

The Disciple

Christ Church Charlotte

Love God • Care For Each Other • Serve The World

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Christmas
Happenings*

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December 2008
Vol. 35, No. 12

The Way of the Lord

Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of the savior. In the chaos of getting ready for Christmas, John the Baptist cries out, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." It is a desperate cry for us to refocus our attention from a fixation on the material "stuff" to our real spiritual needs of comfort, strength and hope.



I invite you during this season to pause and get in touch with your deepest spiritual needs and prepare for the coming of the savior. Stop and listen to the liturgies hymnody and scripture and sit in the darkness for a while. Pause and reflect, before the light of Christmas is here.

Hope for today, during these challenging times, is about to be born, and that hope is found in the birth of the Christ Child.

Love and Prayers,
Clay Wilson

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24,

3:00 PM-Holy Eucharist*
in the Church

5:00 PM- Holy Eucharists
in the Church *and*
All Saints' Hall*

8:00 PM- Holy Eucharist
in the Church

9:45 PM-Christmas Music
with Christ Church Choir
in the Church

10:30 PM- Holy Eucharist
in the Church

Christmas Day Thursday, December 25,

11:00 AM- Holy Eucharist
with Carols

* Nursery care offered at
these services

Merry Christmas

from the clergy and staff of
Christ Church Charlotte

Christ Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, *Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina*
 The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg, *Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina*
 The Rt. Rev. Alfred Clark Marble, Jr., *Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina*

Clergy

The Rev. Henry H. Edens, III, *Rector*
 The Rev. Martha H. Hedgpath, *Associate Rector*
 The Rev. W. Verdery Kerr, *Associate Rector*
 The Rev. Lisa G. Saunders, *Associate Rector*
 The Rev. John Porter-Acee, *Associate Rector*

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

2008 Vestry Members

Beth Bowen, *Parish Life*
 Gilbert Browne, *Children & Family*
 Harriet Burton, *CCK*
 Sis Cranz, *Sages*
 Bob Dooley, *Stewardship*
 Will Hardison, *Junior Warden and Building/*
Grounds, Memorial
 William Harris, *Youth*
 Ben Hill, *Outreach*

Eric Locher, *Liturgical*
 Sally Miller, *ECW*
 Dick Parkhurst, *Treasurer*
 Molly Philips, *Congregational Care*
 Skip Smart, *Senior Warden and*
Christ Church Foundation
 Zach Smith, *Sages*
 Paul Tolmie, *Long Range Planning*
 Kent Walker, *Adult Spiritual Formation*

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, December 7th
10:00 AM in All Saint's Hall

Christ Church's Annual Meeting is Sunday, December 7th in All Saints' Hall. The meeting will include the traditional bake sale, vestry voting, and the annual reports. There are no services at 11:15 AM (in the church or the Discovery Eucharist) on Annual Meeting day. All the remaining services (7:30 AM, 8:45 AM and 5:00

PM in the church and 8:45 Contemporary Eucharist) will be held as usual.

The Annual Meeting will take place in lieu of adult Sunday School classes, while Sunday School for children and youth will be held at the usual time and will last until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

2009 Vestry Nominations

In this edition of *The Disciple*, you will find an insert featuring the 2009

Vestry Nominees, for whom you may vote on December 7th during the Annual Meeting.

Five new Vestry members will be elected to the fifteen member board. The Vestry is the legal governing and decision making group in the parish. It approves the parish budget, makes parish policy decisions, and spends the parish's money.

Vestry members elected during this meeting will serve a three year term.

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 CHURCH
 CHRIST



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Holy Eucharist Rite I in Church	7:30 AM
Godly Play for children	8:40 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II in Church	8:45 AM
Contemporary Eucharist in All Saints' Hall	8:45 AM
Sunday School for all ages	10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II in Church	11:15 AM
(Morning Prayer 2nd and 4th Sundays)	11:15 AM
Discovery Eucharist for children in All Saints' Hall	11:15 AM
Informal Eucharist with Music in Church	5:00 PM
Weekday Worship	
Holy Eucharist in the Chapel	Tuesdays, 6:00 PM
Holy Eucharist w/ Healing Prayer	Wednesdays, Noon
Holy Eucharist in the Chapel	Thursdays, 7:00 AM

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
 Christ Episcopal Church
 1412 Providence Road
 Charlotte, NC 28207-2543

Events & Happenings

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! For details on these and other events, pick up a copy of the weekly publication News & Notices or subscribe to our email list. For more information, visit our web site at www.christchurchcharlotte.com, or call 704-333-0378.

