



Cross Current

December 2022—January 2023



*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be
to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:10-11 KJV

Christ Episcopal Church

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find us on



Advent

“What is ingathering?” That was the question that one newish member of the congregation had for me after they received their stewardship letter.

I had put a sticker on the front of the envelope, “Potluck and ingathering December 4.” I had meant to encourage people to get their pledge cards and Time and Talent sheets in on or before December 4, and to communicate that on December 4 we would bring the offerings of money, time, and talents to the altar and pray over them. But as so often, “churchy” words had failed to communicate.

We have other “churchy” words at this time of year: Advent, for example. The first dictionary definition of advent is “The coming or arrival of something or someone that is important or worthy of note.” So grammatically it should be combined with a noun to describe what or who is arriving. “Join us for Advent” is meaningful only if someone already is immersed enough in traditional Christianity to know the second definition in the American Heritage Dictionary:

“The liturgical period preceding Christmas, beginning in Western churches on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and in Eastern churches in mid-November . . .”



So if Advent is the period preceding Christmas, is that the arrival to which it refers? The historical arrival of Jesus as a baby in about 4 B.C.E.?

That is part of it. We look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth. But if that were all of it, our church services would be more like the secular observances of this season. Instead, Advent is a season of reflection and of self-examination. Because we are preparing not only for the historical advent of Jesus into the mortal world, but also for the not-yet-advent of Christ as completion and judge of the world. The collect for the first Sunday of Advent summarizes the season:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

We look, therefore, to another kind of ingathering: the gathering by God of the faithful at the last day. What gifts will our lives present to him? How have we shaped the world he entrusted to our care?

On December 4, we will gather and bless our intentions with respect to our church community in the coming year. This whole month, let us prayerfully consider our intentions with respect to God's community, to be gathered at the time known to no man.

Vicar Jaime

...From the Treasurer

Financial Facts—October 2022

	October Actual	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget
Income			
Contributions	\$5,025.00	\$79,661.00	\$68,225.00
Other Income	\$0.00	\$1,036.86	\$1,250.00
Total Income	\$5,025.00	\$80,697.86	\$69,475.00
Expenses	\$7,967.93	\$74,330.86	\$77,450.00
Net (Deficit)	(\$2,942.93)	\$6,367.00	(\$7,975.00)



Thank you to everyone for keeping your pledges current .

You can always mail your pledge to the church PO Box:

Christ Church
PO BOX 478
St. Helens, OR 97051

Bishop's Advisory Committee Report

November—December 2022

Our building is feeling its age, and we have been busy with a number of repair projects. We had our back wall repainted, with some dry rot repair. We have a leak in the roof, and a roofing company is investigating what is needed to stop the leak. We had our septic tank pumped and discovered that we have two septic tanks! We will keep both tanks operating and pumped in the coming years. The outside light on the back door is under repair. Many many thanks to Jim Fowler, our Junior Warden.

You may have noticed that we have new bark mulch in the front of the church and over our old garden plot. These changes are part of the permaculture/outdoor sacred space project that is ongoing. We hope to be removing invasive ivy, holly and blackberry bushes from our forested area soon. You will soon hear about an advisory committee of both church and community members who will provide guidance and report back to the BAC.

The Bishop met with the BAC during her visit to us, and heard about our projects. She was very supportive of our endeavors. Thanks to everyone who helped to make her visit a success.

Carol Craig



Columbia County Habitat for Humanity

Updates

Our Habitat home on South 8th Street has been making headway towards the finish line this past month! We now have countertops in the bathrooms and kitchen, bathroom fixtures installed as well as grading the lot and burying the sewer line. The NW College of Construction managed the pouring and forming of the garage floor and they did a wonderful job. We had a lovely selection of plants donated last week and a group from Urban Development + Partners in Portland spent last Friday getting them all planted on the site .

Additionally we have plans submitted for the Vernonia home and can begin construction once the permit is issued. We also have been working this past month to enroll low income residents of Columbia County into a matched savings plan through the state to help them purchase a home in the future. Big movement on great projects this month!

Angela Carlson
Administrative Assistant
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity



What is RSV?

Parish Health Ministries

RSV stands for respiratory syncytial virus, and it's been in the news almost every night this fall. This virus is a very common one, and all of us tend to get it by age two. What is different this year is that during the past two years many children have been isolated from respiratory viruses during the pandemic. Now that precautions have been lifted, many children have been newly exposed all at once, resulting in a large number of sick children.

RSV tends to cause mild illness, and most children and adults only experience a mild flu-like illness. As adults, we tend to get RSV infections throughout our lives without serious problems. Common symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing

These symptoms usually appear in stages rather than all at once. The illness is usually gone within two weeks, and we usually think that we had a “bad cold” or “a touch of flu”.

There is no specific treatment for RSV, so the best thing to do is to treat the symptoms. Over-the-counter fever reducers and drinking plenty of fluids is all that most of us need.

