



CHRIST CHURCH

✚ BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ✚

November/December 2019

26th ANNUAL: A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 4 PM • MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 7:30 PM



Christ Church's Lessons and Carols, inspired by an Anglican tradition created in England in 1880, has a special focus: the majority of the carols are from Celtic, African-American or Shape-Note traditions. The musicians play a wide range of acoustic instruments to accompany vocal soloists and ensembles.

The event is anchored by parishioners John Kirk and Trish Miller of Greenfield Center. Christ Church welcomes friends, neighbors, and the wider community. The performances provide a perfect opportunity to invite people to experience our church. The candlelight concerts are free and all are invited to a festive reception afterward. ●

*Sunday & Monday
Performances!*

Musicians

John Kirk & Trish Miller

Dan Berggren

Kristin McCabe

Joel Rosenberger

Field Horne

Theresa LaGatutta-Bruno

THREE CD RECORDINGS

The ensemble has produced three compact disks which will be on sale at the performances.

The national folk music magazine *Dirty Linen* called the first CD "a spirited collection of holiday songs that hail from off the beaten path. If you want different music to make things festive, this is the compilation for you."



MEN'S RENDEZVOUS SIGN-UP

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship is sponsoring a dinner for all the men of Christ Church on Tuesday, November 5, 7 PM, at the Turf Tavern in Scotia. Dinner choices are Prime Rib, Chicken Parmesan, and Baked Scrod. A meet-and-greet will precede dinner. If you want a drink there will be a cash bar.

You must sign up to attend so we can order your meal.

The deadline for sign-up is October 27. Contact Noel Drindak: 518-399-5939 or drindak@gmail.com.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Photograph: Ken Rimany



THE REVEREND DERIK J. ROY, JR.

Dear Friends,

November and December are months that often remind us of the love of God. In November we give thanks to God for all our blessings and in December we celebrate God's gift to us of love

in the form of the baby Jesus. Holidays also mean celebration and celebration usually means food. I'm always on a diet and so with the coming of the holidays I know that I will struggle with eating healthy! That's probably why this story struck me.

A mother and her young daughter were making noodles but somehow they messed up the recipe. Reviewing the instructions, they discovered that the little girl had used sugar instead of salt. With a few substitutions and a lot of skill, the mother accomplished a miraculous feat; she made sponge cake out of the ingredients!

I believe God is like that. He works like an experienced chef. He takes what seems to be a disaster and creates something better. The disaster could be minor or huge, what matters is whether or not we give the situation and ourselves over to God. Placed into His experienced and loving hands, our ingredients are combined to create our new lives of health. What often looks bad, turns out much better than we ever dreamed.

The grace of God never runs out. His gift of salvation can turn any sour project, mistake or failure into His victory. He keeps on doing His culinary miracles as long as we stay in His kitchen.

As we enter into the Holy Season of Advent and Christmas, it is my deepest desire that you will turn those parts of your life that you know deep inside are not right or not healthy over to God. Let Him work His culinary skills in your life so that this year when we celebrate the birth of Christ, you'll be celebrating not just the historical remembrance of Jesus' birth, but His birth into your life at this moment. ●

—*Yours in Christ,*
Father Derik Roy



FEED THE HUNGRY ON THANKSGIVING

First Presbyterian Church is once again organizing an **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Bag Ministry** and we invite you to take part. Last year we provided over 200 dinners to families in need. Families sign up through our local food pantries: Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist. Here's how you can help:

Fill a bag with items needed for a basic and healthy Thanksgiving meal. Here is a suggested list:

- * \$10 gift card to a local grocery store
or an 8–14 pound frozen turkey
- * 2 boxes seasoned stuffing mix
- * 2 boxes instant mashed potatoes
- * 2 cans of gravy (no glass, please)
- * 3–4 cans of vegetables
- * 1 can of cranberry sauce
- * 1 boxed dessert mix

Deliver the bag and turkey to the First Presbyterian Church (22 West High St., Ballston Spa) on Sunday, November 24 from 11:30 AM–2 PM. Your donation is tax deductible if you save your receipts and bring them to attach to a signed tax receipt.

Volunteer to distribute at the First Presbyterian Church on Monday, November 25, from 3–6 PM. Contact the church to volunteer. Thank for your help as we seek to be a blessing to those in need this Thanksgiving! Questions can be directed to: First Presbyterian Church, 518-885-5583, ballstonpres@gmail.com, ballstonpresby.org ●



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bet LaRue

Layout: Janet Marie Yeates

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
NOON ON TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 10, 2019

Articles and announcements need
to be sent as *e-mail attachments* to

Bet LaRue • luvbritlit@gmail.com

Send *high-resolution digital images*
(not web files) to jmyeates@frontiernet.net



Please follow us!

