



CHRIST CHURCH

January / February 2022

Dear Friends,

Last year, January 2021, this was the opening paragraph from our January newsletter:

We've heard over and over the last several months more than we'd like to hear, the phrase Because of Covid. Because of Covid, the delivery of a package ordered will take much longer. Because of Covid, this restaurant is closed. Because of Covid, you must wear a mask. Because of Covid, you shouldn't gather with friends and loved ones. Because of Covid, we shouldn't travel. Because of Covid...and the list goes on.

Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like much has changed. Covid continues to have an effect on our church life. Because of Covid, many in-person classes still are not taking place. Because of Covid, the State has mandated we once again be required to wear masks at worship. Because of Covid, still no coffee hour, no Nursery, and as I stated last year – the list goes on.

Now again, because of Covid, we will once again be holding a virtual annual meeting, rather than an in-person meeting. The meeting will be available on our website or YouTube station Sunday, January 30.

At that meeting, you will be able to hear reports and hopefully see that our church, despite Covid, is still doing our best to live out our mission of: *A loving community seeking to know Jesus Christ and make Him known.*

As I stated a year ago, because of Covid, many things have changed and there continues to be many challenges; however, more important than *because of Covid* is another because of and that is *because of Jesus*. Because of Jesus, we model His love. Because of Jesus, we do our best to be ambassadors of hope, love, grace, mercy, compassion and peace.

In Christ,

Father Derik Roy +

Sunday School

Did you know that Sunday School is still happening at Christ Episcopal Church? It looks a little different than we are used to, but we are so happy to give Christ Church families an opportunity to continue their child's Christian Education. Our PreK - Grade 8 kids continue to meet virtually and the High School kids have transitioned to in-person. We are patiently waiting for Saratoga County to return to yellow transmission rate so we can move our PreK - Grade 8 program in-person! It is never too late for your kids to join or for you to help out! Please reach out to Katie Skanes ([mkcb.skanes@gmail.com](mailto:mkcbskanes@gmail.com)) or Fr. Roy with any questions.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry ended the 2021 year serving over 900 households and 2,700 people. For more information about how our year went, please tune in to the annual meeting.



**Feeding the
Community**

We ended the year receiving a donation from SEFCU and CAP COM teaming up for the year's Year End Food Pantry Program. This is a wonderful tradition in which SEFCU provides financial support to food pantries, City Missions, or homeless shelters in the Capital Region, Binghamton, Syracuse and Buffalo. The donation was \$2,500 to support the important work we are doing to help those in need.

We wanted to thank all of the volunteers that we've had this year. Without their help, this operation could not run!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! We also wanted to give a shout out to all of the LifeSong volunteers, the Ballston Spa Rotary, the Ballston Spa Lions Club, the Saratoga County SPCA, the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY and Hannaford in Milton. To anyone that has made or given donations or sent prayers THANK YOU!!

We are still in need of new volunteers. Please reach out to Theresa Polson at theresapolson@gmail.com to become a volunteer.

Good Financial News

Because of your continued generosity and commitment to the mission and ministry of our church, we ended the year with all our bills paid including for the first time in several years, our full Diocesan assessment.

Mark your Calendars!

Lenten Study Program will be highlighted in our next newsletter.

March 2 Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

New Members/Newcomers Class Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm

This class is for those new to the church who are interested in learning more about the church and the Christian faith with this being an important step in helping a person determine if they would like to become a member. The course is six weeks long and is taught by Fr Roy. It will focus on such things as, what is church membership, who is Jesus, The Bible, the church, church history, why do we worship the way we do and what's expected in living the Christian life. Child care will be provided if needed.

Attention all Chosen Fans!!! (and if you're not, you should be!)

The Chosen workbook for Season 2 is being released on February 1st. So please let Jeanne in the office or Bonnie Hall (518 322-8933) know and we will order the workbooks for our Season 2 study program which will begin (hopefully) after Easter, Tuesday evenings, beginning on April 26th, or Thursday mornings, beginning on April 28th. If you have missed the first season and wish to be a part of second season, you are most welcome and we will catch you up if necessary!

