Church Ithan

Parish Mission Statement

Christ Church Ithan strives to be an active, inclusive, family that embraces an ever present, loving relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It promotes leadership in the church and broader community through nurturing and developing each member's unique gifts from childhood throughout life.



The Rector's Desk

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Advent!

As much as we all love Christmas, it is a shame that it overshadows its less festive sibling.

Advent. Why? Because Advent is a season which collects all the hopes and brokenness of this world and wraps them in the promise that Jesus will visit us once again and that one day God will redeem all the universe and heal it. I love Advent because it is a season of HOPE. Not sentimental dreaming, but the real anticipatory hope that through Jesus Christ, God is healing all the world and will one day knit us all back together again.

I pray that you will stay in this season of Hope. The festivities will come and go, but what can endure is the Hope that comes through faith in Jesus Christ, who is Immanuel, "God with us."

God be with you,

Kevin



Greening of the Church



December 18th

Immediately after the service.

*As we did last year this will be dress down Sunday.
Cider and a light lunch will be provided by Hospitality.*

We need everyone !

Come!

*Join the fun, spend time with your fellow members
And help make the church beautiful for Christmas.*

*Sign up on the bulletin board in the hall or call Francie Hubbard at 610-296-2011 or E-mail
at hubbardfr@verizon.net*

Music News



It's that special time of the year when everyone looks forward to holiday music. Christ Church Choir and Soloists are getting ready to sing out the joyful sounds of Advent and Christmas. On the four Sunday's of Advent portions of Handel's MESSIAH will be presented. Then once again on Christmas Eve a special Choral Prelude will precede our Christmas Eve Mass.

Music begins at 7:30 pm with a presentation of "The Mystery Of Bethlehem" by British composer, Healey Willan. Last year we were delighted to see every seat in the church occupied so plan on arriving early to be a part of what is quickly becoming a Christ Church Christmas Tradition.

Outreach at Christmas

Once again the "Christ Church Santa's" have been busy collecting gifts for the children in Philadelphia . Nancy's office is filled with wonderful surprises for 30 children.

If you would like to do more work for Santa please consider helping in and restocking the Ardmore food pantry at St. Mary's during the weeks prior to Christmas. They are open every Monday morning and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8.

Choir Chat

A number of our choir soloists sing with the Philadelphia Singers which is Philly's completely professional choir. Their Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at The Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli and will begin at 4 PM. All are invited!

THE QUINTESSENTIAL CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON!
 2011/2012 Concert Season
 Inspiring performances, intimate venues, affordable prices

The Philadelphia Singers presents:

Christmas

WITH THE PHILADELPHIA SINGERS

Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 5 pm
 Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 5 pm
 St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 4 pm
 The Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli

*"This concert is like no other in our area.
 For me it is the highlight of the Christmas season."*

THE QUINTESSENTIAL CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON!

Christmas

WITH THE PHILADELPHIA SINGERS

David Hayes, Music Director | Jonathan Coopersmith, Associate Conductor

Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 5 pm

Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 5 pm

St. Clement's Church
20th and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 4 pm

The Church of the Good Samaritan
212 W. Lancaster Avenue, Paoli

TICKETS:
 \$43-\$35 Priority
 \$36-\$30 Rear
 \$32-\$25 Side
 (Phila-Paoli)

Philadelphia's beloved holiday tradition brings the spirit of the season to life. Joining us is Wanamaker organist Peter Conte in William Mathias's *Ave Rex*, framed by a stirring candlelight processional and a glorious audience carol-sing. Gather your loved ones and join The Singers in a joyous celebration of the season!



Wednesday Rocks!

ROCK VESPERS - DECEMBER 11th at 7:00pm

Come out and enjoy the music from our Wednesday Rocks program as well as the Christ Church Ithan house band Divine Intervention.



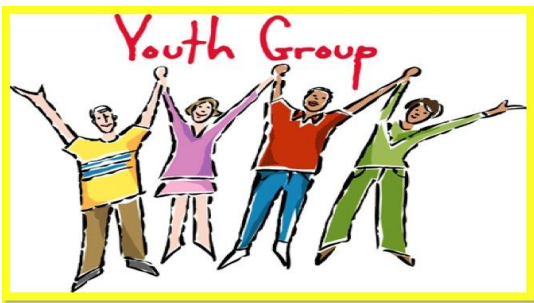


Acolyte Recognition Sunday, Training Session for Acolytes, and Conversation about Youth Ministries



Fr. Kevin and Tom Cooley (our Head Acolyte) would like to invite all acolytes (along with a parent) for a bagel breakfast and training session on Sunday, January 22nd at 9:30 am. It will give us an opportunity to ask any questions and help everyone learn the roles of an acolyte a little better, even if they've done it for years! Fr. Kevin would also like to have a conversation with parents about youth ministries at Christ Church.

Youth Group Update



The CCI Youth have been very busy this Fall.