Facebook:

Christ Episcopal Church
Ballston Spa

Instagram: @cecbspa

Website:

www.christepiscopalballstonspa.com

PARISH GIVING

July average was \$4,686

August average was \$4,375

September average was \$4,738



Three-month average, \$4,600

To meet budget in 2019, \$5,341

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KIDSFIRST?

KidsFirst is having a wonderful school year. The halls and classrooms are full of displays of the children's learning. The excitement that the children show in learning is such a joy! Over the next few months the children will continue learning letters, numbers, shapes, and colors, along with exploring the themes "Cooling Off" and "Five Super Senses." Our little ones continue to look forward to chapel on Thursday morning with Fr Roy. The Christian theme of the month is "The Parable of the Lost Sheep," and our Bible verse is "The Lord is My Shepherd."



KidsFirst is at a very busy time of year as we all prepare for the upcoming holidays. In addition, we are looking to hire two highly-qualified Lead Toddler teachers, and one highly-qualified Infant teacher. Although our enrollment is filling up, we do have a few spots available in our Toddler, Preschool, and Pre-K programs. For more information, please call the office at 518-309-3540.

Mary Malandrino, our director, has returned to work full-time; but is still recovering from her auto accident. Cheryl Russell, our Pre-K teacher, is in the process of fighting cancer; please keep them both in your prayers as they fully recover. ●

Keep in Your Prayers

Janice Baird
Andrea Breslin
Mark Breslin
Wendy Campbell
Julia Duchesne
Erin Dumovitz

Bert Grandin
Mya Hauser
Tim Iannon
Carol Kugler
Mary Malandrino

Curtis Niemeyer
Cheryl Russell
Ruth Shiebler
Mabel Siler
Gail Vacula
Nancy Wemple

Celebration Choir • 8 am service
Rehearses in church after 8:00 AM service; will sing first Sundays

Angel Choir • for Children K-6
Rehearses after 10 AM Service

Worship Choir • 10 am service
Rehearses in Choir Room on Mondays 7:00-8:00 PM

—Kristin McCabe

FRIDAY, NOV 1 • NOON

● **All Saints Day**

A Holy Eucharist will celebrate and remember all the men and women who lived their lives for Christ and served as an inspiration and example of our faith. We will also take time to remember all our loved ones who have died.

SUNDAY, NOV. 3 • 8 AND 10 AM

● **Welcoming New Members**

- Mark and Katie Skanes
- Jim and Lesley McNutt
- Jason Constant
- Marissa Bongo
- Holly Jefferies
- Kathryn Lehmann

TUESDAY, NOV. 5 • 7 PM

● **Men's Rendezvous**

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship is sponsoring a dinner for all the men of Christ Church.

The dinner will be at the Turf Tavern in Scotia. Dinner choices are Prime Rib, Chicken Parmesan, and Baked Scrod. A meet-and-greet will precede dinner. If you want a drink there will be a cash bar.

You must sign up to attend so we can order your meal. The deadline for sign-up is October 27. Contact Noel Drindak: 518-399-5939 or drindak@gmail.com.



THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

NOV. 14, 15, 16 • 9:30 AM-4 PM

● **Noah's Attic Christmas Sale**

The Noah's Attic Christmas Sale in the parish hall is a great place to pick up decorations for Christmas while supporting our church ministries. You will find something for everyone!

SUN., NOV. 17 8 AM, 10 AM, 5 PM

● **Mission Offering for Belize**

THURSDAY, NOV. 28 • 10 AM

● **Thanksgiving Day Service**

FRIDAY, NOV. 29 • 8 PM

● **Young Disciples Lock-in (see article)**

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 • 4 PM

MONDAY, DEC. 9 • 7:30 PM

● **Lessons and Carols (page 1)**

FRIDAY, DEC. 6 AND

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

● **Advent retreat (see article)**

SUN., DECEMBER 8

8 AM • 10 AM • 5 PM

● **Toy Giveaway**

Mission offering will be going to help purchase toys for our toy giveaway for children from families struggling financially this year. Distribution will be on December 17.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

● **Deadline for Christmas Flower Donations**

We will have envelopes in the pews specifically for Christmas flower donations which provide beautiful flowers to ornament our sanctuary during the Christmas season. You may designate your gift in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone.