Advent Lessons and Carols by candlelight, Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 PM

Annual Meeting
December 7th, at 10:00 AM, All Saints' Hall

9 Meditations on the Birth of Christ – La Nativite du Seigneur
December 14th at 7:30 PM, in the Church.

Live Nativity
December 21st, at 5:00 PM on the lawn.

Epiphany Eucharist, Procession of Lights
January 4th, at 5:00 PM

Fourth Monday Sages Luncheon
January 26th, will feature renowned pianist, Ethan Uslan. Lunch is \$10.

Parish Life Bridge
Every Wednesday night at 6:45 PM
Gathering Space. Beginners welcomed.
Van Hill 704-714-6963
hillv@christchurchcharlotte.org

EYC will resume on January 7th, 2009.

Coming in 2009

4th and 5th Grade Bingo Blast
Friday, February 6th. Contact Lindsay Full at fullL@christchurchcharlotte.org if you would like to help with the event!

Costa Rica Trips
There will be 2 separate trips tentatively scheduled for July 11-19th and 18-26th. For rising 10th -12th graders and adults.

News To Know

The Good News Shop has a unique assortment of gifts for your friends, hostesses, teachers, and families, as well as accessories for your home! We have gorgeous ornaments, fragrant candles, Christmas pillows, stockings, Advent Calendars, manger scenes, scarves and jewelry, Christmas cards and colorful smocked clothing for boys and girls. We have all of your party needs and a fabulous selection of food items. 'Tis the season for shopping at The Good News Shop—the gift that gives back! Hope to see you really soon!

Middle School Ski Trip - 6-8th grade youth will be returning to Winter Place, West Virginia on Friday, January 23-25th for our annual ski

weekend. You will find the ski trip form on the Christ Church website and we will also attach the form in an e-mail. Please fill out and return with payment to Christine Delia by *December 17th*. There will also be a mandatory ski fitting on Sunday, Jan 4th from 4-5:30 PM in in St. Francis A/B. Friends are welcome to join, but we will take all registrations on a first come, first serve basis. Refunds will only be given up until two weeks prior to the trip. Please be prompt with your registration.

High School Ski Trip - 9-12th grade youth will be going to Winter Green, Virginia on Friday, February 6-8th for the annual ski weekend. We are excited about this new location with great slopes and activities. You will find the ski trip form on the Christ Church website and we will

also attach it in an e-mail. Please fill out and return the registration form with your check to Christine Delia by *January 7th*. There will be a mandatory ski fitting on Sunday, Jan. 11th from 4-5:30 PM in St. Francis A/B.

United Thank Offering Ingathering is a long-standing tradition at Christ Church. The UTO gifts that we received October 26th will be united with those from other Episcopal parishes and will be distributed to those in need in our community and worldwide during the offertory. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously. Christ Church collected \$1,678.05.

Rice Bowls - Thanks to all who contributed to the Rice Bowl campaign. We raised over \$400 to help feed hungry orphans.

Give A Gift That Gives Again

No, we're not talking about "regifting." In support of the Millennium Development Goals, we are suggesting that each parishioner purchase at least one non-traditional gift, or consider making a charitable contribution in someone's honor. With tough economic times ahead, your gift will go a long way towards helping others, and it'll give your recipient a thoughtful present that won't end up in the back of the closet after a few weeks! There's an idea below to fit every budget, or you can come up with your own amount. Here are some of our favorite ideas, along with a web site address where you can contribute:

- 35¢ provides lunch for one homeless person, and \$105 provides lunch for every homeless person at the *Center for Urban Ministry* on one day. www.centerforurbanministry.org
- \$80 to *Family Promise* pays for one week of daycare for homeless families who are working and need daycare. www.familypromiseofcharlotte.org
- \$8.50 to the *Emergency Winter Shelter* provides shelter, warmth and a shower for one homeless man for one evening. www.ewscharlotte.org
- \$20 to *Heifer International* purchases a flock of ducks or geese which will provide income through sales of eggs and offspring to a struggling family, helping them reach self-reliance. www.heifer.org
- \$35 to *The Relatives* provides dinner for 14 homeless or run-away youths. www.therelatives.org
- \$50 *Thompson Child and Family Focus* (www.thompsonchildff.org) provides recreational games and toys for the center.
- \$250 to the *Hamlin Fistula Hospital* provides surgery, medical care, and a new outfit to a woman allowing her to completely transform her life. www.fistulatrust.org
- \$300 to *Crisis Assistance Ministry* pays for the typical client to keep their power from being disconnected or keeps them from being evicted. www.crisisassistance.org
- \$400 to the *YWCA on Park Road* pays for electricity for a needy family of five. www.ywcacentralcarolinas.org
- Priceless – Volunteer hours sharing your time at Christ Church through homeless ministries like Room in the Inn, Family Promise, the Emergency Winter Shelter or share your time at our community agencies (see our Service in the City booklet for a complete listing). Contact Aimee Norman at normana@christchurchcharlotte.org, or 704-714-6940 for info or to share volunteer hours.

