

# The Spire



## A Newsletter by and for the people of Christ Church Bronxville Advent

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” We know it as a time of solemn yet joyful preparation for the Nativity, the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. As you look through this month’s Spire, you will see a number of opportunities for us to gather as a parish family during Advent. We will worship, sing, eat, study and play together as we get ready to live into the marvelous truth that God chose to break in to our world in the person of Jesus Christ. Advent urges us, with each passing day, to stop, look and listen for the whisper of God’s good news as we journey together toward Bethlehem.

I love Advent and its invitation to Wait and Prepare. But I would like to offer another image for Advent, sparked by a memory from my childhood. One of the many Advent traditions in my home was the creating of paper chains for our Christmas tree. My sister and I would sit at our kitchen table as my mother put the pot of paste between us and took her heavy shears from a drawer. We sat expectantly and listened to the sound of scissors slicing through construction paper and the flutter of perfectly even red and green strips falling to the table. Then our work began. We curled each strip into an O and smeared a bit of white paste on one end. One by one, we fashioned the red and green paper strips into links of an ever-growing chain. Sometimes, jarred out of our rhythm, we were surprised to see how long the chain had become. The heavy paper rustled as we stood on chairs and held the starting link high above our heads, allowing the rest of the chain to

cascade to the floor. When all of our red and green strips were gone, we made our way to the tree and wrapped the paper links round and round and round.

Advent is a time to consider our connections, our links, to one another and to that baby in the manger. Many of us will send Christmas cards to relatives, old friends and classmates we haven’t been in touch with since last December. Each name on every envelope represents a link. Our Outreach efforts leading up to Christmas -- our toy and clothes drives, our turkey deliveries, our stocking stuffing for Fessenden House -- each forges a new link. Family members returning home to Christ Church for Christmas services are beloved links, and we have a new link, to Iilo Parish in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in Tanzania, providing education to 50 AIDS orphans as part of the Carpenter’s Kids program. Each of us is connected, through the past, across the planet, to so many other souls. Advent invites us to contemplate those links, to honor them and to marvel at what an intricate, resilient pattern we make. To try on the idea that we encounter Christ in the faces of the people we meet every day, and through others we have yet to meet, trusting that God will make use of these links to bring about the Kingdom.

Try this simple Advent Meditation: at the end of each day in December, think about one person, stranger or friend, in whom you encountered Christ that day. *(continued on back page)*

### At a Glance

Children’s Formation	2
Music at CCB	3
Adult Formation	4
Outreach Sunday	5
Youth Formation	6
Arts at CCB	7
Dec./Jan. Highlights	8

### Contact us:

914.337.3544

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Fridays

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

[www.ccbny.org](http://www.ccbny.org)

## School Calendar

### Godly Play (Pre-K-1st Grade)

- Dec. 9th Jesus and Zacchaeus
- Dec. 16th The Mystery of Advent
- Dec. 23rd The Holy Family
- Dec. 24th Crèche Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 30th No Church School or Children's Chapel

### Second Grade

- Dec. 9th The Altar
- Dec. 16th Advent
- Dec. 23rd The Christmas Story
- Dec. 24th Crèche Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 30th No Church School or Children's Chapel

### Third Grade

- Dec. 9th The Israelites in the desert-
- Dec. 16th From Sinai to Canaan
- Dec. 23rd Joshua
- Dec. 24th Crèche Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 30th No Church School or Children's Chapel

### Fourth Grade

- Dec. 9th The Transfiguration
- Dec. 16th The Samaritans
- Dec. 23rd Lessons on Humility
- Dec. 24th Crèche Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 30th No Church School or Children's Chapel

### Fifth Grade

- Dec. 9th The Medieval Church Era
- Dec. 16th Saints of the Medieval Church (Boniface, Alfred the Great, Anselm)
- Dec. 23rd St Francis, St. Elizabeth, Introduction to the Reformation
- Dec. 24th Crèche Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 30th No Church School or Children's Chapel

### Sixth Grade

- Dec. 9th Comparing Christianity and Judaism
- Dec. 16th Review of Judaism
- Dec. 23rd World Religions and Geographical Distribution
- Dec. 24th Crèche Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 30th No Church School or Children's Chapel

## Children's Christian Formation

# Christmas Crèche Service

*Our annual Crèche service will be held on December 24th at 4 PM*

We are getting ready for the annual Christmas Eve Crèche service and would like to hear from you if your child is interested in having a speaking role. Consideration for speaking roles will be given to children who are registered in the Church School, and who have not have a major role in the last two years. Costumed roles (Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, etc.) are given to children in Grades 3-5. 6th graders are asked to be narrators (no costume required!).