MONDAY, DEC. 16 • NOON

● **Seniors Lunch and Christmas Party**

SUNDAY, DEC. 22 • 10 AM

● **Christmas Pageant (see article)**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

● **Greening of the Church**

Following our 10 AM worship we will join the Altar Guild in decorating the church for Christmas.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 PM • 8 PM • 11 PM

● **Christmas Eve Services**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25 • 9 AM

● **Christmas Day Service**

2020 Giving Envelopes will be in the welcome center for you to pick up in December. If you do not have envelopes, please ask the greeters for a form to fill out and to place on collection plate or mail to church office.

Thank you. ●

✚ OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH ✚

YOUNG DISCIPLES LOCK-IN

Teens in middle school and high school (and their friends with permission slips) will be locked into the church with **Michelle and Doug Mattice** beginning Friday, November 29 at 8 PM. Everyone should bring their most comfortable clothes. We'll be watching movies, eating, and...well, we don't want to spoil the surprise! Kids should be picked up promptly at 8 AM on Saturday morning. If you're more than 15 minutes late, you can pick them up in Broadalbin. Please sign up in the church hall. If you would like to volunteer for any part of the evening, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Michelle (m2mattice@outlook.com) with questions. ●

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Christmas pageant rehearsals are held after the 10 AM service each Sunday. There are parts for everyone, so it's not too late to join. See **Kristin McCabe** with your questions. ●

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the 10 AM service, children from ages 4–10 are invited to go with **Michelle Mattice** (or another volunteer) to the Children's Church room. They learn about Jesus, God, how much God loves them (and how not to jump on the furniture!). This year we are reading the New Testament; we started with John the Baptist in the gospel of Matthew. The kids return to the service after the sermon. If you're interested in volunteering, speak with Michelle; the lesson plans and activity sheets are provided. ●

BOY SCOUT TROOP 2

Tom Vandish, Troop 2 Boy Scout leader for 30 years, was honored at our 10 AM worship service on October 13. The troop which meets Monday nights in our parish hall and is sponsored by our church, has been led by Tom for all these years. Under his leadership there have been 55 Eagle Scouts and many young men whose lives have been shaped by his guidance and example. Countless camping outings, service projects and leadership development are credited to him. He will be a hard act to follow. Thank you, Tom, for all you've done for so many! ●

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A new Sunday School season has begun and our children are blessed! Your commitment to children in your influence, has been made known. Attendance is up from last year, but let's keep the momentum going. This is the time when attendance can drop. Remember the reason you started to bring them to Sunday School: to learn about God and His love. Our children are learning about everything but God in most of their interactions. Stand firm in your commitment to your child. They must learn about God's love and the tools he has outlined in the Bible for us to use to continue in faith, love, and hope. They can learn this in the home, but it should be echoed as often as possible to our children. They have much more secular exposure than Christian. Let's use every tool to expose our children to God's word. One class is learning and making the armor of God (*Ephesians 6:14–18*) so that they can shield themselves from that which is not pleasing to God and not healthy for us. There is the Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of the Gospel of Peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit. These are to defend ourselves, from all that the world can throw at us. Let's make sure our children learn about God and all the tools he has outlined for us in His Word. ●

LITTLE SAINTS

Little Saints is an elementary age youth group program. Rides from Ballston Spa schools are provided. For children from other schools our start time is **Tuesday at 4 PM, FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS.**

The schedule of events and activities for November and December is:

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Place:</i>	<i>Cost:</i>	<i>Pick-up time:</i>
Nov. 5	Game Day	\$4.00	5:30 PM
Nov. 19	Church <i>Thanksgiving</i>	\$4.00	5:30 PM
Dec. 3	Bowling/Lazer Tag	\$10.00	6:00 PM
Dec. 17	Church <i>Christmas Party</i>	\$4.00	5:30 PM



ADVENT RETREAT

Deacon Lynne along with Deacon Lynne Curtis is leading another Advent Retreat.

Come join us in fellowship with others as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Relax and take time to empty yourself of all that separates you from God. Invite Emmanuel to bless you and take up residence in your heart.

Give God the gift of you.
Give you the gift of God.
Emmanuel: God with us.

Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7
1 PM Friday through 3 PM Saturday
Christ the King Center

575 Burton Rd., Greenwich, NY
to Register: www.ctkcenter.org
Email: healing@ctkcenter.org
Phone: 518-692-9550



THE THIRD CHURCH WORK DAY

On September 14, about 30 volunteers worked at the church. It was great to see such help!