Happy Birthday

January

1 Jim Rice
2 Claudia Roberts
3 Mark Breslin
4 Marissa Bongo
7 Kessler LaLonde-Paley
8 John Bornheim
9 Kathleen Izzo
11 Madilyn Sausville
 Ted Popkoski
 Sara Nichols
12 Courtney Mancini
 Marissa Knott
17 Deborah Guilmette
18 Caroline Polson
19 Linda Hill
 Rachel Norsworthy
22 Makenzie Lanning
23 Melissa Willey
24 Mary Drindak
 Joseph Roy
25 Nancy Cuddihy
28 Matthew Sleight
29 Sara Ladopoulos
30 Ethan Cook
 Dennis Crimi
31 Jocelyn Osgood
 Eddie Goss

February

3 Celeste Jenkins
4 Ciena Cuzzo
5 Zoe Rose
7 Madison Rich
8 Erin Sausville
 Avri Baker
10 Jeremy Bailey
12 Connor Garrant
 Theresa LaGattuta-Bruno
 Marissa Knott
13 Dave Bush
15 Andrea Breslin
16 Terry Gardner
 Carol Kugler
 Julia Thomas
17 Gavin Horrocks
 Angelique Peck
19 Joanne Niemeyer
21 Austin Izzo
 Andrew LaRosa
23 Kelley Howell
 Corey Ott
24 Mikaela Datillo
25 Quincy Roy-Urmston
27 Joanne Wood
28 James Barno
 Erin Dumovitz

Happy Anniversary

January

28 Brian and Bonnie Horrocks

February

4 Noel & Mary Drindak
14 Joe & Theresa Bruno
 Ed & Marcy Melander
22 Lorraine and Bill McPherson
23 John & Judith Bell

Keep in Your Prayers

*Margaret Anderson
Janice Baird
Mark Breslin
Garry Campbell
Margaret Cook
Judy Covey
Julia Duchesne
Erin Dumovitz
Barbara Grandin
Linda Hendricks
Tim Iannon
Melissa Miller
Deacon Bill Pearson
Salli Poltynski
Dorothy Quick
Amanda Russell
Mabel Siler
Fred Sober
Nancy Wemple*

Thank you!

To Jeremy Bailey and his team who make it possible to produce our online worship and special presentations such as Lessons and Carols and the Children's Christmas Pageant.

To Kristin McCabe, who wrote and directed this year's Christmas pageant. Many thanks to her son, Edison, who put in hours of time to edit the play, and many thanks to the parents and children who participated.

To John Kirk, Trish Miller, Kristin McCabe and our team of gifted musicians and readers who once again made (our 28th) Lessons and Carols so wonderful. Thanks also to Cathy Hughes for the special gift bags we had prepared to give out to guests in lieu of not holding our reception after. Thank you also to the DOK for being hostesses.

To Katie Skanes and her team that have continued to enable us to provide an excellent virtual Sunday School.

To Bonnie Hall and Noel Drindak and Lois McGee for leading the Chosen One series.

To Theresa and John Polson and the many volunteers that help with our very important and needed Food Pantry ministry.

To our Deacons: Bill Pearson, Al Moser, Lynne Crimi, Gil DeLaura and Paul Guilmette, who all give of themselves, modeling servanthood ministry.

To our Noah's Attic Staff and volunteers under the direction of Wanda Closson. The Christmas sale was a huge success (\$9000) and your continued dedication and giving of your time make a huge difference.

To Cathy Roy and all the helpers and those who contributed toys and money, making it possible for us to bless close to 400 children with toys for their Christmas.

To Noel Drindak and Rachel Norsworthy for their continued leadership in our Zoom Bible Studies.

To our Vestry members whose terms are ending: Alan Greenspan, Sr. Warden, Dave Bush, Rebecca Grugan, John Polson and Kathryn Lehmann.

To those who continue to serve on our Vestry: Don Rohr, Warden, Bonnie Hall, Megan Lovelace, Christine Osgood, Mike Drindak, and Mike Luger.

Vestry Nominations

We will be electing 4 new members for the Vestry and a new Junior Warden at our **annual meeting on January 30, 2022**. Here is an outline of the nominating process. Please read the qualifications, expectations, etc. Please note that nominations need to be submitted to our church secretary, Jeanne Speer, by **January 23**. (You may place in collection plate or mail to office) If you have any questions or comments, please call the church office at 518-885-1031.

Wardens and Vestry Qualifications, Expectations and Terms of Office. Please give prayerful consideration to whom you would like to nominate for Vestry and please keep in mind the qualifications.

Vestry Member:

- Professes Jesus Christ as Lord and believes in the fundamentals of our faith as expressed in the Creed.
- Age 18 or older.
- Member of Christ Church for greater than one year.
- Regular in attendance to church services (multiple times/month).
- Supports the Biblical mandate of tithing and is either tithing or working towards the tithe.
- Active in at least one ministry of the church.
- Attendance to Vestry meetings and Vestry Ministry meetings mandatory except for occasional excused absences. Vestry members serve for a term of 3 years.

Warden:

- Meets the qualifications of Vestry member.
- Active in multiple ministries of the church.
- Previous experience as a Vestry member.
- Same expectations as Vestry member.
- Lay leader for the congregation.
- Legal representative for Christ Church.
- In the absence of the Rector, pastoral and faith leader for the congregation. Wardens serve for a term of 2 years. 1st year as Junior Warden, 2nd year as Senior Warden.

