



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'S SERVANTS
WHO SEEK TO —
WORSHIP GOD WITH JOY AND WONDER,
LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER, AND
RADIATE GOD'S LOVE TO ALL.



Photo Credit: K. Crabtree

THE WINDOW

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED FOR THE PARISH AND FRIENDS OF
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2023

From The Rector

Dear Friends,

Recently, Spotify and The Echo Nest published some interesting survey results about how people interact with music. According to this study, people stop engaging with new music at the age of 33. It isn't that you don't find new music to listen to, just that the new, popular music ceases to be appealing. They posit two reasons. First, we aren't as tied to FM radio as we once were, so it's easier to find more obscure genres that appeal to us. Second, we tend to return to the music that we listened to growing up as a way of coping with the changes and chances of the world around it. Music acts, in some ways, like a security blanket.

While I have no doubt in the veracity of this study, anecdotally, I can say that it isn't true for me. Not that it probably wouldn't be true, but that because I have children who are 14 and 11 and love listening to music, I'm exposed to all kinds of new songs on a regular basis. We rejoiced with "1989 Taylor's Version" dropped a few weeks ago. Not to brag, but Spotify tells me that I was among the first 5% of listeners of "Harry's House," Harry Styles last new album in May of 2022. The new song I'm in love with right now is "Stick Season" by Noah Kahan.

Kahan is from Vermont, and this song tells of the hardship of going through a breakup during "stick season"; late fall and winter when the days are short, the nights are long, and everything seems pretty dreary. When we moved the clocks back an hour and the sun began to set at 4:45 pm, "Stick Season" spoke to me, and maybe it does to you as well. This time of year can be difficult to navigate. There are the pressures of the holidays, stresses with family, leaves to rake as far as the eye can see, and not even the beauty of nature seems to be there to offer refreshment.

If you are having a tough time with stick season, know that you aren't alone. Find a friend to talk to. Find a good book to read. Spend a little more time in prayer. And maybe, do a little digging in your favorite music streaming app or on the FM dial for a new song, one that maybe sparks some joy or helps you reminisce about the good old days. If you need a suggestion, from Oliva Rodrigo to Zach Bryan, I'm here for you.

Grace and Peace,

Fever



From The Associate Rector

Every Advent season, I turn toward my collection of daily Advent meditations to see which one might best meet how I need to approach the season; each one has a different style and feel. If you are looking for a daily Advent companion, here are three selections from my favorites:

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas

Waiting is not a very popular attitude. Waiting is not something that people think about with great sympathy. In fact, most people consider waiting a waste of time. Perhaps this is because the culture in which we live is basically saying, “Get going! Do something! Show you are able to make a difference! Don’t just sit there and wait!” For many people, waiting is an awful desert between where they are and where they want to go. And people do not like such a place. They want to get out of it by doing something.

In our particular historical situation, waiting is even more difficult because we are so fearful. One of the most pervasive emotions in the atmosphere around us is fear. People are afraid—afraid of inner feelings, afraid of other people, and also afraid of the future. Fearful people have a hard time waiting, because when we are afraid we want to get away from where we are. . . The more afraid we are, the harder waiting becomes.

Honest Advent

Incarnation is the process of being seen. . . Why is being seen so hard? It’s hard because when you decide to live into your true self – your strengths and weaknesses, your life and shadow, your superpowers and your kryptonites—you are revealing yourself to the world, and you can now be touched. Loved, rejected, embraced, ignored. . .and all of the other complicated interactions that come with human relationships. This is the exciting and terrifying proposal in an everyday life, so that some of us are questioning whether revealing yourself is worth it.

One of the invitations of Advent is the contemplation of God being seen, which is to say, incarnation.

I Witness

Christmas is not the same old story told over and over again. Christmas is a glimpse, the chipping away at a truth that exists so far beyond human comprehension that all we can do is point to it. We must touch upon this truth over and over again for the entirety of our lives and beyond, not as repetition but as an attempt to go deeper, to approach this story from a fresh angle, to try again to plumb the depths of its meaning.

The Maker of the Universe became human flesh. The birth of Jesus is the greatest form of communication from God that we have ever known. And we will never be able to fully understand this gift that God has given us.