As we age, our immune systems may become compromised, and older adults can have more serious infections. People with chronic conditions of the heart and lungs are especially at risk. Any time you have difficulty breathing and high fever, you need to consult with your health care professional.

Carol Craig
Parish Health Minister

Successful 48th Annual Arts & Crafts Faire



Thank you to all Christ Church parishioners for supporting the Arts & Crafts Fair – 2022. Because of the many donations of time, labor and talents we again were successful in nourishing our community with art, good food and friendship. \$1,600 was raised by the Church.

Traditionally we split the gain as follows \$800 for the church budget and \$800 for local outreach projects which will further bless our community.

Totals for the Fair are as follows:

Artists	\$1,087.97
Bake table	\$572.26
Raffle Basket	\$214.00
Misc. donations	\$ 21.04
Misc. expenses	(\$131.06)
Bank/Merchant	(\$122.13)
Advertising	(\$145.00)
Decrease in chking bal.	\$102.92



A good time was had by all 😊

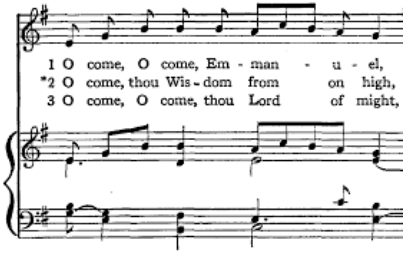


A Big Thank You for the Arts & Crafts Faire!

When you read the report of how the Faire did this year, keep in mind that none of this would have happened without the work and skill of Cindi Caruso and Sherine Amick. These two sisters are the backbone of the Faire, and we appreciate you!



O Come, O Come Emmanuel



*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on
high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory over the
grave.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and
cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to
flight.*

*O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on
high,
and close the path to misery.*

*O come, O come, great Lord of
might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.*

*O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.*

Words: Latin, twelfth century; trans. John
Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1851

Giving Tree—Be an Angel this Advent!

Once again we have an opportunity to help local teens. In partnership with the St. Helens School District, the St. Helens DayBreakers Kiwanis has worked to consistently provide resources for teens with the greatest needs. Monica Cade, who is spearheading this initiative, explains,

“We provide food bags designed for the couch-surfing teen during the long school breaks at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break, plus emergency food throughout the year as needed. We also provide gifts at Christmas, and assist students with clothing, school supplies, full-size personal care products, bedding, gas so they can get to school, help with events leading up to graduation, and other special requests. The goal is to help these teens stay in school, increase attendance, and graduate. We provide positive messages, and let them know the community cares about them and wants them to succeed.”



You can help these vulnerable teens feel seen and cared for by taking gift tags and bringing the gifts back to church (by December 12 if possible). If anyone would like to make a donation by check, checks can be made out to DayBreakers Kiwanis, and funds would only be used for this project.

Community Meals Restarting!

One of the significant losses to our community from the recent pandemic was the cessation of the free meal program, Community Meals, hosted at First Lutheran Church. So we are delighted that it is restarting, with a new take-out format.

The offering at our recent Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was dedicated to Community Meals. If you want to make a monetary donation, you can make your check out to “Community Meals,” and mail it to them c/o First Lutheran Church, 360 Wyeth Street, St. Helens, OR 97051. Or you can make the even more valuable contribution of your time and talents.

Volunteers Needed! Tuesday afternoons and evenings. If you can help, email Laury Lapping, Director of Community Meals, at laurylapping@gmail.com, or call Cathy, a board member, at (503) 369-9985.



Clergy at Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, November 20, 2022

Bishop Visitation

On November 20, 2022, Christ Church was happy to welcome The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama, Bishop of Oregon, for her first episcopal visitation to this little mission church. Bishop Akiyama preached on the gospel for the day, finding in the words of the two criminals crucified with Jesus two very different understandings of kingship. (If you missed her sermon, you can find it on the church's YouTube channel, which is [@christepiscopalchurchst.he5655](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChe5655))

Bishop Akiyama also presided at Holy Eucharist, assisted by Deacon Laurel Hart. Following the sermon, she participated in Coffee Hour and then met with the Bishop's Advisory Committee.



Diocesan Convention Report

The 134th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Oregon occurred on Saturday, October 29th of this year. Unlike in some past years, this year's Convention was solely by Zoom, and was only one day. Each voting participant was required to have their own computer or similar connection, for voting. Your congregational delegates were June Dodson and Diane Glase. Cindi Caruso was alternate, and was helpful to June in helping her with computer connections.

The meeting began with Morning Prayer, with a sermon by Bishop Akiyama, who reminded us of our Baptismal Covenant, that calls us to live in a way that is often counter to the flow of general life.

The Rev. Shana McCauley was named Dean of Columbia Convocation. A member of our Convocation, Alan Murray, of Trinity, was also elected as a delegate to General Convention.

