

THE COURIER

January 2015



Christ Church, 527 Pomfret Street / PO Box 21, Pomfret, CT 06258
www.christchurchpomfret.org / christchurchpomfret@gmail.com / 860-928-7026
The Rev. David M. Carter, Rector

Musings

“.... And a partridge in a pear tree.” So the song begins and ends celebrating the 12 days of Christmas and reminding us of the Christmas season right up to January 6th. The old joke is that it’s just as well that there are 12 days of Christmas so we can get out the cards, exchange gifts, visit friends and post presents. Those “extra” days allow some sanity. In the church calendar those days take precedence over the “new year” celebrations that get our attention on the 31st. But it’s hard to remember this as the excitement has often worn off, the anticipation of surprise has been met or disappointed and the enjoyment gone by. Though it could be a time to do what we were not able in Advent. It could be a time to be reminded of all that the Christ-child is sharing with us this Christmas. Because we are participating in Him we can do the “work” of Christmas all year round. As Howard Thurman puts it in the poem I printed last year:

“I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.” ----- Fr. Dave

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Musings	1
Christian Formation	1
Acolytes	1
Church School & Teen Program News	2
Ministry Reports	3
Calendar	4
Schedules	5
Birthdays / Anniversaries / Upcoming Events	6
Library Reads / Financial Update	7

Worship @ Formation

Looking for a healthy New Year’s resolution?

This workshop with the Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer (Spiritual Director), supported by Dr. Murray Buttner, Dr. Heather Sullivan and Doe West will focus on all-around health: spirit, body & heart, health of all kinds with a prayer (not a theology) focus. Four Saturdays every other week, starts on Jan. 24th in our Great Hall, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. See Poster at Church or on-line in January.

Thursday Services have been suspended for the winter months of January & February. Start up again on **March 5th**; Names for The Prayer Chain? Call the office and leave a message.

Rectory School Chapel- Sunday Chapels on Jan. 11th & 25th with Chaplain Will & on Jan. 18th with Rev. Dave; Jan. 8th & 9th, Mid-week Chapels.

Readers & Acolyte Notes - Thanks to all for your commitment. Even if you are not assigned you can often help out on a Sunday. Let Dayna Flath 974-3276 know if you will not be around!

Church School News - Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents in our Church School in 2014. We'd also like to thank both veteran and new volunteers who will work with us downstairs in the coming months. Working with our youngest parishioners is truly a rewarding opportunity!

Once again the children and teens of Christ Church put on a fantastic Christmas Pageant. What talent among our youth! The pageant would not be possible without the help of many who tirelessly work with the children to help memorize lines, learn songs, pass out costumes and help get the children ready the morning of the pageant. Thank you to all who stepped in when we needed you!

As we welcome the children back on January 4th, Grades 1-4 we will begin a five week unit on Epiphany. We will introduce this unit using the Beulah Felt Board Story. This rotational unit will also include workshops in cooking, art, Godly Play and a new Lego based curriculum.

In January, the PreK and Kindergarten class will explore many of the fabulous Godly Play Parable stories. If you are interested in learning more about this hands-on Montessori style approach to Church School, please contact us. We are always looking for individuals who are willing to substitute in one of the Godly Play classrooms as well as with the older children in Grades 1-4.

May the peace and joy of Christmas carry you and your family into the New Year!

In Peace,
Amy Landis and Nicole Nichols

Please email cchurchschoolpomfret@gmail.com if you are interested in (or have any questions about) the church school programs/activities.

Teen Program News (Journey to Adulthood)

Fundraiser Info: Jan. 31, 2015 Chili Cook off - The J2Aer will need 3 chili "heads" to judge the contest and prizes for the raffle table are needed. Contact (or see) DeeDee Markes for more information or donations.

Other Fundraisers coming up in 2015: March 7, 2015 Corned Beef Dinner **May 2, 2015** Rummage Sale

Rite-13 - thanks so much for the help given by the Rite-13ers who helped with the Fair as well as the Christmas Eve Services. Great job

J2A - Thanks to all our teens who baked cookies as a group for the St Nicholas Fair. The Semancik family graciously volunteered their home on Friday night (12/5/14).

By now you all should have your \$100 deposit handed in. The schedule for the rest of the \$650 will go as follows: \$200 was due by Oct. 25, 2014, **\$200 due Jan. 25, 2015** and \$250 due March 25, 2015. If you want to pay for the remaining balance all at once, that's fine, as long as it is before the first deadline.

YAC - Thanks to those who were able to help with the Fair.

