

The Chart



Christ Church

1351 Northern Boulevard

Manhasset, NY 11030

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www.christchurchmanhasset.org

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From the Rector

Dear Friends at Christ Church,

When you sit down and think about it, the good news of Advent and Christmas is downright revolutionary. In Advent, in the middle of a world that so values finishing things - checked off "to-do" lists, completed errands, and yes, even completed Parish Houses - that Jesus Christ's work with us and with our world is gloriously unfinished. And so even as we look back to God's first Advent in Bethlehem, we look ahead - forward to Jesus' second advent - and that day when we see the whole world transformed to reflect the glory God intended for it from the beginning of time. This season reminds us that God's work with us isn't done - and that's ok! Advent reminds us that we are called not to simply to hope for the miraculous transformation of ourselves and our world - but to expect it. God will appear in our world - and transform it through Jesus Christ.

And then, just as we get caught up in the watching and expectation, Christmas comes to remind us precisely where we are to look for God - right here, in the midst of the messiness of our lives. There was nothing neat and clean about the stable in Bethlehem - nothing high and exalted - nothing, quite frankly, that would have met our expectations. God became man in the middle of the ordinary, messy stuff of life - like us in our fullness, in our joy and in our pain, in our laughter and in our tears. So when we think of all those places where we could never possibly find God - we need to think again. Because that's where God will always be found - transforming the mundane into the extraordinary.

Athanasius of Alexandria, one of the great fathers of the church, writes that in Jesus, "God became as we are that we might become even as he is." During this holy season, we look in expectation of God's transformation of the messiness of our lives and of our world into that glorious image we can only begin to imagine.

A Holy Advent and Happy Christmas to all - I'll see you in church!

David

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The Wardens' Letter

December 1, 2014

Advent is upon us! In the coming weeks, we will prepare for Christmas - that is, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas should be a joyful season, and we hope and pray it is for you and your loved ones. But as we are inundated with shopping ads and coupons and standing on line (or "online") to purchase gifts for our friends and family, we must remember that for many people around the world, this time of year is particularly challenging. And so we ask that you think of those who have less and for whom we can do more.

Indeed, with Father David Sibley now well seated in his post as Rector, we are doing just that. With each new week, more time and energy is spent focused on how we can reach out

to the community to aid those in need, whether it be with food from the Food Pantry, coats from our recent and successful coat drive, and gifts for children around the world through our recently completed Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive and our NOW UNDERWAY Sunday School Toy Drive and Christmas Food Drive. To the extent you have ideas as to how we can better carry out God's and our mission, please do not hesitate to reach out to your wardens or Father David.

Our annual leaf raking on November 22nd was a HUGE success. With many helping hands, some repeat players and some new, we were able to tidy up our Church property in just a few short hours. The weather was just right to allow for efficient work and some great photos – please do check out the Church website!

On that note, the Church website is regularly updated with news and updates. Although emails are sent with information on a regular basis, the website is also a good source of information. We thank Laura Pavlovich for all that she does to keep the site up and running!

The Parish House project continues to be underway. (Yes, we too wish we could say something new on this!) The truth is that we really are nearing the finish line, but it's those final details that always seem to take the most time. We must give thanks to Bill Siener, Oriana Cyprus and Father David who remain on the job! They spend endless hours working with the construction crew and focusing on those details so that when we do open the doors we will be ready to go and able to launch even more programs and projects that will enable us to reach out to others through liturgical education, community outreach, etc. So please keep our team in your prayers.

Buildings and grounds, of course, must not be our main focus. We must think of those in need. So please do remember to bring food supplies to Church to help supplement the Food Pantry and, if you can, contribute to the Sunday School Toy Drive and the Christmas Food Drive that is underway.

We also ask that you please submit your pledge card, which by now you should have received in the mail, complemented by a heartfelt and inspiring letter from Father David. We ask that you be thoughtful and prayerful in your giving, recognizing that through your stewardship, Christ Church will have the means to not only care for our parish and Church needs but to do the mission work we are asked by God to do.

Peace and blessings,

Ariana Tadler Paterson
Senior Warden

William Siener
Junior Warden

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Parish Notes:

A Message from our Director of Spiritual Formation

Our Choice at Christmas

We all know what's coming: the impossible "to do" lists, the crowded stores, the endless traffic, the work parties, the friend gatherings, the family traditions, the non-stop responsibilities, the present buying, the present wrapping, the present returning, the phone calls, the Christmas cards, the tangled lights, the broken decorations, the late night cooking, the excess of food, the lack of sleep, the "needing to be in three places at once so we can all see each other and celebrate joyfully together!" Okay... ready, set, go!

