

Christ Church Pomfret
P O Box 21
Pomfret, CT 06258



THE COURIER FOR DECEMBER 2015

Christ Church, 527 Pomfret Street / PO Box 21, Pomfret, CT 06258
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The Rev. David M. Carter, Rector



Musings

I reprint the following in honor of one of our "every day saints", the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Elmen, who composed it:

**Dona Nobis Pacem
A Christmas Prayer, 1991**

*O Babe of Heaven, cradled once in hay,
O Wisdom beyond thought, O Mystery,
Forgive our wonderment, our questioning,
We clutch inanity beneath enchanted skies.
Have mercy on us.*

*O Stranger, Lord of all our wildly spinning globe,
O Maid's Son, our abiding loveliness,
Jesu, joy of humankind's desiring,
Look down with pity on our earthbound plight.
Have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, Who died and yet who lives,
O Stillness in the tumult of the skies,
Teacher who spoke to us of faring forth,
Give us, time tossed, grace still to speak of
Thee.
Grant us thy peace.*

Merry Christmas --- Dave

Worship & Formation

Healing Eucharist Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. followed by Breakfast at the Bean! No Wednesday service on Dec. 30th. Names for **The Prayer Chain**? Call the office: 860-315-7780.

Readers & Acolyte Notes - if you are not assigned you can often help out. It's important for acolytes to come early on the Christmas Eve services at 4:30 and 10:30. Candles and other prep. Thanks. Dayna Flath 860-974-3276!

Specials! December 20th is Pageant Sunday when, at the 10:15 time slot, we all gather with our young people to celebrate the Nativity at the Tang Center at Rectory School. Dave is on a break after Christmas. The Rev. Jim Kellaway will be Celebrant and Preacher on Dec. 27th. Dave is back on January 3rd with Jane on as worship leader.

Epiphany Open House

***You are invited!
At the Carters***

***Sat. January 2nd
5:30 p.m.***

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

4:30p – Lessons, Carols & Eucharist
(Children & Family Eucharist)

10:30p – Festival Eucharist
(Choir & Candlelight)

Christmas Day

9:00a – Holy Eucharist

Pageant Sunday



Christmas Pageant

December 20, 2015

**10:15 a.m. Service
Tang Auditorium
(Rectory School)**

Church School News - What a wonderful time we've had together downstairs considering the Saints in history, the church, our families and friends (and in ourselves!) throughout November. **Thank you** to all of our special guests who shared their time and talent with the children. And thank you to the Shepherds who faithfully guided them through their activities each Sunday. We are blessed and grateful for your commitment!

Church School is participating in **Heifer International's "Read to Feed" global outreach project** this holiday season. From December 1st through Christmas and Epiphany, children of all ages are encouraged to curl up with a good book for a good cause! Relatives and friends may pledge to donate a certain amount for each book read, or may simply make a one-time donation, either online or offline. Funds donated to Heifer before Jan. 31st will be matched dollar for dollar! An informational booklet about the program will be sent home to families. (See me if you need one!) You can also visit our "**Christ Church School Pomfret**" team page at www.readtofeed.org; to donate, learn more, and track our progress. This is an opportunity to talk as a family about the MANY less fortunate folk in the world as we indulge in our own prosperity this Christmas.

During Advent, all of the Christ Church youth programs collaborate on the production of our annual Christmas Pageant with oversight by Donna Bessette. Youngest Church School members are cast as angels, shepherds and friendly beasts, with older youth (generally) having the roles with lines and solo music performances. In addition to learning their Pageant song, children in preschool and Kindergarten will be exploring the Godly Play Advent stories with Mrs. Galante. Teens learn hand bell chimes and other instruments, help the younger children practice their parts each Sunday, and do costumes and make-up for the show. This year our Pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 20th at the Tang Auditorium on the Rectory School campus** (across the street) during the 10:15 family service. A rehearsal will be held on **Saturday December 19th**, at 10am for spoken parts and 11am for angels, shepherds and animals. Costumes will be sent home from church on Sun. Dec. 6 & 13. If your child needs one and cannot attend either of those days, please contact me so we can have one ready for you at the Saturday rehearsal. There will be online links to the Pageant script and music in the Thursday Reminders if your child would like to practice at home, but please remember that this is a fun, no-pressure event!

May the blessings for peace, love and joy fill your homes in abundance this Advent season.

Nicole Nichols, Church School Director ccchurchschoolpomfret@gmail.com



Teen Program News (Journey to Adulthood) - Safe Church Training sites can be found at the diocese website: www.ctdiocese.org. ALSO just announced - DeeDee will be stepping down as the Teen Coordinator, so anyone is interested in the position, please speak with Fr. Dave.