Anyone interested in a speaking role must be available for three rehearsals: Sunday December 16 ( following the 10:00 am service), Saturday December 22 (10:00 - 11:30 am), and Sunday December 23 after the Christmas Party from approximately 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

*ALL children are invited to be shepherds and angels.* If your child wishes to participate as a shepherd or angel, they will need to attend the rehearsal and costume fitting on December 22 and the rehearsal on December 23. It is fine for children to sing in the choir as well as participate in the crèche service. Please contact Deborah Ross at rosshogan@optonline.net or 914-961-8951 by December 7th if your child is interested in participating or if you have any questions.

### Children's Chapel & Event Schedule

#### December 2nd Youth Sunday:

No Children's Chapel or Church School. If your child is in 4th-6th grades and is not part of the Sing 'n Ring choir, they are invited to be ushers. Please let Barbara Potgieter know if your child would like to be an usher on December 2nd

#### Family Advent Wreath making in Taylor Hall after the 10 AM service.

Reservations required to reserve fresh greens, candles, etc.

#### December 9th, 16th and 23rd:

9:45 AM Children's Chapel  
10:00 AM Church School

#### December 24th Children's Crèche Service at 4 PM

**December 30th:** No Church School or Children's Chapel. Nursery care is available.

## Nursery Available

Located on the first floor of the Child Center, this resource is staffed by two loving and caring professionals from 9:45 A.M. to noon each Sunday. Parents are also welcome and encouraged as extra volunteers.

## Christmas Party!!

*Please join us after the 10 AM service on Sunday, December 23rd for our annual Christmas Party. There will be crafts, Christmas books for sale, and a visit from a Very Special Person. Light lunch will be served.*

# Music

## Christmas Eve

180 years ago, a church in Austria had to come up with a plan to make the music for Christmas Eve special. Difficult it was, since the organ bellows had been eaten away by mice! Their unfortunate situation proved to be the necessary formula for the creation of one of the most popular Christmas Carols – Silent Night.

While our temporary digital organ is adequately supporting great music until the new pipe organ arrives in 2009, we were searching for a way to make an extraordinary expression of the joy of Christmas without a pipe organ. You won't want to miss what we have come up with!

On December 24th at 10:30 P.M., we will have the opportunity to experience some of the most fantastic music for Christmas, written by Michael Praetorius. The music comes from a collection called "Polyhymnia caduceatrix," composed sometime around 1618. One can glean from the title, ...Poly..., that there are many things going on. In fact, we will have a full orchestra – trumpets, trombones, violins, viola, cello, flutes, oboe, bassoon, timpani, and of course choirs. Some will be placed in the balcony, some in the chancel, and some in front of the chancel. The culmination of this joyous celebration is the 24-part setting of *In dulci jubilo*.

### Solemn Midnight Mass

*Monday December 24, 2007*

*10:30 P.M. The Christmas Prelude*

*11:00 P.M. Solemn Midnight Mass*

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS

*Polyhymnia caduceatrix*

MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

*Messe de Minuit pour Noël*

DAVID WILLCOCKS

arrangements of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Choirs ~ Brass ~ Strings ~ Flutes*

*Oboe ~ Bassoon ~ Percussion*

*Organ*

### Perfect Gift!

*Photos make the Perfect Christmas Gift!*

Official Portraits of the Christ Church Choirs are now available! Prints of the fall photos (currently on display) for Primary Choir, Voice for Life and Sing 'N Ring can be ordered now, with the portraits of Schola Cantorum and the Christ Church Choir available the first week in December. Two 5x7's or One 8x10 for only \$10. Order forms are available in the choir room and on the choir boards in the undercroft. All proceeds support Music at Christ Church.

### Wednesday Service Updates

No mid-week services "Between the Years" Wednesday morning services will not be held on December 26 or January 2. The 7:00 am Wednesday service will resume on January 9

*Parish Choir  
Come One, Come All!*

2008 Parish Choir dates:

January 27

March 30

May 25

## Bible Study

*Bible Study begins at 9:15 AM Sunday December 2nd.*

Beginning Sunday Dec. 2nd, Bible Study on the lections of the day will be offered between our Sunday morning services, from 9:15 AM to 9:45 AM, in the Conference Room downstairs next to the kitchen. Clergy and Seminarians will rotate leading the discussion, which will invite responses to the sermon for those who attend the 8:00 AM service and a chance to go deeper into the readings of the day for those who plan to stay for the 10:00 AM service.

