Greetings and peace to each of you as we begin this sacred time of the year!

Advent is a time of waiting, hoping, repentance, and expectation. Often Advent is full of preparations. We prepare for the birth of Christ anew in our hearts and world.

For many of us the flurry of activity is joyful and for others it is stressful. Advent invites us to be intentional—to make room in our hearts, and to truly focus on Christ’s coming anew, and what God’s love living in us moves us to do. For example, to be peacemakers, to extend Jesus’ welcome, to give gifts (not necessarily presents) to those who need them most, to open our hearts that Christ may dwell anew in us.

I came across William Freburger’s reflections recently. He writes, “Luke’s Gospel account of the Christmas event is full of activity…And yet, in the middle of the frenetic action, here is this woman wrapped in mystical silence…She demonstrates the necessity of a quiet place within ourselves at Christmastime—that place where we are most ourselves in relation to God. It is a place of silence, not because it is untouched by all the activity of our lives, but because it is capable of wonder. Every prayer begins with silent wonder before it turns to words. Our first response to God is dumbstruck awe at who [God] is and what [God] has done for us.”

And so may you find that place in your heart that is quiet--that place that wonders, that gives thanks, and that knows Emmanuel, “God with us” again.

God Bless each of you this Advent and Christmas!

Allison

Check the Calendar! A lot goes on here at Christ Church, and to keep track, we have an online calendar on our website www.christchurchkennebunk.org Please let the Secretary know if you have events to add, or notice any errors: Jane King 985-4494 jkchristchurch@gwi.net
The members of the Cabinet have shown remarkable commitment to the life of Christ Church. All the members are serving on multiple committees and performing additional tasks as the need arises.

The reason I point this out is because two years ago, this was not the case. The Cabinet was bogged down with trying to do everything, because there were hardly any functioning committees to carry on the work. Today, we have dedication, enthusiasm and Christian love. Yes, love is not too strong a word to use, because I see it everywhere I look. Visiting shut-ins, taking meals to those in need, and driving people to doctor’s appointments are the ways in which we are serving as the hands and feet of Christ.

As the Search Committee gets closer to finding a settled pastor, it is heartening to see an active and vibrant church family working together to expand the word of God. Outreach missions such as Bon Appetit, Habitat for Humanity, and Biddeford Adult Education breakfasts get us out into the community, bringing the love of Christ to those in need.

We have been led by Allison to become a stronger, more self-sufficient church family, confident in our faith and ability to minister to those around us. Let us spread the Good News by inviting a friend to worship at Christ Church during the Advent Season.

With Blessings and Faith,

Beverly Heald
Christ Church Cabinet Chair

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 1st 10 am Hope!
Join us as we begin the Advent season with communion. Find the center that you need for the season. A puppet show will bless our service.

Monday, December 2nd 6 pm Family Advent Supper
An opportunity for families to socialize and discuss how Christ Church can best support their families. There will be a special Advent craft for the children!

Sunday, December 8th 10 am Peace!
We sing “peace on earth”—How do we live it this Advent?

Sunday, December 15 10 am “Joy Is…” Intergenerational service led by our Youth – Join us for this very special Sunday when we will discover the true meaning of joy.
At 2 pm there will be a Christmas Concert with sing-along caroling.

Sunday, December 22nd 10 am Love!
This service will be marked with love as we celebrate the baptism of two young members of our church family. Guest vocalist John Manzo will bless the service!

Tuesday, December 24th 7:30 pm Christmas Eve
Join us for a family Christmas Eve service filled with candle light and music. The story of Christ’s birth, Bell Choir, and special music will fill your heart! Invite your friends, a neighbor, your family!
Many hands made light work and have given a boost to the Christ Church budget. Income from the Pine Cone Fair was $2665.50. A check for $252.50, the proceeds from “Grandma’s Attic” was sent to CCOS for local fuel assistance. After paying all the bills, we added $2171.50 to the Christ Church coffers. Thank you to all for a very productive and fun day of fellowship!

--Betty Schofield and Liz Blackman

**FAMILY ADVENT SUPPER**

Together, the Membership Committee and the Christian Education Committee are planning a supper event for parents and children on **Monday, December 2nd** from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. A buffet supper will be provided, and afterward parents will meet with Allison and committee representatives to get acquainted and discuss what the church can do for them. At the same time, children will be engaged in making Advent wreaths for their families, with the help of teens and adults. It promises to be a productive and meaningful evening. Please RSVP to the church office, 985-4494, if you can come, and feel free to invite any other families you know who might enjoy the evening.

Families are asked to make an extra effort to bring children and youth to Sunday School on **December 8**, so they can prepare to participate in the **Joy! Intergenerational Worship Service** to be held on **December 15**.