Fundraiser Info is in discussion.

Rite-13 - The Rite 13ers are helping out at the St. Nicholas Fair & the Christmas Pageant.

J2A - CROSSROADS NIGHTWATCH trip is **March 4, 2016**. Permission slips need to be returned to Dee Dee Markes asap. Payment is due by Feb. 1st, please write a memo on your check with your child's name and Nightwatch, for \$85. We're looking to borrow 2-3 mini vans for the overnight trip to NY City.

YAC - They did some community service work in November and will be helping at the fair and the pageant too.

If you have any questions about the Teen Program contact DeeDee Markes at 860-963-0846 or email at deedespa@charter.net

Building and Grounds / Projects Notes -Wayne Edwards was here last month to take care of winter damage on the church roof outside the Sacristy. It was done in just a half hour and as a gift! We have another lead on water-proofing the Rectory chimneys. The Vestry approved a quote for new windows in the chapel from John Murphy. We'll be tackling the other replacements in the spring unless it continues. Snow and bad weather closings will be posted through WFSB Channel 3 and on the answering machine & through the Reminder.

Christian Social Outreach - the Committee meets once more in December for final disbursements; **Special Mission:** Our trip to Guatemala group with PID (Partners in Development) will be meeting this month. Our collaboration with the Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer continues, see the front cover of the Courier and the Reminder; **Community Kitchen on December 28th** see Pauline Phillips. **Access News** - General food supplies, nutritious snack foods for kids are appreciated OR send checks to: **Access Danielson - 231 Broad Street, Danielson, CT 06239.**

Epiphany Open House- for the parish at the Carter's on January 2nd starting at 5:30 p.m.

Music in December- Choir assembles weekly on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. for rehearsal. But we have a special invitation. Can you join us for the Christmas Choir which sings at the 10:30 service on the 24th? We are meeting on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. You can hear Nine6teen at the **9:15** on the 6th & the 13th

Nutsale- All the orders have been processed. If you don't have yours it's probably in the office! **Wreaths and Poinsettias** come in with the Fair deliveries.

Parish Life Activities -The new Coffee Hour Team Schedule for the rest of 2016 is posted on the Library Bulletin Board and can be accessed through the Reminder.

St. Nicholas Fair is on Dec. 5th. It's not too late to participate! All proceeds go out into the community. "Help us Help others".

Worship Specials: Jane Hale is preaching on December 13th; The Pageant at the Tang Center, Rectory School will be on Dec. 20th; the Rev. Jim Kellaway is taking the 8 and the 10:15 services on Dec. 27th (as well as on Jan. 10th and 17th when Dave is away in Guatemala; Jane is preaching on the 10th). No 9:15 Chapel from Dec. 20th- Jan. 3rd.

Vestry Notes - the vestry met for their regular meeting on Nov. 11th reviewing expenditures, revenues and the endowment as well as the continuing program year. Next Meeting is Wednesday, December 9th at 7 p.m. when we will be reviewing our budget and making phone calls for stewardship 2016.

Women's Spirituality Workshop- a time of spiritual and faith exploration, story-sharing, and celebrating our Sisterhood! More than 15 of us gathered in November. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jane Hale at jclhale@charter.net.



What better subject to read about during the holiday season than stories about Christmas? Consider visiting the Christ Church Library for one of these titles, all of which present the Christmas Story in art as well as in prose.

Adult: A Gallery of Reflections: the Nativity of Christ by Richard Harries. This book is a compilation of diverse paintings of scenes from the Nativity story, each accompanied by a commentary written by the author, a retired bishop of the Church of England. His commentary is thought-provoking and lends itself to both contemplation and meditation.

Young Adult: A Child is Born by Billy Tucci. In November I went to the Comic-Con Convention in Providence, where I met author Billy Tucci, who has turned the story of the birth of Jesus from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke into a comic book (although unlike most comic books, this one is in hard cover). The story begins with the three Magi preparing for a journey to follow a star and ends as Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt. This is truly an exceptional, stunningly beautiful book.

Children: The Christmas Story: from the Gospel according to St. Luke from the King James Bible illustrated by James Bernardin. This book begins with taxes being levied by Emperor Cesar Augustus and ends with the shepherds marveling at what they saw. While the story of the birth of Jesus may be familiar, the beautiful paintings in this book will help convey a deeper understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Ages 4-8.