This time we overhauled the nursery, fixed an electrical issue in KidsFirst, and stopped several minor roof leaks in our buildings. We cleaned out Fr Roy's office, trimmed bushes, and got the classrooms ready for Sunday School. Several doors will now open easier, peeling paint was fixed in KidsFirst, and we'll use less electricity with new LEDs on the altar. There is just too much to list! Thanks everyone for the help, it's great to work together for a common cause.

I'm planning another work day in April. Please come and help if you haven't yet. ●

—Mike Luger

BELIZE MISSION TRIP

We have 10 people signed up to go on our second mission trip to assist the Mt Hope Bible Church in Unitedville, Belize. The trip runs from January 7–15. We have several construction projects planned. We will be working with teachers in a local school. Some of us will be visiting parishioners to offer God's word and encouragement. Mt Hope Bible Church built a basketball court this summer. We'll be painting the regulation lines on the court.

We have organized several fundraisers to buy the building materials for these projects and help offset mission team expenses. I hope you participate in one or two fundraisers that interest you.

The Wilton Friendly's is donating 20% of your total bill to our trip if you mention Christ Church to your waiter on November 15. Margaret Cook has made a beautiful quilt for the team to raffle. Tickets are sold in the welcome center on Sundays. We will be selling frozen pies in November from Smith's Orchard and Bake Shop in Charlton. See a team member for tickets. The pies will be delivered at Church on December 8. Kelley Howell has donated the proceeds from her jams and jellies sales to the trip, as well. Hoffman Car Wash is giving us 50% of their online car wash sales if you go to:

www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/2020MissionToBelize

Please contact Laura Face 518-587-3837 if you would like more information regarding the trip. ●

NOAH'S ATTIC

Hours:



Sunday/Monday: Closed

Tuesday:

9:30 AM–3:00 PM

Friday:

9:30 AM–3:00 PM

Wednesday/Thursday:

9:30 AM–5:00 PM

Saturday:

9:30 AM–2:30 PM

NOAH'S ATTIC
TELEPHONE 518-885-9455

✚ NEWS AND NOTES ✚

HELP WANTED

■ **Coffee Hour:** we are looking for team members for Coffee Hour. Please contact Alan at 912.412.2411 or adgreenspan@yahoo.com.

■ **The Tech Team** is always looking for more volunteers. We have screens for the 8 and 10 AM services and need more volunteers. If you can click a button you have all of the skills needed with the training we provide. Please speak with Jeremy Bailey, Fr Roy or Kristin McCabe if you have an interest in being part of this vital ministry. ●

FOYERS

After a few years of resting, Foyers, a Welcoming Ministry that encourages us to get acquainted with one another, has gotten off to a slow start over the summer. We are back on track now and enjoying one another's company by sharing meals and laughter. ●

🎄 Parish Anniversaries

November—

- 8 Danai and Stephen Haggerty
- 20 Alan and Carla Greenspan
- 23 Al and Peg Moser ▲

December—

- 4 John and Christine Martin
- 18 Mike and Desiree Drindak
- 23 Sheri & Ted Popkoski
- 27 Curtis & Joanne Niemeyer ▲

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thanks to the Ballston community organizations and businesses which help the Food Pantry, including: Ballston Rotary (food pickups from the Regional Food Bank) and Ballston Spa National Bank (food pickups and desk volunteers). Thanks also to the special needs organizations which work at the Food Pantry to assemble the bags of food we distribute: WOW, Ballston DayHab, Saratoga Bridges, and Living Resources (North and South).

A local animal protection group is donating their extra dog/cat food which helps the pets of people needing food. ●

Noah's Attic ❄ Christmas Sale ❄

THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14 • 15 • 16
9:30 AM – 4 PM

The Noah's Attic Christmas Sale in the Parish Hall is a great place to purchase all your decorations for Christmas while supporting our church ministries.