¹Nouwen, Henri. “Waiting for God.” *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*. Plough Publishing House. Walden, New York. 2001. 27-28.

²Erickson, Scott. *Honest Advent: Awakening to the Wonder of God-with-Us Then, Here, and Now*. Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI. 2020. 96, 99.

³Moorehead, Kate. *I Witness: Living Inside the Stories of Advent and Christmas*. Forward Movement. 2019. 68.

From The Director of Children's Faith Formation

DECEMBER IS HERE, Y'ALL!

We have lots of upcoming activities this month.

On December 10, we'll be having our annual Breakfast with Saint Nicholas. Bread of Angels has graciously volunteered to provide breakfast for us, and of course there will be a very special guest stopping by to tell you all about himself!



Christmas Eve practices will start December 3, 2023 at 11am. If you would like your child to participate in our Christmas Eve service or if you'd like to help with getting things ready, please let me know. I will start sending information about practices and activities next week and the information is already posted on our website. The Christmas Eve service will be at 5pm.

To get ready for our Advent Art Show on Christmas Eve, we'll start learning about the Advent candles and what Christmas means to us; and how we can spread joy to our neighbors through volunteer work. These sessions will take place during Children's Church time and we'll be working on our art pieces the four weeks leading up to our Art Show.

There will not be Sunday School or Children's Church on December 24 and December 31. I am so excited to hear insights about Advent and Christmas from the kids and to see what beautiful creations they come up with for the Art Show. As always, if you need me, feel free to contact me through email, text message, or phone call. You can stop by my office Monday-Wednesday too. I love to talk! I will see you on Sundays!

From Karen Crabtree

It will come as no surprise to those of you who've had even a brief conversation with me over the years that I am a huge nerd. I love science fiction and fantasy. I think it's because, at my heart, I love stories and storytelling. I was an early reader and had a voracious appetite for fairy tales, mythology, and folklore that is still a big part of who I am. Some of my favorite memories with my Dad are lazy Sunday afternoons watching whatever low-budget 80s fantasy movie was playing on one of Ted Turner's channels. These stories, along with so many others, live in my mind where important things like "how to do your taxes" should go.

After Christmas Eve, you won't see me for several months. While I am devoted to my faith community at Christ Church and remain "a communicant in good standing" I think it's important to make space for a new normal to develop. I also will be spending time trying to discern what the next chapter in my story is. But I'll still be here in Bowling Green, and I'm still praying for you as the parish and staff navigate this change. I covet your prayers for me as well.

And so, in true nerd fashion, one line keeps coming to mind from 1987's *Masters of the Universe*. As He-Man and companions come to the end of the adventure and need to part ways for a time, one says "Don't say goodbye. Say 'Good Journey.'" Good Journey, my friends. Our adventures together may change, but they aren't over.

ADVENT AT CHRIST CHURCH



DECEMBER 3 - SUNDAY

PAGEANT REHEARSAL: 11AM &

MADRIGAL DINNER: 6PM

DECEMBER 10 - SUNDAY

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICK: 9AM &

PAGEANT REHEARSAL: 11AM

DECEMBER 17 - SUNDAY

GREENING OF THE CHURCH: 11AM &

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS: 5PM

DECEMBER 24 - SUNDAY

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I: 8AM,

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II: 10AM, & NO

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Haven 4 Change Gifts are due

December 17th



Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist Rite I - 8AM

Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10AM

Holy Eucharist with Pageant - 5pm

Holy Eucharist with
Candlelight and Music - 11pm

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist Rite II - Noon

Christmas Week

Parish Office Closed
December 25 - January 1



Breakfast
with
ST. NICK

**Sunday, December 10th
9am**


Greening
of the
Church

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
11:00AM**



De-Greening of the Church

Volunteers needed to remove
Christmas Greenery on
Wednesday, January 3rd at
12:30, after the Noon Eucharist



EPIPHANY EVENING PRAYER
WITH CHALK BLESSING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH - 6PM





Haven 4 Change
BLESSING TREE

 Blessing Tree tags are available now.
 Pick one up on Sunday
 or stop by the Church Office

Gifts must be returned by
Sunday, December 17th.

Gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped.
 If wrapped, please include a note
 describing the items.

The Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will next meet Sunday December 3rd at 11:30 a.m. in the Hines Chapel.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St Andrew invites all men and male youth of Christ Church to join us in service to the church and to the community. Our next meeting will be Saturdays, December 2nd and 16th.

The Parish Register

Birthdays

12/01	Ken Stein	12/13	Elaine Price	12/18	Chris Grinstead II
12/03	Maryanne Ringo	12/13	Julie Stewart	12/19	Susan Cook
12/03	Ann Brown	12/13	Alexander Smith	12/21	Bill Cleavinger
12/05	Miliska Knauft	12/13	Maya Smith	12/22	Rhondetta Walton
12/06	George Niva	12/14	Marcia Eastin	12/22	Tony Smith
12/06	Beth Sigler	12/15	Tiffany Curry	12/23	Alexandria Lahman
12/07	Indie Tabor	12/16	Mary Lloyd Moore	12/25	Nick Heil
12/08	Sharon Valk	12/16	Carie Carmichael	12/27	Alan Vilines
12/09	George Anna McKenzie	12/17	Gary Reimer	12/28	Sally Heil
12/10	Gil Crouch Jr.	12/17	Bonnie Schlicht	12/29	Susan Crouch
12/12	Jamie Chaffin	12/17	Chris Minix	12/29	Zachary Burt
12/12	Ellie Mills			12/31	Rick DuBose

Financial Reports

Christ Episcopal Church				
Outreach Funds Report for period ending October 31, 2023				
Fund Name	Balance - 01/01/2023	YtD Income	YtD Expense	Balance - 10/31/2023
All Saints Center	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
All Saints Scholarship	2,731.75	540.00	860.00	2,411.75
Bishop's Discretionary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Churches United in Christ Help Ministry	2,529.73	20,753.00	17,100.00	6,182.73
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministry	1,417.00	0.00	1,417.00	0.00
Diocese of Jerusalem Good Friday Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM)	961.88	569.02	0.00	1,530.90
Episcopal Relief & Development - Hurricanes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)	2,605.81	179.00	795.34	1,989.47
Hotel Inc	1,016.03	28,220.00	29,000.00	236.03
Living Waters for the World	5,022.63	329.95	0.00	5,352.58
Meals, Inc	2,299.97	1,050.00	2,462.37	887.60
Room In The Inn	1,775.08	600.00	480.13	1,894.95
Stephen Ministry	137.85	0.00	0.00	137.85
United Thank Offering - Ascension Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wednesday Community Lunch Ministry	8,252.56	4,295.50	2,290.87	10,257.19
Wednesday Community Lunch Ministry		2181 served YTD; 17 volunteers average/week		
Yoga	2,576.89	75.11	2,642.00	10.00
TOTAL	31,327.18	56,611.58	57,047.71	30,891.05
Rector Discretionary	0.00	3,987.63	3,987.63	0.00
Associate Rector Discretionary	0.00	3,207.63	3,207.63	0.00
Deacon Discretionary	0.00	1,626.82	1,626.82	0.00
TOTAL	0.00	8,822.08	8,822.08	0.00
TOTAL OUTREACH INCOME		65,433.66		

Financial Reports

Christ Episcopal Church					
Operating Fund Report for period ending October 31, 2023					
Account #	Account Name	OCT 2023	YTD 2023	Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
INCOME					
	Parish Offerings	35,813.67	487,029.76	687,949.00	71%
	Diocesan Support	5,822.92	41,729.20	47,875.00	87%
	Investment Income	30,000.00	36,192.00	80,242.38	45%
	Miscellaneous Income	101.00	164.00	2,000.00	8%
	INCOME TOTAL	71,737.59	565,114.96	818,066.38	69%
EXPENSE					
	Adminstration	1,604.45	20,507.85	32,500.00	63%
	Buildings and Property	9,562.52	99,164.48	132,600.00	75%
	Christian Formation	1,235.37	13,388.03	17,250.00	78%
	WKU Episcoapl Campus Ministry (ECM)	768.19	6,668.04	10,000.00	67%
	Diocesan and Vestry Support	8,478.00	86,270.67	105,756.00	82%
	Music Ministry	2,131.49	18,155.99	20,600.00	88%
	Parish Life	1,637.10	17,841.31	16,700.00	107%
	Worship	1,539.01	4,815.59	5,000.00	96%
	Staff Salaries and Benefits	44,400.54	442,495.46	530,519.50	83%
	EXPENSE TOTAL	71,356.67	709,307.42	870,925.50	81%
	NET SURPLUS (DIFFERENCE)	380.92	(144,192.46)	(52,859.12)	

