

THE CHART  
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Christ Church  
1355 Northern Boulevard  
Manhasset, NY 11030  
516-627-2184

The Very Rev'd David B. Lowry, Rector  
[dlowry36@aol.com](mailto:dlowry36@aol.com)

Kathy Hoffmann, Administrator  
[admin@christchurchmanhasset.org](mailto:admin@christchurchmanhasset.org)

Andrew Yeargin, Director of Music  
[andrew.yeargin@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.yeargin@gmail.com)

Enrique Valdes, Sexton

[www.christchurchmanhasset.org](http://www.christchurchmanhasset.org)

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# *The Chart*

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## *Letter from the Rector*

December 1, 2012

Dear Friends,

We were unable to produce a *Chart* last month not only because of the storms, but also because neither Verizon nor Optimum was able to provide services to our new offices at the Community Reformed Church. Regrettably, the latter situation continues so we are cobbling together the *Chart* at various venues. Much is happening in December—some of which is being carried over from our 'lost' November.

To help us through our schedule of activities, I will devote this letter to a précis of December activities. I hope you will delve into the detailed description of activities inside the *Chart*.

During December we are intensively taking up our **Every Member Canvass** and our **Vestry Nominating Process**. Both of those activities are essential to the life of Christ Church during our dual transitions—from an old parish house to a new one and from an old rector to new one. Your financial support for the spiritual and community life of Christ Church during this period is essential. In addition, your participation in the life of Christ Church is of special importance. Your presence at services of worship and other parish activities (even if it is slightly more difficult to park and find activities that will be in new locations) has never been more important. If you would like to serve on the Vestry (the lay governing body of the church) during this special time, we ask you to contact George Faeth, the Senior Warden, about your interests.

December is the month of **Advent**. It is the time where in the 'world' we are preparing for Christmas—and the church is not without Christmas preparations—but the church sees Advent as preparation for the return of Jesus to redeem all creation. In a sense Advent is a 'little Lent;' but even more it is a time to 'get our spiritual lives re-kindled.' You will find some 'spiritual exercises' for Advent in the *Chart*.

The storms made it impractical to produce our Christmas Pageant with animals et. al. impractical. We are substituting a service of **Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas at 10:00AM on Sunday, December 9**. We will be joined by the Community Reformed Church for this service. The Church Schools will be at the center of the service, but they will be strongly supported by the Christ Church and Community Reformed Church choirs. We hope to fill Christ Church for this wonderful service.

December is also a time for some physical preparation of the Christ Church campus for winter. In the wake of the storms we have much work to do. The area of our responsibility has been decreased because of the sale of part of our property. We will be focusing our clean-up on the cemetery--raking leaves and removing tree limbs that we have already cut down. Our clean-up day (morning) will be this **Saturday (December 1)**. Please join us for work and fellowship.

Finally, our **Christmas services** will be held at on **Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM** and on **Christmas Day at 10:00 AM**. As in previous years the 4:00 PM Eucharist will be child and family oriented and the 8:00 PM Eucharist will have special music.

Finally, the storm has delayed the beginning of work on the renovation of the Parish House and campus. We hope to begin work before the end of December.

We wish for you a blessed Advent and Christmas.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,  
*David B. Lowry, Rector*

## Parish Notes:

### Outreach Project—a Big Thank You

Many thanks to everyone from The Community Reformed Church, Christ Church, the Sunday school teachers and the students and all those who supplied the wrapping paper, shoe boxes (empty and full), and the toys and toiletries to fill the boxes. Through everyone's hard work and cooperation during these trying times (recovering from 'Super Storm Sandy') we were still able to send out **83 gift filled boxes** to Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Thank you all again for your generosity.

### Annual Fall Clean-up/Leaf Raking Day- Saturday, December 1

Volunteers are needed for our annual Christ Church leaf raking "party" for the church grounds on **Saturday, December 1 at 9:30am**. Please bring a rake and gloves, and don't forget to wear your work clothes. A few shovels and brooms would come in handy, too. Come have fun and help make Christ Church beautiful.

### Chris Ballard to be Ordained to the Priesthood—Saturday, December 8

The Rev'd Deacon Chris Ballard, a member of and seminarian at Christ Church, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, December 8 at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. Your prayers and presence are requested.