We ...collected and delivered over 7 boxes of books to the students in need at St. James the Less...walked our socks off at the CROP walk and raised over \$500.00 for Church World Service...and ran a very successful holiday shopping party, raising money for future Youth Group projects!

We are looking forward to the holiday season kicking off with Youth Sunday on December 4, Rock Vespers on December 11, and the Youth Christmas Program December 18 at the 10:30 service.

Plans for the upcoming months include ice skating, serving lunch to the parish and more! Join us for our next meeting after Youth Sunday service on December 4th!

Any questions? Please call Chris Soutendijk at 610-647-1063 or email at soutendijk@verizon.net.

The Vestry

From The Vestry Nov. 2011

This year we have three members of the vestry who have left before their term expired. .As a result the vestry has made appointments to fill these places. They will finish the unexpired terms and then will become eligible to run on their own.

Julia Gould will be the new communications representative

Joan Keator will be our hospitality liaison

Bill Davis will take over the buildings and grounds

The vestry welcomes them to the board for the December meeting!

Congratulations!

Malvern Preparatory School is pleased to announce that Cameron Wade Williams from Christ Church Ithan achieved Distinguished Honors on the Honor Roll for the first quarter. Students attaining Distinguished Honors received a 4.0 G.P.A. or better.

Hospitality



I want to thank everyone for all the Hospitality support. Keep it coming! There are still a few dates in December and January. Remember, someone is always there to help you!

Please e-mail Joan Keator (kjoan44@msn.com) if you are interested in getting involved.

Picture Board

It's time to update our picture board!!

For "NEWCOMERS" - Send us a photo of your family.

For "OLDCOMERS" - If you want to update your photo because you've gotten better looking or the kids have grown up, send us a photo.

Send the photo to Pete Hubbard via email at faphub@verizon.net, drop it in the mail, or leave it with Nancy at the church office.

Photos should be 4 x 7 or 5 x 8 and we will crop it to fit on the picture board.

Thanks....Pete Hubbard

Altar Guild



Seeking Elbow Grease

We need help polishing the brass.

It takes only a few minutes and can be done at your convenience.

Please contact Deborah Beausang 610-688-1512.

Food Pantry Update

November, 2011



Wow!

Our church has really done a fabulous job helping out at the Ardmore Food Pantry both by donating and by spending time serving guests. It has been a tremendously busy Fall and as this update is being written, people are filling 50 boxes of foods for Thanksgiving for those who will come in Monday to pick them up. The pantry will be doing the same thing for Christmas and all the particulars will come out in the weekly bulletin of Christ Church. This is such a gratifying project - frustrating also as the need never seems to diminish but rather increases steadily.

Notice that pancake mix and syrup are back on the list for the holiday baskets. This is great as every child just loves pancakes and it won't hurt anyone's nutrition to have them on occasion. There is really nothing new in the pantry but all the volunteers and all the guests are so happy for the involvement of Christ Church and it is strongly hoped that it will continue with such gusto. Any questions or suggestions, just call Dode Tague at 610-527-0393. Thank you for all the wonderful help!

Weekly Sunday Memorials



Would like to honor or remember someone on Sunday? Maybe there is something to celebrate? You can do so by sponsoring the sanctuary candle (\$10) or alter flowers (\$50).

Please contact Deborah Beausang at 610-188-1512.

Cecily Geyelin Clark



Cecily Geyelin Clark 89, horticulturist and community activist, died suddenly on October 24, 2011. She was a resident of the Beaumont Retirement Community in Bryn Mawr, where she had lived since 2003. For more than 60 years, Mrs. Clark exhibited at the Philadelphia Flower Show and won numerous awards and tributes. She served on the Council of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and participated in the Pocket Parks program. She was honored for mentoring "countless neophytes as well as the more experienced" and was known for being "a nurturer of both plants and people." She had numerous friends in the Chestnut Hill area. In 1942 she married John R. Clark, and during World War II tended a Victory Garden, helping to provide home-cooked meals for wounded soldiers at Valley Forge Military Hospital. She and her husband, a lawyer, raised a family in Villanova and spent summers on Mount Desert Island, Maine. Mr. and Mrs. Clark were the recipients of the Good Samaritan Award at Pennsylvania Hospital for his 39 years on the hospital board and her 25 years coordinating volunteers who maintained the hospital's historic Physic Garden. Mr. Clark died in 2005. Mrs. Clark is survived by a sister, Eleanor Sims Casey, formerly of

Chestnut Hill, two daughters, Susan Clark Ogden of New York, and Camilla van Griethuysen-Clark of the Netherlands, and a son, Jeffrey and daughter-in-law Margot Clark of Wyndmoor, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 3 at St. David's Chapel in Wayne.

Donations may be made to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or Christ Church Ithan, 536 Conestoga Road, Villanova, PA 19085.



Garden of Remembrance
Christ Church Ithan

The garden was recognized for its landscape design by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in 2000