The Parish Online

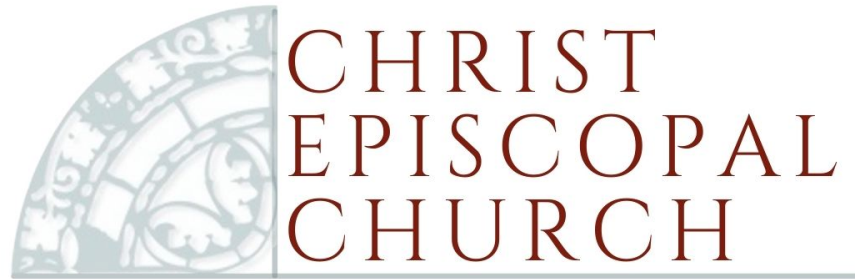
Be sure to check the parish's website at www.cecbg.com for any communication you might have missed. *The Lancet*, our weekly electronic newsletter and *The Window* monthly newsletter are found under the Connect menu. You can also check the church calendar along with the Ministry Scheduler under the Calendar menu.

Always remember to check Christ Church's Facebook page for up to date information and event pictures. You can like us at www.facebook.com/cecbg. You can also check out our YouTube channel. You can do so by clicking [here](#) or searching for CECBG on YouTube. Subscription doesn't cost anything, and helps us reach more people to Radiate God's Love to All!

Remember to check out the **Diocese of Kentucky** website for all things related to the Diocese. You can find news and events along with ministries the Diocese is partnered. Go to www.episcopalky.org



Christ Episcopal Church
1215 State Street
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101
(270) 843-6563
www.cebgb.com



Office Hours

Monday—Wednesday

8:30am—4:30pm

Thursday

8:30am—1:00pm

Friday

Closed

Service Times

Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite One

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Wednesday

7:00am Morning Prayer

12:00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers

**Christ Episcopal Church
is a community of
Christ's servants who seek to —
Worship God with joy and wonder,
Learn and Grow together, and
Radiate God's love to all.**

Clergy And Staff

The Reverend Dr. Steven J. Pankey
Rector

steve@cebgb.com

The Reverend Rebecca Kello

Associate Rector,

*Chaplain to the Episcopal Campus Ministry
at WKU*

becca@cebgb.com

The Venerable Kellie Mysinger

Deacon

Archdeacon of the Diocese of Kentucky

kellie@cebgb.com

Vonda Garringer

Parish Administrator

vonda@cebgb.com

C. Kenneth Stein

Director of Music and Organist

ken@cebgb.com

Kate Cline

Director of Children's Faith Formation

kate@cebgb.com

The Vestry

2023 Class

Mike Harper

Peggy McKillip

Paula Maier

Scarlett Winters

2024 Class

John Carter

Jim Dale

David Lee

Brenda Willoughby

2025 Class

Tommy Adams

Carol DuBose

Jamie Chaffin

Sharon Valk

Paula Maier, *Senior Warden*

John Carter, *Junior Warden*

David Lee, *Secretary*

Ann Puckett, *Treasurer*

Hamp Moore, *Asst. Treasurer*

Mark Eastin, *Asst. Treasurer*

**Seven Parish Ministry Areas
And Vestry Member Liaisons**

Worship

Tommy Adams & Paula Maier

Learn

Christian Formation

Carol DuBose & Jamie Chaffin

Grow

Congregational Development

Mike Harper &

Scarlett Winters

Radiate

Fellowship

Jim Dale & Brenda Willoughby

Radiate

Outreach

Peggy McKillip & Sharon Valk

Radiate

Pastoral Care

John Carter & David Lee