### Christmas Dinners for Men and Women

The **Men's Dinner** will be held at the Rectory on Monday, **December 10 at 7:30 PM**; the **Woman's Dinner** will be held the following evening, **December 11 at 7:00 PM** at the Rectory. Sign-up sheets will be available in the church.

### Deadline for Christmas Music/Flowers December 13

Please remember that Thursday, December 13 is the date that all contributions and forms must be received if you would wish to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through the gift of altar flowers, or special music.

## Children & Youth Ministry

***Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.***

*-Dale Evans Rogers*

I wish we could have Christmas all year long. I don't mean the crazy schedules, impossible to-do lists, overwhelming expectations and gluttony of food (the average American gains 7-10 pounds between Thanksgiving and Christmas!) I mean the *feeling* of Christmas that makes me become a child again, full of joy and wonder. For me, it's a time when everything seems new and nothing is impossible. I feel the loving presence of God, so close and so dear. That's what I want to keep forever!

I hope that all of us can find this loving balance over the coming weeks. If you need some help, here are some opportunities for children of all ages to celebrate and serve together.

- Participate in our **Christmas Giving Program** by purchasing a gift for a needy family in our community this holiday season. Pick up a gift request at the back of the church and return your gift by Sunday, December 16.
- **Buy the perfect Christmas tree or wreath** at the Congregational Church on Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9. (Hours: Saturday: 9am—4pm; Sunday: 11am—2pm.) All proceeds go towards future programs **for our church youth group**. (*Youth are invited on Friday, December 7 at 7pm to help set up for the sale and stay over for a sleepover. Participating in the tree sale is a fun way to earn community service hours for school!*)
- Don't miss the **Children's Christmas Presentation of Lessons and Carols** on **Sunday, December 9, 10:30am** at Christ Church. Our children and youth will lead us through this special celebration of song and spoken word. If you have children who would like to participate, we are looking for youth for singing and speaking parts, as well as children and adults interested in singing in the choir. (*Choir*

rehearsal on Thursday, December 6 from 5:30pm-6:30pm (children) and 7:30pm-8:30pm (adults); presentation rehearsal on Saturday, December 8 from 3pm-5pm.)

- **Youth** (ages 12-17) are welcome to join us on **Saturday, December 15** for a **trip to NYC!** We'll see the Rockefeller Christmas Tree, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue windows and have dinner at Ellen's Stardust Diner on Broadway, where the waiters dance on the tables while serving festive 50s style food. We'll meet at the Manhasset train station around 4:30pm to travel into the city together. The cost of train ticket and dinner is approximately \$40, paid by each youth.
- If you love crafts, join the **Christmas Crafts Workshop** on Sunday, **December 16**, 1pm in the Parish Hall of **The Congregational Church**. There will be creative Christmas Crafts for all ages, including adults! All are welcome to the holiday cheer with our church family and community.

Blessings to you, your children and loved ones this wonderful season,  
Lesley

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact **Lesley Mazzotta**, Director of Spiritual Formation, at [leselymazzotta@gmail.com](mailto:leselymazzotta@gmail.com) or 917-623-4554.

### Reading and Praying in Advent

In the midst of all the preparations for Christmas, it can be helpful to set out a little time each day for reading of scripture and prayer. The following is a suggestion for short sections of scripture that can be read individually or as a family through this season of Advent. I have reproduced the prayers for each Sunday in the Advent season to be used throughout the week and readings for each day. I have chosen to use the Old Testament texts that were used in Handel's *Messiah* as the Old Testament readings and the Incarnational texts from the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John as the New Testament readings.

Sunday, December 2: Isaiah 40: 1-11  
Monday, December 3: Isaiah 60: 1-3  
Tuesday, December 4: Haggai 2:6-7  
Wednesday, December 5: Malachi 3:1-3  
Thursday, December 6: Isaiah: 35:5-6 and 40:9-11  
Friday, December 7: Zechariah 9:9-10  
Saturday, December 8: Luke 1:5-20

Sunday, December 9: Luke 1:21-38  
Monday, December 10: Luke 1:39-55  
Tuesday, December 11: Luke 1:56-66  
Wednesday, December 12: Luke 1:67-80  
Thursday, December 13: Luke 2: 1-12  
Friday, December 14: Luke 2:13-24  
Saturday, December 15: Luke 2: 25-40