**LADIES POTLUCK DINNER**

On **Wednesday, December 4**, at 6:00 pm, the Women’s Fellowship will host the annual Ladies’ Night Out with a potluck supper here at the church. Betty and Liz always do a great job of planning a fun-filled, fellowship-building evening. In that spirit of fellowship, each lady attending is asked to bring a Christmas tree ornament that expresses something about her to hang on our tree. There will be live music, and Santa Claus will be attending as well. This a true potluck – bring whatever dish you like, or if cooking isn’t in your lifestyle, just bring $3 to help offset the cost of the dinner. Most importantly, if you can, bring a friend – you’ll both be glad you did!

Women’s Fellowship meetings are held the **second and fourth Wednesdays** at 2:00 p.m., except for holidays, through June. The schedule for the coming year is in the Fellowship Hall and on our website, [www.christchurchkennebunk.org](http://www.christchurchkennebunk.org) In December the Women’s Fellowship will meet **December 11** to make Christmas crafts for shut-ins. Since it’s Christmas Day, there will be NO meeting the fourth week of December.

**REMEMBER THE HUNGRY**

We have a new tradition here at Christ Church. On Communion Sundays, we bring non-perishable food to gather and dedicate it at the altar for the Church Community Outreach Services’ food bank, serving people in need here in the Kennebunks. The next Communion Sunday is **December 1**; be sure to remember your contribution to ease hunger for our neighbors.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The **Pastoral Relations Committee** serves as a communication link and sounding board for the pastor and the congregation. We are here to hear your concerns, questions, or joys and then get a response back to you. The people on the committee were part of the Transition Team when Pastor Allison first came to our church, and have now shifted their focus to being the communication link as the transition period moves on in the for a settled pastor. The committee is comprised of Beverly Heald – 985-7096, Jim Anderson * 985-8823, Carol Holmberg – 467-3216, Kristen Holmberg – 467-3216, Marcia Carter – 985-7366, and Gail Preble – 967-4095. They look forward to hearing from you.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Search Committee has thus far received eight resumes of potential candidates to be our settled Pastor form the Maine Conference UCC, and they are reviewing them to narrow the search. The winnowing process will continue over the next few months until it becomes clear who is the Pastor that God has already chosen for us. The Committee is Carol Holmberg (chair), Rev. Jim Anderson, Denise Butler, Dick Cadmus, Rhoda Frederick, Beverly Heald, and Elizabeth Schofield. May our prayers and thanks and God’s guidance be with them as they progress with their work.
Local Outreach

**Holiday Food Baskets**, coordinated by Church Community Outreach Services to serve the people of the Kennebunks and Arundel, will be based at **Sea Road Church** this year. The particular foods they most need are *potatoes, onions, boxed stuffing, pudding, Jell-o, canned fruit, evaporated milk*, and *pie crust mix*, as well as other non-perishables. Also very much appreciated are donations of cash, which they use to purchase turkeys, chickens, and other fresh food items. Checks can be written to CCOS, with “Holiday Food Baskets” on the memo line, and mailed to CCOS, PO Box 1175, Kennebunk, 04043. If you can volunteer to help, please call **Donna Patterson, 651-1997**. For **Christmas**, food is to be delivered to Sea Road Church **Thursday, Dec. 19**.

**Veterans Serving Veterans**, a grass roots-program founded in Sanford in 1994, provides warm clothing, blankets, and basic necessities to local veterans in need. In support of this important mission, the Women’s Fellowship places a “**Dollars for Veterans**” bank in the sanctuary for donations in November, in honor of Veterans’ Day and again in May, in honor of Memorial Day, for donations. All funds collected will be used to purchase toiletries for the veterans, which will be delivered promptly. In November, $48 was raised – thanks to all who gave! Over 300 veterans a month are served during the cold months, and the program continues year-round. Veterans with proper ID can “shop” for what they need on **Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon at 199 Jagger Mill Road in Sanford. Veteransmilitarysurplus.blogspot.com**

Christ Church **Knitting Ministry** is a satisfying way to contribute to ministries in our community. Projects large and small are welcome, such as small prayer squares, seafarers’ caps, and lap robes and prayer shawls. Directions and yarn are available in the knitting room, and you can knit with us Sunday morning, or work at home, as suits you.

Thanks to the **Knitting Angels** who have brought seamen’s caps and lap robes into the knitting room. A recent delivery of hats to the Seafarers’ Friends mission was most gratefully received. If you’d like to get involved in this satisfying mission, yarn and instructions are available in the knitting room. As well as hand-knit caps, the **Seafarers’ Friend Mission** in Portland also very much appreciates donations of books and magazines. These can be dropped off in the Vestry.