Besides elections, and approval of the Diocesan Budget, the Convention also considered two resolutions of policy. One generated more publicity: The Convention voted to support Ballot Measure 114, for more gun safeguards. The other, however, is one with longer-term import for our congregation. Resolution 2 provides:

Resolved, that the Diocese of Oregon commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 for all facilities, churches, and operations through reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, supporting green energy production, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners, and be it further

Resolved, that the diocese commit to exploring creative ways to support parishes in taking actions toward mitigating their negative impacts on the viability and beauty of God's world; and be it further

Diocesan Convention Report *continued*

Resolved, that the Creation Care Working Group appointed by Bishop Akiyama collaborate with others in the Diocese in pursuing their charge and report to the Bishop, the Diocese's governing bodies, and the congregations within the Diocese regarding its work, and provide resources that can assist the Diocese, the congregations, and individuals to move toward carbon neutrality by 2030.

When Bishop Akiyama met with the BAC at her visitation November 20, she commended our Sacred Outdoor Space project for its consistency with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint. Much more, however, will need to be done to achieve carbon neutrality by what is only 8 years away.

Vicar Jaime



L to R: Vicar Jaime, June Dodson—Delegate, Cindi Caruso—Alternate Delegate ,and Diane Glase—Delegate.

Sacred Outdoor Space Update

We are making visible progress with the improvements of the former garden site. On Nov. 3, Senior Warden Carol Craig and her husband Chuck McCartney joined Vicar Jaime Sanders in rolling out heavy paper over the old garden spot. The next day in a rainstorm, workers covered the paper with bark mulch.

This is a beginning step in the idea to transform the side lawn into a nature park. This natural method, sometimes called lasagna layering or sheet composting, involves putting down layers of compost, cardboard or newspaper and mulch over a lawn. The layers create a decomposition process which kills grass and creates a rich fortified soil for future plantings. Next up is forming a steering committee that will develop and refine our vision for the project.

With gratitude,

Nancy Tarnai



Paper on the old garden plot before mulch went down.



Here is a picture of Vicar Jaime and Chuck McCartney (Carol Craig's husband) rolling paper over the old garden plot before the mulch went down.



Mulch is sprayed onto the old garden site to prepare the land for restoration.

Seasons of the Church Year

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany


If you are new to the Episcopal Church or have been coming for a long time, you may wonder about the seasons of the church year that the church follows. Here is your answer taken from:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/calendar-church-year>

Advent—The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for “coming.” The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord’s nativity, and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.”

Christmas—In the BCP, Christmas Day is one of the seven principal feasts. The Christmas season lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day until Jan. 5, the day before the Epiphany. The season includes Christmas Day, the First Sunday after Christmas Day, the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and may include the Second Sunday after Christmas Day. In many parishes, the main liturgical celebrations of Christmas take place on Christmas Eve. The BOS includes a variety of resources for use during Christmas, including a form for a Station at a Christmas Crèche, a form for a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music, and seasonal blessings for use during the Christmas season.

Epiphany—The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on Jan. 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or “epiphanies,” of Jesus’ divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine. The day was called “The Feast of Lights.” Celebration of the Son of God replaced celebration of the sun. Baptisms were done, and a season of preparation was instituted. It was later called Advent. The solstice was kept on Dec. 25 by the fourth century. Jesus’ birth was celebrated on this day in both eastern and western churches. The western church commemorated the coming of the Magi on Jan. 6. The eastern church continued to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and the Wedding at Cana on Jan. 6. In the east the day was called “Theophany” (manifestation of God). The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, in the BCP. The Baptism of our Lord is celebrated on the First Sunday after the Epiphany.



***Special Dates for
Advent and Christmas!***

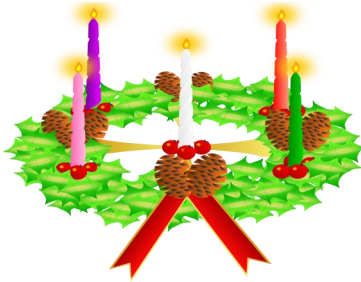
December 4—Stewardship Ingathering
and Potluck

December 11—Choir will sing Advent Anthem

December 24 -7:30 pm Carol Sing;

8 pm Holy Eucharist with hymns
and anthem (let us know your
favorite Christmas hymns and
carols on sheet in parish hall!)

December 25—10 am Spoken Holy Eucharist
with telling of Nativity Story



Calendar

Evening Prayer via Zoom—Thursdays at 5 pm

Sunday Service - Sundays 10 am in person and on zoom.
see the email invitation with the zoom link.

Advent & Christmas dates see page 18

Annual Meeting—January 29th—details to follow



Prayer Requests

Send requests to Kathryn Brittain by email at kathjbritt@gmail.com or phone 503-543-6870 or cell phone 503-438-5908.

Vicar Jaime's Office Hours

Thursday 1—5 pm
Other days by Appointment

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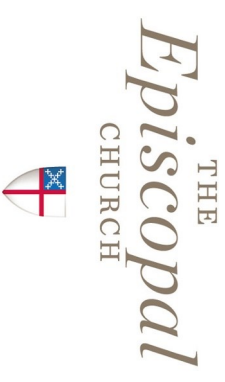


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welcomes you