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



Ministry Reports

Building and Grounds / Projects Notes - Snow and bad weather closings will be posted through WFSB Channel 3 and on the answering machine & through the Reminder. We have mostly resolved the communications issues in the office. Call Dave's cell phone if necessary (860-608-7632) but be sure to leave a message. We will be reconsidering our commitment to using Frontier in the new year. The refinishing project for the Library floor and table and the front foyer of the office building is now complete. Over the Christmas break the crew will work on Dave's office floor. John Murphy is working on new doors for the Library which, we discovered, do not need to be fire-rated. This will make replacing them easier and cheaper. We've just completed a walk-through with the new Pomfret fire marshal who has flagged a few items but nothing serious. The main issues were the Exit Sign lights and buzzers in the classroom wing which have now been replaced.

Christian Social Outreach - CSO Committee met in December and recommended final outreach disbursement for the year. **We have distributed over \$22,000 in relief aid this year; Community Kitchen** cooking did not happen in December. We are still waiting on a verdict for January. Speak with Pauline Phillips (through the office). **Pomfret School's Pam Mulcahy** (Assoc. Head) led a class in December on world-wide food production & food issues. Her class made casseroles and soup that you can find in our freezer to distribute as wanted/needed. **Access News** - General food supplies, nutritious snack type foods for children would be appreciated OR send checks to: **Access Danielson - 231 Broad Street, Danielson, CT 06239**. Access is now picking up our donations weekly. The J2A collected non-perishable foods for TEEG in November. Thanks for all your support on this. TEEG tends to serve the communities just north of us while Access serves those south.

Music Ministry - The Adult Choir... Jim Dehls and Dennis Patton say thank you, thank you to all the choir including all those "visitors" that helped swell the ranks on Christmas Eve! They also continue to invite any and all to come out for **Choir** which meets weekly at 9 a.m. in the Choir Room Sundays. **Nine6teen's** next Contemporary Service will be on January 18th!

Parish Life Activities -Coffee Hour Teams and the Schedule is posted and online through the Thursday Reminder. You can always let the office know if you can or want to join a Team. The Coffee Hour team schedule continues as published through January. During the month Caroline and Catherine will be checking in with each of the captains to confirm that you will be continuing in that role (much appreciated by one and all!). If anyone is not yet part of a team and would like to get into the coffee hour hospitality rotation after the 10:15 service, please talk with one of us or our rector, so that we can get you involved. Look for a new schedule in the Thursday reminder and February Courier. And many thanks to all who are already part of this shared venture. **In terms of parish events, don't miss the Chili Cookoff on Sat., Jan. 31st!**

St. Nicholas Fair was on Dec. 6th. Thanks to all your help. As we go to "press" the numbers look very good. We've probably raised close to \$12,000. We are posting the photos that Jim Goodwin took on line through the Reminder but you can also view them on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Pastoral Notes - Inreach- Prayer Shawl Ministry- Prayer shawl meeting TBA. We had Blessings on Dec. 14th and a number of shawls were delivered to folks after church. Shawls can be blessed by request- Info in the Thursday Reminder. The new Coordinator of the Prayer Shawls is Rebecca Patenaude. Her contacts are: 860-928-5504 or email patenaude.rebecca@gmail.com

Vestry Notes -Vestry decided not to meet in December. The plan for our Stewardship campaign has now concluded. We voted the final CSO outlays by email. Next vestry meeting will be on Wed. January 14th at 7. That meeting is very important as we vote the 2015 Budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting. We discuss Vestry turnover and candidates and status of the Stewardship program.

Worship Notes for January- 8 and 10:15 services on Jan. 4th, All services on 11th, 18th and 25th; The next **Contemporary Service** along with a Baptism led by Nine6teen is on January 18th; **Rectory Mid-week Chapels** on Jan. 8th and 9th. Regular Services on **Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan. 25th**.