But wait! This is not what Christmas is about, even though we get stuck in the craziness every year. However, if we're honest, we can admit (at least to ourselves!) that Christmas isn't crazy. We are crazy. We choose to over-eat, over-shop and over-extend. We choose how many cards to write, parties to attend, decorations to use and desserts to eat. I know we can't stop all of the busy-ness this holiday season, but we can definitely let go of some of the unnecessary madness and find more meaningful ways to spend our time.

As Christians, we can decide to walk more gently through this season, so we let it inspire us, instead of overwhelm us. We can forget about more gifts, and be more present with loved ones; we can stop serving the perfect holiday meal and find a way to serve those in need; we can decline one more party in order to be at home and prayerfully contemplate the coming of God's beloved Son. We can choose to walk through Advent with a calm presence, a grateful heart and a peaceful spirit. This is how we can experience the true meaning of Christmas.

In this time of joy and love, I hope you make choices that help you intentionally celebrate the miracle of the season. As you do, I hope that you choose to spend some of your time with our church community. If you need some ideas, here are opportunities that may keep your schedule (a bit!) full, but your hearts and spirits light!

Participate in our **Christmas Giving Program** by **filling a grocery bag** with food for a needy family or **purchasing a toy** for a child in our community. Pick up a flyer with more information at back of the church. All items must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 14.

Buy a Christmas tree or wreath for you or a homebound friend at our youth sale at The Congregational Church on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7. (Hours:

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. **All proceeds go towards future programs for our ecumenical youth ministry.**

Celebrate our children at our **third annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 14**, 10:00 a.m. at Christ Church. If you have children who would like to participate, we have both singing and speaking parts; we also need adults willing to help with costumes and coordination!

Encourage all youth (ages 12-17) to join us on **Friday, December 12** for a **trip to NYC!** We'll see the Rockefeller Christmas Tree and 5th Avenue windows, shop at the Holiday Market and have dinner at a fun and fabulous Times Square restaurant. This is a great way to celebrate the holidays with a community of friends!

If you love crafts, join the **Christmas Crafts Workshop** on Sunday, December 14, 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall of The Congregational Church. There will be creative Christmas crafts for all ages, including adults! All are welcome to this holiday cheer to make simple homemade gifts for your loved ones!

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Advent blessings to you and your loved ones,

Lesley Mazzotta

Director of Spiritual Formation

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Upcoming Events and News

Annual Giving Campaign

Our 2015 Annual Giving Campaign is well underway! Your financial pledge to Christ Church supports our work of mission and ministry: from Sunday School to Worship, from Fellowship to Outreach, your generosity in pledging is what makes our ministry happen. We ask you to prayerfully consider the place of Christ Church in your life, and the many ways that your life has been enriched by the ministries we share here - and to then respond by making a pledge in order to make that work possible for others.

Pledge cards were mailed on November 21 - and additional pledge cards and letters are available at the back of the church. Completed pledge cards may be returned in the Sunday offering plate, dropping them by the parish office, or by mailing them to the church office at 1351 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 11030. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Should you have any questions concerning your 2014 contributions to date compared to your 2014 pledge, or have questions about making a pledge, please contact Donna Cullinan-Gillis at the Parish office at 627-2184 or admin@christchurchmanhasset.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Flowers and Christmas Music



If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through the gift of altar flowers or music please fill out the included form and place it, along with your check (designated Altar Guild/Christmas Flowers or Christmas Music), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1351 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030. **All offerings for Christmas flowers and music must reach the church office no later than Wednesday, December 17th.**

Anticipating a "BLUE CHRISTMAS?", Friday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.

For many, "the most wonderful time of the year" is anything but. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one. Or, it may be a time that has always caused us much stress and anxiety. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these and more can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating.

Join Rev. David Sibley and Rev. Dr. Steven D. Pierce in the Sanctuary at the Community Reformed Church for an inspirational service of song meditation, comfort, hope, and healing.

Decorate the Church, Monday, December 22 at 9:30 a.m.

The Altar Guild is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help decorate the Church for Christmas. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Diana Tadler at 627-0128 or dtadler@mac.com.

Vestry Nominations

If a parishioner is interested in serving on the Vestry, please advise one of the wardens. Nominations will be upcoming in the early December timeframe, with the election at the annual meeting the first Sunday in February. For information or questions, please contact Ariana Tadler Paterson at arianatadlertwilight@gmail.com.

Parking

We kindly ask that all parishioners please park in the Parish House parking lot on Sundays for service and on weekdays when visiting the office.

Christ Church Address Change

With the anticipated move into the Parish House, our new address will be 1351 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030. Please note this address change in all of your correspondence.