NEW MEMBERS:

- Libby Ramsey
- Quinn & Billy Kurtz (children), Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA

BIRTHS:

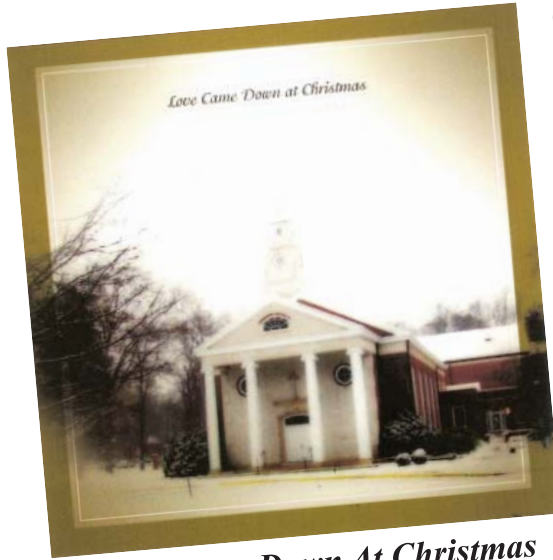
- Taylor Blair Spangler, daughter of Josh and Brooke Spangler
- Brett Vincent Goldsmith, son of Larry and Valerie Goldsmith
- Westerly Mia Wilson, granddaughter of Maurice and Dede Wilson
- John Michael Flowers, Jr., son of Michael and Elizabeth Flowers

BAPTISMS:

- Caroline Elizabeth Gilani
- Sophie Kate Hardin
- Sara Bonner Kelly
- Bennett Baird Marshall
- Caroline Moseley Neigoot
- Thomas Victor Warlick

DEATHS:

- Claude Novak, husband of Jane Novak
- Irvin Boyle
- Dr. Charlton deSaussure, father of Cathy Mark
- Anne LaPointe, mother of Barbara Ferguson
- Helen Dooley, mother of Tom Dooley



Love Came Down At Christmas
Quantities are Limited - get your copy TODAY

Love Came Down at Christmas

Christ Church Choir and Christ Church Singers announce the release of their latest CD, *Love Came Down at Christmas*. The choirs are directed by Christopher Brayne, and are accompanied by organist Michael Grant.

The CD features 22 beautiful songs that will bring added significance to your holiday celebrations.

CDs are available from the reception desk Monday thru Friday during office hours and on Sundays from the Director of Music or Choir members.

You can hear some of the songs by visiting the Music section of our website (www.christchurchcharlotte.org)

The CD is just \$10, and makes an original and thoughtful gift! After expenses, proceeds go to the Christ Church music programs.

Earn Your Christmas Angel Wings

Christmas is a little less dreary in the impoverished town of Duff, Tennessee. In one of the poorest counties in the state, over 29 percent of the people living there survive on an income below the national poverty line. Over 47% of the families there survive on less than \$25,000 a year.



However, for over 25 years, the parishioners of Christ Church have sponsored children at Christmas by providing an outfit and stocking items. Many families have remarked over the years that the clothes given by Christ Church are the only new clothes their children ever get. This Christmas, you can earn your wings and be an angel for a young child in Duff.

Volunteers may purchase gifts for children, donate money, or donate their time by sorting and wrapping gifts. Wrapping dates are: December 6th at 10:00 AM, December 9th from 9:00

AM-Noon, and Wednesday, December 3rd 6:45 PM during Wednesday night programming. Nursery care is available. Contact Lynn Weller 704-333-0802, Danby Donlan atsnodgrdh@aol.com or Jenni Soccorso at jsoccorso@carolina.rr.com.



Volunteers for the Annual Duff Christmas Angel Project have a wonderful time, and many remark about how it gets them in the Christmas spirit.



STEWARDSHIP DEADLINE

If you have not already pledged, please do so today by calling our Finance Office at 704-714-6948.

If you pledge by automatic draft, you must provide us with your account information each year. Pledge totals are updated each week in your church bulletins.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 6th 9:30 AM to -12:30 PM

- Prepare a Food Item
 - Volunteer the Day of the Bazaar
 - Donate Fabric for the Bazaar to Sell
 - **Shop, Shop, Shop!!!**
- Tons of Homemade Foods and Crafts**

Please contact Jessica Fallis at 704-377-5084 or jessica@blackdressandpearls.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer. All proceeds go to ECW Mission Projects.