❄ Christmas Eve Services ❄

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
AT 4:30, 8, AND 11 PM

❄ Christmas Day Service ❄

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
AT 9 AM

Opportunities for Service

Interested? Call the office, 518.885.1031

- ✙ Acolytes Mike Luger
- ✙ Alpha
- ✙ Altar Guild Julia Duchesne
- ✙ Choir Kristin McCabe
- ✙ Coffee Hour Alan and Carla Greenspan
- ✙ Community of Hope Bet LaRue,
Bambi Becker
- ✙ Daughters of the King Bambi Becker
- ✙ Decoration Julie Robr
- ✙ Flowers Lois Mitchell
- ✙ Food Pantry Jim and Jan Bornheim
- ✙ Foyers Bambi Becker
- ✙ Healing Ministry Deacon Lynne Crimi
- ✙ Hunger for Healing Bonnie Hall
- ✙ Youth Disciples Michelle Mattice
- ✙ Junior Church Michelle Mattice
- ✙ Little Saints Fr Roy, Kelley Howell,
Josh Bush
- ✙ Men's Breakfast Fellowship .. Noel Drindak
- ✙ Middle School Youth Michelle Mattice
- ✙ Missions Glen Face
- ✙ Newsletter Bet LaRue
- ✙ Noah's Attic Wanda Closson
- ✙ Nursery Melissa Miller
- ✙ Prayer Chain Christine Martin
- ✙ Prayer Quilts Margaret Cook, Joyce Reed
- ✙ Sunday School Corey Ott
- ✙ Vacation Bible School Melissa Miller
- ✙ Visitations Deacon Lynne Crimi

Ongoing Programs

- ✙ **ADULTS, Year-round**
Eucharist Wednesdays, 9:15 AM
- ✙ **ADULTS, September to June**
Eucharist Friday, NOON
- ✙ **ADULTS, September through June**
Men's Breakfast Fellowship Wed, 6:30 AM
Adult Sunday School Sundays, 9 AM
Study Group Wednesdays, 10 AM, FIRESIDE
- ✙ **CHILDREN, September through June**
Children's Sunday School 9-9:50 AM
Children's Church Sundays during
10 AM service
- ✙ **CHILDREN, September through May**
Little Saints 1st & 3rd Tuesday 4:00-5:30 PM
- ✙ **YOUNG DISCIPLES (MS & HS)**
Sundays, Noon to 2 PM, FIRESIDE

CHRIST CHURCH

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

15 West High Street
Ballston Spa NY 12020

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE

518.885.1031

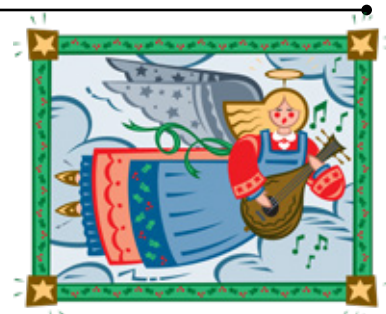
ChristEpiscopalBallstonSpa.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 • NOON



Parish Birthdays

November—

- 1 Sheri Popkoski
- 2 Caleb LaRue
Luke Demling
Brandon Ruiz
Stephen Haggerty
- 3 Michelle Mattice
- 4 Marcus Vary
Ann Krupa
- 5 Jan Bornheim
Aaron Bogue
Alexandria Acquire
Allison Ott
- 6 Suzanne Newton
Wendy Schmidt
Jacob Goertz
- 7 Justin Miner
- 8 Christine Martin
- 9 Brianna Collins
- 10 Taylor Russell
- 12 John Martin
Lillian Jorgensen
Zachary Greenspan
Donna Lanning
- 15 Olivia Iannon
Kristin McCabe
- 17 Joseph Koster

- 18 Abigail Doud
- 20 April Mattice
Dana Sleight
- 23 Lynne Crimi
Dorothy Quick
Donna Christensen
- 24 Donna Travis
- 27 Melayna Robertson
- 28 Joe King
Christine Osgood
- 29 Sarah
Duchesne-Cook ▲



December—

- 2 Ethan Dumovitz
- 3 Barbara Wood
- 5 Joyce Reed
- 6 Katie Barno

- 9 Aiden Campbell
- 10 Jeanne Speer
Paula Ruiz
- 11 Garry Campbell
- 12 Molly Favour
Lori Peer
Jake Baker
- 14 Lily Livingston
- 16 Alvia Datillo
Tim Russell
- 19 Kaleigh Lanning
- 20 Sam Martin
Dominic Garrant
- 21 Kaleigh Izzo
- 22 Elizabeth Byrnes
Oliver McCabe
- 23 Donna Sausville
- 24 Hannah Cook
- 27 Jessi Rapelje
- 29 Sarah Thomas
Susan Olszewski
- 30 Margaret Cook
Amanda Luger
- 31 Adam Bonanno
Elaine Iannon
Amy Aguda-Tanah ▲