*Save the Date:*

## Annual Meeting January 27

(9:30 to 11:30am)

Breakfast for all, followed by the Meeting and Worship in Taylor Hall. A separate event for children will be held during the meeting.

Have Fun Hearing About:

Building Progress  
New Programs  
Old Favorites  
Our History

And elect new Vestry members!

## Adult Christian Formation

### *Clergy and Delegates Attend the 230th Convention of the Diocese of New York*

On November 10, Mo. Kate Malin, along with parish lay delegates Karen and Dave Carpenter attended New York Diocesan Convention held at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York. It was an opportunity to experience the inner workings of the diocese as delegates voted on new resolutions, listened to bishops' addresses along with other reports from organizations such as Carpenter's Kids, Episcopal Charities and the Bedell Fund Committee of St. Matthew's Bedford. Christ Church Bronxville was acknowledged for its role in hosting the first Youth Delegate Conference and Lock In the previous evening, and we thank Krista Miller and her team for doing a fantastic job on this new ministry of fellowship to the youth of the diocese.

## ONE Tuesday *December 18*

December ONE Tuesday Christmas Caroling Tuesday December 18

Our December ONE Tuesday will be devoted to Christmas cheer: singing festive carols and listening to favorite Christmas stories and poetry. Join us for dinner at 6:00 pm in Taylor Hall, which will be followed by entertainment for the whole family and a sing-along. We will share a short prayer service before departing—some of us, perhaps, to continue caroling in the neighborhood. For more information, contact the Rev. Kate Malin.

## First Friday Films: *“Evil and Good”*

### *First Friday Films December 7*

Our series “Evil and Good” continues with “Mrs. Miniver.” This legendary 1942 film, winner of six Academy Awards including Best Picture, tells the story of a middle-class British housewife whose strength holds her family together during the horrors of World War II. Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon head the cast, and the film's snappy dialogue, surprising plot twists and colorful characters make it easy to see why “Mrs. Miniver” is a classic.

### *First Friday Films in January*

On Friday January 4 we will screen “Bonhoeffer” as part of our continuing series on “Evil and Good.” This poignant documentary traces the life of German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the first to speak up against Adolph Hitler throughout Hitler's rise to power. Bonhoeffer organized the Confessing Church, the only structured revolt against Hitler, and turned to his roots as a devout Christian for the strength to take a political stand for Jews everywhere. Klaus Maria Brandauer provides the voice of Bonhoeffer. We meet in Taylor Hall at 6:30 pm for food and fellowship before 7:00 pm screening. Immediately following the film, please stay for an informal discussion and theological reflection. You may enter Taylor Hall through the double wood doors on Kensington Road.

# Outreach Sunday

Thanks to everyone who participated in Outreach Sunday. The things we accomplished are a testament to the generosity of the people of this church, and something for which we should all be both thankful and proud. Our activities, in which almost 150 people participated, included:

- Turkeys and a box of other Thanksgiving food and gift certificates were donated to Iglesia San Andres to be given out to families that would not have had Thanksgiving Dinner without the donations.
- The EYC put together and installed new cabinets in San Andres' offices to make a space that was once in shambles a workable office.
- A group of teenagers from Christ Church also participated in the Breakfast Run and Midnight Run.
- Lunch was also prepared for and delivered to the men of Fessenden House.
- Another group of church members installed sheet rock at Habitat for Humanity's Westchester County Offices.
- In Taylor Hall, a significant amount of money was raised to benefit GAIA through the making of bracelets, hundreds of pencil bags were assembled for children in Tanzania in the Carpenter's Kids project, stockings were decorated for Christmas gifts that will be delivered to the men of Fessenden House, and countless people provided gently used goods for the San Andres Tag Sale (which will be happening on December 9, with the EYC's help).



## On With the Show!

*Saturday, December 8, in Taylor Hall. Come and see Young at Arts in action performing some of our favorite Broadway hits!*

4 PM Show - features our preschool thru 2nd Graders

7PM Show - features our 3rd - 9th Graders

Drama, Piano, Orchestra, Solo Instrumental and Voice  
We hope to see you there!

## Confirmation Kids Fundraiser for Christmas at Fessenden House

Many of the residents of Fessenden House have never had what we might consider a "real" Christmas. Our parish wants to surprise these eleven men, all recovering from addiction to alcohol or narcotics and many without family of their own, with a Christmas stocking. Our Confirmation Classes will be selling holiday treats during Advent to raise money to buy gifts each Sunday. Please help support them so that we can share our love with Fessenden House this Christmas.