Operation Christmas Child Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful Christmas program. Together, Christ Church and Community Reformed Church wrapped, filled and delivered **101 shoe boxes** for children around the world! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Giving

Now until Sunday, December 14. This year, we have two special ways to give to people in need. Please consider giving generously!



Christmas Food Drive: Make Christmas special by purchasing **food for a needy family** in our Manhasset schools. Pick up a food list and decorated grocery bag located at the back of church and fill it up to the brim! We are also collecting gift cards to King Kullen or Stop & Shop. All items must be returned by Sunday, December 14.

Sunday School Toy Drive: Bring the spirit of Christmas to the children at **Adventures in Learning** by purchasing a gift for a boy or girl, ages 6-12. Pick up a gift request at the back of church starting November 30. All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 14.



December Sunday Hospitality

Families have been asked to provide refreshments and serve **coffee, tea and juice** to both adults and children following the 10 a.m. service in the Church. Beverages will be provided by the Church. Each coffee hour team will be responsible for bringing food items of their choice for **30** people (i.e. cookies, coffee cakes, donuts or bagels), and 2 quarts of milk. If the edible goodies you supply would be best served on paper plates or large napkins, we ask that you provide them as well. **The coordinator of each team should contact the other team members to coordinate refreshments.**

The following people are scheduled to host Sunday Hospitality.

DATE	COORDINATORS	OTHER TEAM MEMBERS
Dec. 7	Carol & Tom Allen	365-8501 Lisa & Arthur Field 718-224-7309
Dec. 14	Sunday School	
Dec 21	Meaghan Janedis	570-0603
Dec. 28	Lisa & Tim Carr	365-9790 Terry & William Riggin 627-9610

If you are unable to host, please contact **Holly Melichar** at 516-404-6688 or hbm10078@gmail.com.

Fellowship

Fellowship is an important part of the Christ Church community. With our newly renovated Parish House opening this year, it will be a great space to have many more functions like the men's and the women's dinners, family parties and cocktail parties. If you have ANY suggestions or IDEAS please send them to Holly at hbm10078@gmail.com or call her at 516-404-6688.

Helping Hands

There are times when some of our Christ Church family need assistance, whether it is to have a meal provided for them or to be driven to an event, a doctor's appointment or to Church. If you would like to join this group of volunteers or if you have a need for a "helping hand", please let us know or talk to the Rector. Thank you in advance. Contacts: Holly Melichar at hbm10078@gmail.com and Carol Allen at GoCarol26@aol.com.

Food for the Hungry

The Long Island Council of Churches Food Pantry (450 N. Main Street, Freeport, 516-868-4989) fed more than 1400 people each month in August and September just from their Freeport pantry. In recent months there has been a growing number of requests for assistance from working families who have had their SNAP (food stamps) benefits reduced due to Congressional budgets cuts.

This would be a great time to donate unopened food (please check the expiration dates), particularly canned vegetables, jelly and pasta, personal care items, small household goods and grocery bags on any Sunday. Donations may be left in the back of the Church. Monetary donations to support the emergency food centers would be greatly appreciated. These donations should be sent to The Long Island Council of Churches, 1644 Denton Green, Hempstead, NY 11550. You can also donate on-line through www.LICCDonate.org.

Children and Youth Activities

Youth Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 7, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Youth should arrive Friday evening, December 5 at the Congregational Church (1845 Northern Blvd.) at 7 p.m. Bring a friend, sleeping bag, pillow, warm clothes, your favorite beverage and a few snacks to share. We will spend the evening organizing the trees and getting ready for the sale on Saturday and Sunday in the church courtyard. **All proceeds help finance such events as the Mission Trip and other youth outreach activities.** Don't miss this exciting event and don't forget to tell your neighbors we have the best trees in town! **(This is a fun way to earn community service hours for school, too.)**





Youth Night in New York City!

Friday, December 12, 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Join other community youth for a trip to NYC. Come see the Rockefeller Christmas Tree and 5th Avenue windows, shop at the Holiday Market and have dinner at a fun and fabulous Times Square restaurant. We'll meet at the Manhasset train station around 5 p.m. to travel into the city together. The cost of train ticket and dinner is approximately \$40, paid by each youth.

Sign Up Now!

Summer Youth Mission Trip, West Virginia

Sunday, July 19 – Saturday, July 25, 2015

Mark your calendars for an amazing week of service and fun in the rural community of Pipestem, WV. Our home for the week is the Appalachian Folklife Center, which provides acres of a beautiful campground, a nearby lake, recreational facilities, cabins with bunk beds, and plenty of outdoor adventures. We will work six hours a day restoring and repairing homes for at - risk and vulnerable homeowners. We will participate in our own worship services, educational programs and social activities around our service experience. Please let Lesley know if your youth is interested.