Family Fun and Great Holiday Gifts!

Celebrate The Season!

Advent Happenings

Angels, Shepherds, & Sheep, Oh My!

The Christmas Pageant is quickly approaching! Please look below for important dates!

December 1st Registration deadline for 3rd grade cast members.

December 3rd Music Rehearsal for all participants from 5:15-5:45 PM in ASH with Lisa Lashley.

December 7th Rehearsal for 3rd graders with parts during the Sunday School hour.

December 10th Music Rehearsal for all participants from 5:15-5:45 PM in ASH with Lisa Lashley.

December 15th Registration deadline to get your child's name in the bulletin.

December 17th Music Rehearsal for all participants from 5:15-5:45 PM in ASH with Lisa Lashley.

December 20th Pageant Rehearsal: Speaking Parts 9:00 AM and Full Cast 10:00 AM.

December 21st Christmas Pageant in ASH at 10:00 AM.

If you have questions contact Lindsay Full at 704-714-6971 or full@christchurchcharlotte.org or Emily Kalmbach at 704-714-6956 or kalmbache@christchurchcharlotte.org.

The Christmas Pageant registration form is available on line at our website, under **DOWNLOADS** on the home page.



Live Nativity

Our 4th and 5th graders will participate in a Live Nativity on Sunday, December 21st following the 5:00 PM service. Bring friends to see live animals as we re-create the nativity on the front lawn of the church. Fourth and Fifth grade parents, look for an email soon regarding your child's participation in this event. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Laura Copps 704-442-1488 or via email at lkcopps@mindspring.com.

Sounds of the Season

by Chris Brayne, Music Director

Advent is one of the shortest seasons of the Church's year and yet it has the potential to draw us into a deeper understanding of the mystery of our faith. Too often in our commercially driven world we see this time as all about glitter and razzmatazz. But for Christian believers it is a time to prepare and wait for the coming of the most precious gift of all, God's son. In preparation, we will be offering worship and meditation on Sunday, December 7th, at 5:00 PM. Join us for Advent Lessons and Carols by candlelight, where music will intersperse with readings reflecting on the true meaning of this season.

On December 14th at 7:30 PM, Christopher Brayne will offer the 9 meditations on the birth of Christ – *La Nativite du Seigneur* by the great French organist and composer Olivier Messiaen. Both of these events will be in the Church.

I hope that you will come and experience both of these events, and that they will help you to focus on the comfort and hope that the celebration of Christ's birth brings to each one of us.

Holiday Youth Activities

The Christ Church Middle School youth will be singing in the Christmas season with a "Night of Caroling." We will meet at the church for our last EYC of 2008 on Wednesday night, December 10th at our regular time of 6:30 PM, and head out for an hour of neighborhood caroling. We will have a progressive dinner along the way, ending the evening with hot chocolate and dessert in a parishioner's home. More information will be coming regarding this evening with specific pick-up instructions.

The Christ Church High School youth will also be celebrating the season on Wednesday, December 10th. All High School youth should meet at their Life Group house at 7:00 PM. More information will be coming with specific pick-up instructions.

This night will also be the last Life Groups meetings for 2008.

ECW Advent Luncheon

The Episcopal Church Women's Annual Advent Luncheon is Tuesday, December 2nd, at 11:30 AM. This year's speakers will be representatives from three organizations who have recently benefitted from ECW mission funding. The price for the meal and presentation is \$11.00, and childcare will be provided by reservation. Contact Gigi Harris at 704-358-9262.

ECW Memorial Wreaths

Each year, The Episcopal Church Women decorate our church with greenery that engenders life-long memories of a warm and worshipful Christmas. Included in the Greening of the Church is the tradition of hanging Memorial Wreaths, which, are a loving gesture that keeps the spirit of loved ones in our hearts the whole holiday season. To order a memorial wreath, contact Patty Adams at 704-366-0584, or padams3@carolinarr.com. Memorial Wreaths are \$35, and the deadline is December 5th.

Greening of the Church

Volunteers are needed to help with The Greening of the Church on Wednesday, December 17th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We'd love to have your help hanging memorial wreaths, garlands, and general decorations around the facility. As you're gardening, remember that we'll need volunteers to harvest and bring greenery from their yards to the church. Contact Patty Adams 704-366-0584 or Civil McGowan 704-366-9608.