Just a reminder, feel free to offload your old DVDs and books for others in the Christ Church DVD and Book Swap.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
  		1 Fair Prep Week 9:30a-11a Clergy Group	2 Fair Prep Week 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 12p AA Meeting in the Class rooms	3 Fair Prep Week 7:30p AA Meeting in the Class rooms	4 Fair Prep Week Fr. Dave's Day Off	5 10a-2p St. Nicholas Fair
6 Dave, preacher 8a, 9:15 and 10:15 Services	7	8 9:30a-11a Clergy Group	9 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 12p AA Meeting 7p-9p Vestry	10 1p Spirituality in the 2 nd Half of Life – Oscar Brockmeyer leading 7:30p AA Meeting	11 Fr. Dave's Day Off	12
13 8a, 9:15 and 10:15 Services Jane Hale, Preacher (8 & 10:15)	14	15 9:30a-11a Clergy Group	16 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 12 AA Meeting	17 7:30p AA Meeting	18 Fr. Dave's Day Off	19 10a-12p Pageant Rehearsal
20 Pageant Sunday 8a & 10:15 Services Only	21 6:30p-8:30p Spirit Companions	22 Winter Solstice 9:30a-11a Clergy Group	23 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 12p AA Meeting	24 Christmas Eve 4:30p & 10:30 Services (No AA)	25 Christmas 9a Service 	26
27 8a & 10:15 Services Jim Kellaway, guest	28	29 9:30a-11a Clergy Group	30 12p AA Meeting	31 (No AA) New Year's Eve Office Closed	Notes:	



Volunteers are always welcome (and needed) to join in on our programs.

Ushers - *Brian Bastow*

Inreach - *Judy Miller*

Community Kitchen - *Pauline Phillips*

Church School - *Nicole Nichols*

Parish Life - *Peter Mann or Caroline Sloat*

Altar Guild - *Linda Goodwin*

CSO - *Judy Miller*

Choir - *Jim Dehls*

Coffee Hour - *Catherine Bastow*

Schedule: Serving on Sundays for December 2015

	3rd Sunday of Advent 12/13/2015	4th Sunday of Advent 12/20/2015 <i>Christmas Pageant</i>	Christmas Eve 12/24/2015 4:30 pm Service	Christmas Eve 12/24/2015 10:30 pm Service	Christmas Day 12/25/2015 9:00 am Service Only	1st Sunday after Christmas 12/27/2015	2nd Sunday after Christmas 1/3/2016
Lector	S. Bridgman	Youth	Youth	C. Sloat	Christine	C. Norris	D. Flath
LEM's	S. Bridgman W. Danenhower		S. Adams B. Anderson	C. Sloat D. Flath	Christine	S. Adams B. Phillips	D. Flath B. Anderson
Altar Guild	The Heslers D. Crawford Wed 12/16 J. Hague	A. Sheldon Wed 12/23 L. Goodwin	9a Set Up L. Goodwin D. Crawford 4:30 D. Patton	P. Phillips	L. Goodwin	L. Goodwin L. Swenson Wed 12/30 no service	J. Busse J. Hague Wed 1/6/16 J. Hague
Acolytes	W. Danenhower B. Anderson		S. Adams B. Anderson	C. Sloat D. Flath	Christine	S. Adams B. Phillips	D. Flath B. Anderson
Ushers	N. Weiss C. Sloat	R. Wishart B. Bastow	Volunteers	P. Mann P. McCarthy	Volunteers	T. Hamilton B. Bastow	P. McCarthy R. Wishart
Nursery	Carrie	Carrie					Carrie
Coffee Hour	Purple Team	Parish Life	No Coffee	No Coffee	No Coffee	Volunteers	Turquoise
Flowers							

Coffee Hour	Bill & Jan						Bill & Jan
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Celebrant	Fr. Dave	No Rectory	No Rectory	No Rectory	No Rectory	No Rectory	No Rectory
Music	<i>Nine6teen</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>Chapel</i>

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY LIST

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Warren Johnson | 15 - Tim Apicelli |
| 2 - Peter Mann | 17 - Charles Paul |
| 4 - Brian Bastow | 20 - Nathalie Bessette, Helen Hale |
| 5 - Jake Battye | 21 - Miranda Brown |
| 7 - Rhonda Wishart | 24 - Nicole Nichols, Chris Landis |
| 8 - Cliff Buttermark, Abram Nichols | 25 - Bill Wright |
| 11 - Lila Brooks, Jacob Straub | 29 - Emily Galante |
| 12 - Jared Vincent, Ray Erskine | 30 - Christine Carter |

Happy Anniversary to:

- 31 - Steve & Maggie Gagnon