Nursery Care (Newborn - age 4)

All children, newborn through age 4, are welcome in the newly renovated and fully-operating nursery at Community Reformed Church, open every Sunday, September - June, from 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. There, they will be greeted by our teacher, Lydia Jeong, who works with parents to ensure that their children feel welcomed and comfortable in our space. All toddlers and young children are offered a creative and engaging Bible lesson that helps them play, imagine and explore God's love in all of creation!

Sunday School (Kindergarten - 6th Grade)

Our Sunday School classes for Kindergarten to 6th grade are offered from September – June at 9:50 a.m. in Community Reformed Church's Education building. Our children join the children of CRC for a Gospel-focused program that highlights stories, arts, crafts and group discussion. The children meet their families in church for the end of the service. For more information, please contact **Heather Bennett** at aualka51@gmail.com.

Bagels and Bible (7th - 9th Grades)

The B&B class for the 7th, 8th and 9th grade students explore what we know and what we don't know about the Bible through group discussion and creative activities. The class meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9:50 a.m., in the CRC education building. On the remaining Sundays, students are involved in service opportunities during church worship. C'mon and join us - What could be better than conversation, friends and food!!!

January Save The Dates



CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

January Youth Ski Trip, West Dover, VT

January 16 – 18, 2015, Weekend ski retreat at Mount Snow Ski Resort.

Accommodations at a UCC church near the slopes. <http://westdoverchurch.com/rentals/>. Please let Lesley know if you're interested in joining. Space is limited!

Girl Inspired Film Night, Friday, January 9, 6pm – 9pm.

Girl Inspired Commissioning Ceremony, Sunday, January 25, 5pm at CRC.

FOR ADULTS

Ecumenical Women's Ministry

Second Annual Spiritual Book Club

Wednesdays, January 20, 27, February 3, 10

Join a wonderful group of women for food, fellowship, meaningful conversation and personal reflection on our selected book for 2015. This book club is presented by a collection of Long Island churches committed to celebrating and inspiring women's lives. More info to follow.

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Christmas Services

Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.: Children's Christmas Pageant led by the Sunday School (to be held at Christ Church).

Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.: Family Eucharist led by the *Schola Cantorum*.

Christmas Eve at 7:45 p.m.: *Music of the Season*, a collection of favorite anthems and congregational carols for Christmas led by the *Chancel Choir & Schola Cantorum* prior to the 8 p.m. Eucharist.

Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m.: Festal Choral Eucharist led by the *Chancel Choir & Schola Cantorum*.

Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.: Holy Eucharist with the singing of carols!!!

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Calendar for the Month of December 2014

Sunday	Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. in the Church.
Tuesday	Chapel (Children's) Choir at 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday	Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. in the Chapel.
Thursday	Chancel Choir & Schola Cantorum at 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
December 6 & 7	Youth Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale at Congregational Church
December 12	Youth Night in New York City
December 14	Christmas Pageant at Christ Church 10:00 a.m. Christmas Food Drive, last day Sunday School Toy Drive, last day
December 17	Last day to submit contributions toward Christmas Flowers and Christmas Music
December 19	"Blue Christmas" service at CRC, 7:30 p.m.
December 22	Altar Guild and volunteers to decorate the Church, 9:30 a.m.

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Sunday Readings

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 7, 2014
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 14, 2014
Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 21, 2014
2 SAMUEL 7:1-11,16; CANTICLE 3; ROMANS 16:25-27; LUKE 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2014
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2014
Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; (5-12); John 1:1-14

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 28, 2014
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25; John 1:1-18

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

We are please to congratulate these friends and parishioners who have birthdays during this month...

Elaine Phillips (3), Clayton Tadler (10), Kathleen McGill (14), Austin Bennett (19), Valerie Siener (20), Katherine Stackler (20), Kelly Whalen (24), Tom Chaly (27), Arthur Field (28), Jerome Blocker (29), Elizabeth Pavlovich (29), Paul Peters (30), Mary Lee Wright (30).

We are please to congratulate these friends and parishioners who have an anniversary during this month...

William and Valerie Siener (14)

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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, 1351 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030.

My offering is

“In loving memory of...”

– or –

“In thanksgiving for...”

Given by:

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through the gift of Christmas 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, 1351 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030.

My offering is

“In loving memory of...”

– or –

“In thanksgiving for...”

Given by:

All offerings for Christmas Flowers and Christmas Music must reach the church office no later than Wednesday, December 17th. Please provide a separate check for flowers and/or music. Many thanks for your cooperation.