Sunday, December 16: Matthew 1:18-25  
Monday, December 17: Matthew 2: 1-12  
Tuesday, December 18: Matthew 2: 13-18  
Wednesday, December 19: Matthew 2:19-23  
Thursday, December 20: John 1:1-5  
Friday, December 21: John 1:6-9  
Saturday, December 22: John 1:10-13

Sunday, December 23: John 1: 14-18  
Monday, December 24: John 1: 19-28

The Collects for Advent:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare for us the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself: who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Schedule for Christ Church**

Please take note of the schedule for **Christmas Eve** this year. At **4 P.M.** there will be a Family Eucharist sung by the Chapel Choir. **Beginning at 7:30 P.M.**, the Chancel Choir and Schola Cantorum will sing a program of 'Music for the Season' featuring a number of well-known favorites from the sacred Christmas repertoire. Then at **8 P.M.** there will be the regular Festival Choral Eucharist. The music at 7:30 will flow directly into the 8 P.M. mass, so **remember to arrive early on Christmas Eve!**

## **Calendar for the Month of December**

<b>Saturday, December 1</b>	<b>Annual Fall Clean-up</b>		
	9:30 AM	<b>Church Grounds/Cemetery</b>	
<b>Sunday, Dec. 2/1 Advent</b>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	9:45 AM	Church School	CRC
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
<b>Monday, December 3</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Tuesday, December 4</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Wednesday, December 5</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Thursday, December 6</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Friday, December 7</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Saturday, December 8</b>	<b>Christmas Tree &amp; Wreath Sale</b>		
The Congregational Church	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM		
1845 Northern Boulevard	Sunday Dec 9 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM		
<b>Sunday, Dec. 9/2 Advent</b>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
Nine Lessons & Carols	10:30 AM	<i>Children's Christmas Presentation</i>	
at Christ Church	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
<b>Monday, December 10</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<i>Men's Dinner</i>	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>Men's Dinner</b>	Rectory

<b>Tuesday, December 11</b> <i>Women's Dinner</i>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer <b>Women's Dinner</b>	Chapel Chapel Rectory
<b>Wednesday, December 12</b>	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel Chapel
<b>Thursday, December 13</b> All checks with requests for Christmas music/flowers must be in today	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
<b>Friday, December 14</b>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
<b>Saturday, December 15</b>			
<b>Sunday, Dec 16/3 Advent</b>	8:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Church School Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	Church CRC Church Chapel
<b>Monday, December 17</b>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Vestry Meeting	Chapel Chapel Rectory
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
<b>Wednesday, December 19</b>	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel Chapel
<b>Thursday, December 20</b>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
<b>Friday, December 21</b>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
<b>Saturday, December 22</b>			
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Coral Eucharist Holy Eucharist	Church Church Chapel
<b>Monday, December 24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Family Eucharist and Building of the Crèche	Church
<i>Prelude music to begin at 7:30PM</i>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	Festival Choral Eucharist	
<b>Tuesday, December 25</b> <i>Christmas Day, Traditional Carols</i>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Holy Eucharist	Church

<b>Wednesday, December 27</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Thursday, December 28</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Friday, December 29</b>	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
<b>Saturday, December 30</b>			
<b>Sunday, Dec 31/1 After Christmas</b> New Year's Eve	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	10:00 AM	Coral Eucharist	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel

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## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through the gift of altar flowers, please fill out this form and place it, along with your check (designated Altar Guild/Christmas Flowers), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1355 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 10030.

My offering is

*"In loving memory of..."*

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- or -

*"In thanksgiving for..."*

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Given by:

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All offerings for Christmas flowers must reach the church office no later than **Thursday, December 13th**. Please provide a separate check for flowers and/or music. Many thanks for your cooperation.

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through donations for special music, please fill out this form and place it, along with your check (designated Christmas Music), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1355 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 10030.

My offering is

*"In loving memory of..."*

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- or -

*"In thanksgiving for..."*

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Given by:

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All offerings for Christmas music must reach the church office no later than **Thursday, December 13th**. Please provide a separate check for music and/or flowers. Many thanks for your cooperation.