						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1/14 Vestry Meeting at 7p 1/18 Contemporary Music Service at 10:15a 1/25 ANNUAL MEETING at 11:45a 1/31 Chili Cookoff Fundraiser for J2A 6p-8p				1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 	2 Fr. Dave's Day Off	3
4 8a and 10:15 Services	5	6 Epiphany 9:30a Fr. Dave/Clergy 	7 12p AA Meeting Library	8 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 7:30p AA Meeting	9 Fr. Dave's Day Off	10
11 Human Trafficking Awareness 8a,9:15&10:15 Services	12	13 9:30a Fr. Dave/Clergy	14 12p AA Meeting Library 7p Vestry	15 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 7:30p AA Meeting	16 Fr. Dave's Day Off	17
18 8a,9:15&10:15 Services 10:15a Contemporary Service & Baptism	19 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 	20 9:30a Fr. Dave/Clergy	21 12p AA Meeting Library	22 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 7:30p AA Meeting	23 Fr. Dave's Day Off	24 9:30a Spirit and Health Workshop
25 8a,9:15&10:15 Services 12p Annual Meeting Sunday	26	27 9:30a Fr. Dave/Clergy	28 12p AA Meeting Library	29 7:30a Healing Eucharist 8:30a B'fast at the Bean 7:30p AA Meeting	30 Fr. Dave's Day Off	31 6p-8p J2A Chili Cookoff 

NOTE: All Annual Reports have to be submitted by January 12th to be included in the Parish Annual Report used at the Annual Meeting on January 25th. Thanks

Schedule: Serving on Sundays for January 2015 - February 1, 2015

	2nd Sunday after Christmas 1/4/2015	1st Sunday after Epiphany 1/11/2015	2nd Sunday after Epiphany 1/18/2015 Cont Svc / Baptism	3rd Sunday after Epiphany 1/25/2015	4th Sunday after Epiphany 2/1/2015
Lector	S. Bridgman	G. Groom	D. Patten	B. Anderson	B. Phillips
LEM's	P. Mann	D. Flath	D. Flath	B. Anderson	B. Phillips
	M. Bridgman	B. Phillips	B. Anderson	W. Danenhower	S. Bridgman
Altar Guild	L. Goodwin	P. Phillips	J. Busse	A. Sheldon	M. MacNair
	D. Patton	J. Hague	D. Crawford & Heslers	M. Eichorn	L. Swenson
Acolytes	P. Mann	D. Flath	D. Flath	B. Anderson	B. Phillips
	M. Bridgman	B. Phillips	B. Anderson	W. Danenhower	C. Sloat
			F. Rigney		
Ushers	B. Bastow	P. McCarthy	N. Weiss	P. Mann	R. Wishart
	R. Wishart	C. Lounsbury	C. Sloat	G. Nichols	B. Bastow
Nursery	Carrie	Carrie	Carrie	Carrie	Carrie
Coffee Hour	Turquoise Team	Blue Team	Green Team	Parish Life	
Flowers					
	1/4/15	1/11/15	1/18/15	1/25/15	2/1/15
Coffee Hour	Jim & Linda				
	1/4/15	1/11/15	1/18/15	1/25/15	2/1/15
Celebrant	NO RECTORY	W. Whitmore	Fr. Dave	W. Whitmore	Fr. Dave
Music		<i>Nine6teen</i>	<i>Nine6teen</i>	<i>Nine6teen</i>	<i>Nine6teen</i>

Acolytes - If you can't serve on the Sunday you are scheduled, please contact Dayna Flath as soon as possible so a substitute can be found.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 4 - Sarah Bridgman
- 5 - Joshua Malboeuf
- 6 - Amanda Wedegis
- 7 - Sarah Cass
- 9 - Claudia Abbott, Paul Warner
- 10 - Jason McNally
- 11 - Mac White, Stan Sheldon Jr., Chris Crawford Jr.
- 14 - Grayson McCarthy, Jim Zahansky
- 17 - Carole Buttner
- 20 - Thomas Bergendahl
- 27 - Marsha Sokoloski
- 28 - Edwin Sheldon
- 31 - Gail McCarthy

Happy Anniversary to:

- 2 - Paul & Lisa Humphreys

Saint Nicholas **Fair**

The chair persons for the St. Nick Fair would like to take this opportunity again to thank EVERYONE who helped make the fair a success again this year.
Dayna and Lisa

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

Need a healthier New Year's Resolution?

Join us for 4 Saturday mornings starting on
January 24th

At 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall

Workshops led by the Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer,
Drs. Murray Buttner & Heather Sullivan & Doe West

The health of the body and
the health of the spirit.

Vision & Ventures

Packet are all out. If you didn't receive one and would like to pledge, please contact the office at 860-928-7026.

Annual Reports - *due* mid-January;
they don't have to be long!