Advent Calendar

by Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

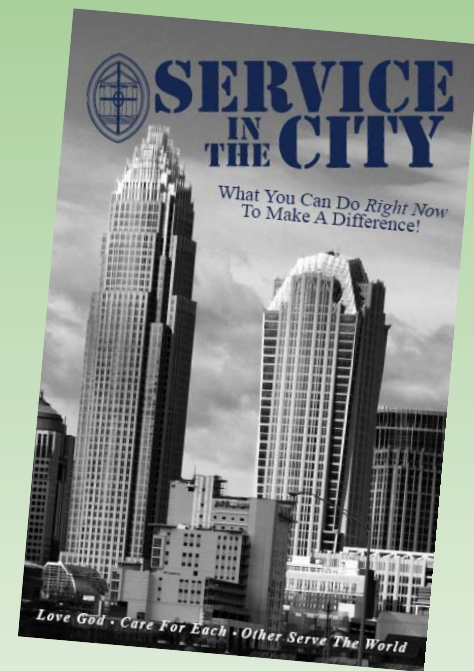
He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like a child.

SCRAPBOOK
Fall Service Day
 November 15, 2008



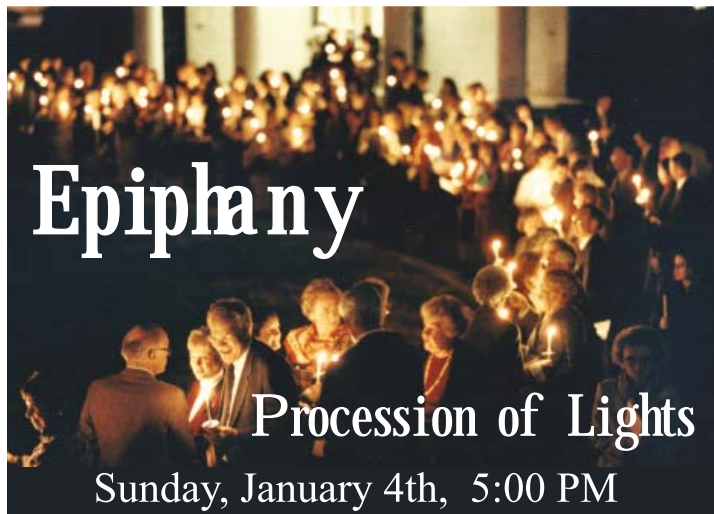
Fall Service Day
 November 15, 2008

Christ Church parishioners of all ages enjoyed another fun filled day of serving our community. Though turnip gleaning was cancelled due to rain, we served at many agencies: Thompson Child and Family Focus, The Relatives, The Uptown Shelter, Jacob's Ladder, Crisis Assistance, Habitat, Loaves and Fishes, Families Together and Women in Transition at the YWCA, and Stop Hunger Now. We also banded trees at Christ Church, made baby blankets for homeless mothers, decorated place-mats for Samaritan House, and made gifts/cards for shut-ins. Thanks to the hundreds of folks who shared their time and their hands to help make a difference in our community.



Service For The City, held the following day, November 16th, was a wonderful contemporary Eucharist focusing on the issue of homelessness in Charlotte. Hundreds were in attendance to hear Ginny Amendum, President of Thompson's Childrand Family Focus, discuss the issue.

Although homelessness was the primary focus of the service, it was an opportunity for our Outreach Mission to debut it's new volunteer guide, *Service in the City: What You Can Do Right Now To Make A Difference*. Many parishioners were moved to help by the message of the service, and we hope you will be too. Pick up a copy of the directory at the church, or contact Aimee Norman at 704-714-6940



Epiphany celebrates the revelation of God in human form as the person of Jesus Christ. From the Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth," Epiphany is a celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the commemoration of his birth, and the visit of the Magi, or "Wise Men" from Persia. They followed a bright star to a stable in Bethlehem where they found a

newborn child. The wise men saw, in this delicate and unassuming human infant, the King, the Messiah, for whom they had brought their royal gifts. *When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

The whole idea of the Epiphany season is one of joyful explanation and enlightenment. The predominant symbol of the season is Light... symbolizing the light from the Star of Bethlehem and the Light of Christ spreading throughout the world. Epiphany is a reminder that each of us must open our hearts and strive to understand the miracle of Christ and Christ's love. The result is illumination; the result is light.

The Episcopal Church Women invite all parishioners, friends, and visitors to the Annual Epiphany Service. The Epiphany Eucharist will take place on Sunday, January 4th, in lieu of the regular 5:00 PM service. The Eucharist will be held in All Saints' Hall with a reception immediately following the service in the Blue Room. Childcare is available. For more information, contact Nancy Downing at nancydowning2005@yahoo.com, or at 704-442-2424.