**Bon Appetit** is a free community meals program in Biddeford. On the **fourth Tuesday of the month, at 3:45 p.m.**, a team from Christ Church carpool to Second Congregational Church in Biddeford to help prepare and serve dinner for those in need. Volunteers are always welcome to join. See Judy or Dick Cadmus for more information, 985-6788.

The students at **Biddeford Adult Education** have been enjoying the "Breakfast Boost" our volunteers are supplying for the morning break between 10:00 and 10:15. Currently, five volunteers have participated in creating and serving nutritious snacks and finger foods on Tuesday AM and the Wednesday gang is comprised of at least another six or more people. Our special friend Hannah Engel has even returned from her new home in New Hampshire to take part on Wednesdays! When you are able to participate and wish to take a turn, contact Judy Cadmus @ 985 6788 or Carol Holmberg @ 467 3218. Or you can simply contribute a nutritious dish you of your choice. It is not necessary for everyone to make the trip to Biddeford to serve the food, but the contact with the students and staff is rewarding and uplifting. Take a chance; you will probably find the experience rewarding and fun!
Coming Events

The Russians Return

On Saturday, December 7, at 2:00 pm, we will once again have the pleasure of hosting a concert by the St. Petersburg Men’s Ensemble, an outstanding a capella quartet from St. Petersburg, Russia. Their program encompasses both traditional and contemporary Russian music, some classical and some folk. Their prior performances have been very well-received, and we are happy to have been able to schedule an afternoon performance this year to make it easier for more people to enjoy their wonderful performance. Admission is $10, or $7 for Seniors or children.

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15, at 2:00 pm, some of our favorite musicians will be presenting a program of Christmas music followed by sing-along carols. Music Director Warren King will accompany virtuoso flutist Rachael Barter and the magnificent trumpeter Thomas Kremser on both piano and organ. They will be presenting both traditional Christmas music and some engaging variations. Suggested donation is $10, or $7 for Seniors or children.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee has adopted a seasonal Bible-based curriculum with easy and clear lesson plans that include all ages. The curriculum is available for review and consideration in the office. As we did last year, a rotating team of volunteer Sunday School teachers are each teaching three Sundays a month, so no one gets “burned out.” The lesson plans move sequentially through the Bible, a new reading each week, which the children find very engaging. Everything needed for related activities is provided, making it easy and enjoyable to teach. The teaching team have all found the experience enriching and joyful. As one of the volunteers, Beverly Heald, put it: “This is not my area of expertise, but I had a great time with the children. I found them to be interested and responsive to the biblical teaching, and I got as much from them as they got from me.” If you enjoy interacting with children, please think about it in a prayerful way, asking for insight into how you might be able to help bring God's love to our children. If you think you might be interested in helping with this crucial ministry, please see Allison or Beverly, or mention it to Jane King in the office 985-4494 christchurch@gwi.net

Nursery and toddler care is being provided by some of our high school youth, with adult oversight. If you think you might like to give this ministry a try, please let Allison know. Both youth and adults are welcome. If you can volunteer even one Sunday a month, the children and families will be very grateful.

Full-Tuition College Scholarships Available!

Piedmont College, a small 4-year private liberal arts college in the mountains of northeast Georgia, offers Congregational Heritage scholarships to students who are active in a UCC congregation and have a GPA of at least 3.0. These scholarships range from $17,000 to $21,000 per year, up to full tuition, and the college is actively soliciting for applicants. There are pamphlets available in the Fellowship Hall, and detailed information packets with application materials in the office. FMI: bboonstra@piedmont.edu, www.piedmont.edu

HELP WANTED - Youth Coordinator, Part-time

South Church UCC, Kennebunkport seeks a faith-filled individual to work with young people, to coordinate and oversee the church school program, Vacation Bible School and possibly collaborate adult education offerings. Previous experience preferred. Position is part-time. Call 967-2793 for more information, Rev. Charles Whiston.
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like names of loved ones included on the Special Flower List that will appear in the Christ Church Order of Service (Bulletin) on December 22nd and Christmas Eve, please fill out the slip below, include $3.00 for each name, and mail it to: Christ Church, P O Box 87, Kennebunk ME 04043 (checks payable to Christ Church). Or, place the slip and money in an envelope in the collection plate on a Sunday through Dec. 15th. THESE FLOWERS WILL BE DELIVERED TO CHURCH SHUT-INS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

The deadline for names is Sunday, December 15, 2010

In loving memory of:

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_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

In honor of:

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

Christ Church
Federated
United Methodist Church – United Church of Christ

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Rev. Allison C. G. Smith, Interim Pastor: 841-0691, interimpastor@gwi.net