Annual Meeting

January 25, 2015

11:45 a.m. - Great Hall

Soup and Refreshments: Parish Life

10th Annual J2A Chili Cook Off

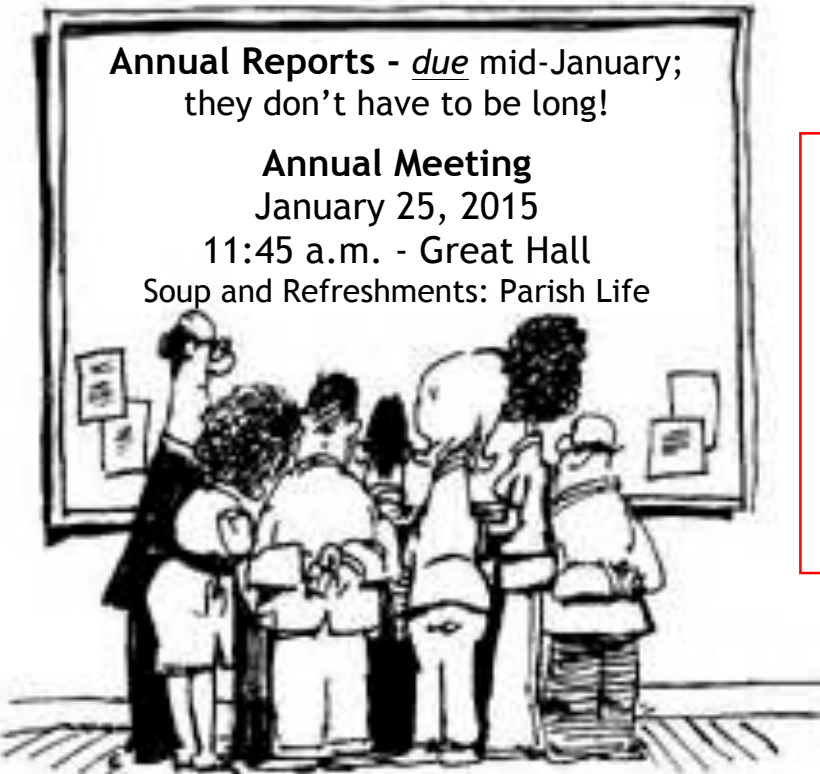
January 31, 2015

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Christ Church Great Hall

Prizes for best chili with
3 categories to choose from
Best Cornbread Contest also

Contact DeeDee Markes for more details





With the holidays behind us and winter setting in, January is a great time to visit the Christ Church Library for some good reads when stuck at home on a cold, snowy night. Try some of these titles:

For children: **The Story of Snow: the Science of Winter's Wonder** by Mark Cassino (J 551.57 CAS)

How do snow crystals form? Is it true that no two snowflakes are alike? These and other questions about snow are answered in this book, accompanied by scientifically stunning illustrations.

For young adults: **The Winter Prince** by Elizabeth E. Wein (YA F Wei)

This fantasy novel retells an Arthurian story of the complex and complicated relationship between two brothers. This book is part of the Lion Hunters series.

For adults: **Footprints in the Snow: the Autobiography of a Chinese Buddhist Monk** by Chang Master Sheng Yen (294.3 SHE)

In this memoir Master Shen Yen describes his spiritual journey along side the history of China during the Communist Revolution, his years as a member of the nationalist army, and life in the present day.

Do you have input or ideas for the Library? Email them: sraarch7569@gmail.com - Kristin

Your Church: Sharing the Feast

Stewardship 2014: Finishing up the year! Visions and Ventures: As we head into the conclusion of our fiscal year our numbers are looking quite good thanks to your support. With 92% of the year gone in November we have 95.2% of pledges paid. Pledges are the most crucial part of our income. Other income such as endowment, the Rectory School donation, the Fair all come in periodically with the final installments coming in December (not yet concluded as of this edition of the Courier). So at this point of the year we usually run a deficit. This year's is one of the lowest in recent memory, about \$13,000. It is often quite a bit higher. Again, thanks for your support!

Visions and Ventures: To date we have received about 55 pledges for the new year. We hope that during the Christmas celebrations you will be able to get back to your desk to look over our pledge materials and mail in, bring in or email your pledge. Our Vestry meets next on January 14th and we'd like to be able to report that we are close to or even surpassing the efforts of 2014 (100 pledges)! Thanks

What happens when the Christmas Pageant gets scheduled in mid-December.



Christ Church
527 Pomfret Street
Intersection Rtes. 169 & 44

Phone:
860-928-7026

Fax:
860-963-2684

E-Mail:
christchurchpomfret@gmail.com

Mission:
"To seek and serve
Christ in all
persons..."

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.christchurchpomfret.org

Christ Church
P O Box 21
Pomfret, CT 06258

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Putnam, CT
Permit #
Zip Code 06260

Parishioner Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code