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Note: Spouses cannot both be current members of the Vestry / Wardens.

Covid Update

As of this writing, masks are mandated at worship and gatherings of 10 or more. We had hoped to return to in-person Sunday School, coffee hour, nursery and more in-person classes, but because of the recent uptick in Covid, we are delaying the start of these until our county reaches the yellow level. Yellow level is 5% -10% infection. The county is currently in the red level, which is over 20%.

Deacon's Corner

Happy Epiphany!

On January 2, as a family was leaving Church, I wished the children a Merry Christmas, pointing out that Christmas actually lasts for 12 days. Noticing a sharp glance from Mom, I hastened to add that we only get presents on the first day.

In other Christian traditions, kids don't get presents on any of the 12 days of Christmas. The big day comes on January 6, the Epiphany, the feast of the Three Kings. The gifts commemorate the treasures they brought to the Christ Child. This custom has a lot going for it: Christmas is all about Christ, gift giving is put into better perspective, and the kids all know what and when the Epiphany is. Do we?

The time after Epiphany is one of the church seasons, ending on Ash Wednesday. In Latin cultures, it is a festive season, beginning with gift giving and ending with a big Mardi Gras party. I'm not sure what other cultures, including our northern Europeans, make of it. But I would submit the following thoughts about the season.

Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning to come to light, to be revealed. In Greek translations of the Old Testament, it is associated with an appearance of God. In English, when we say that someone has an epiphany, it refers to some life changing insight or revelation. So the Epiphany is not the event where wise men came and brought gifts. The Epiphany was when they saw the star, which *caused* them to come and to bring gifts. These wise Gentiles understood that a King had been born to the Jews, although they did not have the Scriptures to find him. The Jewish priests and scribes had those Scriptures, and revealed him to the wise men and King Herod. The wise men sought out and paid homage to the King and then returned home, their lives changed. King Herod feared him, and struck out blindly and murderously to kill him. The Jewish priests and scribes were afraid to change, and did not even seek him out.

So, Christmas has come and gone. Now is the time for us to have (or renew) our own Epiphany, to study the Scriptures to understand what God has revealed to us in Jesus. If we are not afraid, it is the time to go to Him, to worship Him, and to present our gifts to Him. -

Deacon Paul Guilmette



The beginning of the New Year has been a little rough on KidsFirst. We had an outbreak of Covid in our center and had to shut down for a week in order to be able to maintain ratio and keep the staff and families safe. We were able to order almost \$8,000 worth of supplies for the center through Quality Stars. This is a childcare program that helps rate centers and pays for materials for centers to be in compliance with State requirements for classroom materials. We were able to order new tables and chairs, a new changing table, an indoor gym for our infant room and an infant cove for the itty bitties

to be able to play on the floor safely. Even though we have had some illness, we are looking forward to a really great 2022.

The Quilting Ministry Raffles a Quilt for Noah's Attic

Several months ago a portion of a quilt was donated to Noah's Attic. The donation was the front of a beautiful queen-sized quilt that someone didn't have time to finish. The good people at Noah's Attic knew about the Quilting Ministry at our church and passed it along to them. The quilt was finished by the ministry and they decided to hold a quilt raffle in support of Noah's Attic. The raffle was just completed, raising \$400!

The proceeds from the raffle will be used to support Noah's Attic. And you can bet Noah's Attic will be watching out for more quilt material for the ministry.

Noah's Attic, despite Covid, has had an amazing year, giving thousands of dollars of merchandise away and raising more funds than ever for ministry. The Christmas sale in November raised \$9000, a new high total!

Thank you to our staff, volunteers and all who contribute to Noah's.

On-going

Sunday Worship—8:00 am, 10:00 am and 5:00 pm

A number of our parishioners have discovered that coming to Church for Worship on Sunday evening is a great idea. It finishes off the weekend on a high note, or starts the new week focusing on the Lord Jesus—either way you look at it, it works! The 5pm Service is a Rite II Eucharistic Service with congregational hymns and meditative piano music by our Music Director Kristin McCabe. We usually have around 8-10 people attending, so social distancing is no problem!

9:00AM - Adult Sunday School - Paul's Letters to The Early Church Study

Tuesdays 10-noon Paul's Letters to The Early Church Study

Tuesday Evening Women's Lectionary Zoom Study 7:00pm - will focus on the scripture readings for each Sunday. Please contact the church office, if you wish to join.

Wednesdays at 9:15 am—Worship Service.

Wednesdays at 10:00 am Study Group

Wednesday Evening Men's Zoom Lectionary—7:00pm - If you'd like to join our Bible Study via zoom, please notify Father Roy, Noel Drindak or the church office. Each week we study the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.

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