## December Birthdays

1: Ed Barr, Wink McKinnon; 2: George Palmer; 3: James Kirby; 4: Marilyn Bates, Brendan St. John Elkerton, Worth Charles Goodell, Elizabeth Goodell; 6: Katherine Brasco, Francesca Normile, Brian Sica; 7: Bill Bush, Gregory Gilliam, Molly Griffith, Katharine Pomeroy Rooney; 8: Willard Mahood, Page Frost Marshall; 9: Caroline Sorensen; 11: Nora Normile; 14: Caroline Godfrey; 16: Melissa Wisner; 17: Eliza Hagan Elder, Ruth Singleton; 18: Tracey Minich; 19: Michael James Barrett, Warren Kraemer; 20: Vance Wood; 21: Carol Tidwell Costa, Russell Zygmunt; 22: Kim Olson, Noel Carroll, Max Hamlin, Mary Hoover, Owen Jones; 24: Jim Redpath; 25: Sarah Heintz, Frank Simpson; 26: Andrew McBrayer Garvey, Avery Jones, Erica Kenney, Anne Yeager; 27: Ralph Alexander, Kelsey Bogle, Livy Marion Coe; 28: Blake O'Guin, Andrew Walker; 30: Fiona Barr, Mallory Bates, Regan Cherna; 31: P.G. Costa, Christopher Watson

## Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

### *First-ever Diocesan Youth Convention at Christ Church*

For the first time in the Episcopal Diocese of New York all current high school students were invited to participate in a Diocesan Youth Convention led by Youth Director Krista Miller at Christ Church November 9th and 10th. The teens gathered Friday night to view a "History of the Episcopal Church starring the Cast of High School Musical" puppet show and watch a multi-media presentation on the Anglican Communion and the strains currently facing it. The teens then broke into small groups to discuss some of Thomas Merton's classic writing on love and Christian charity. In these groups the teens engaged questions such as "who is my neighbor?", "how do I love my homosexual neighbors as well as my neighbors who do not agree with homosexuality?" and "what are concrete and exterior acts of love and why are they important?". The event also gave the teens an opportunity to build friendships with people from other churches in the area. They watched movies, played games, ate junk food and slept little. Teens who participated in the event said that they felt a greater connection to their church's history, current events and youth ministry in the diocese. They want more! More is coming. Krista is helping to plan a youth leadership retreat that will take place at Camp Incarnation in Connecticut January 11th-12th. She and Father Bird will also be hosting a "Protecting God's Creation" retreat at Christ Church in March.

#### *Upcoming Event: December 9th Tag Sale at San Andres*

The teens will help San Andres sell the items donated for their tag sale on Outreach Sunday.

#### *Mission Trip to Costa Rica Registration Deadline January 15th*

During the first week of August 2008 the EYC will travel to Costa Rica for the first International EYC Mission Trip. Hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Costa Rica, the teens will work with a local church on construction and repairs as well as building a relationship with the church. The EYC will also have time to experience the culture and landscape of Costa Rica through activities such as surfing, hiking, viewing volcanoes and more. Contact Krista Miller at [kmiller@ccbny.org](mailto:kmiller@ccbny.org) for more information.

## Center for Spiritual Growth

### Arts Committee at Christ Church

The arts can help to express the soul's longing in symbolic forms and reveal the holy in ways we could not have imagined. Our hope as a committee is to make the arts more widely available to members of Christ Church and the larger community. Through programs making use of art and dance, trips to see art exhibits and the sharing of the work of artists in our own community, we hope to make deeper connections between art and spirituality. If you are interested in helping with this committee, please contact:

*Hondi Brasco (771-8870)*  
*mmhdb1@aol.com*

### *A Trip to the Met:* To take a close look at the Gates of Paradise

There will be no such thing as a post holiday blues for us at Christ Church, as we are planning a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on January 11th.

Letizia Alvisi Seirup, a former member of the Faculty in the Italian Dept. at Sarah Lawrence as well as professor at the International School of Florence, Italy where she taught Medieval and Renaissance Literature and Culture will be leading a group of interested parishioners.

The New York Times had this to say about at the opening of the exhibit: "This show presents 3 of the 10 gilded bronze reliefs that decorate the doors created by Ghiberti from 1425 to 1452 for the 12th- to 13th-century Baptistry of San Giovanni. Newly cleaned, they have never looked more golden or less oldie.

One of the treasures of the early Renaissance, the 17-foot-high doors depict Old Testament scenes in a radically new fusion of physical action, emotional intensity and narrative complexity. Especially the three reliefs at the Met. Their subjects are Adam and Eve, Jacob and Esau, and David and Goliath. Each is pictorially unified and yet, in a different way, almost cinematic in effect.(..)" More details will follow .

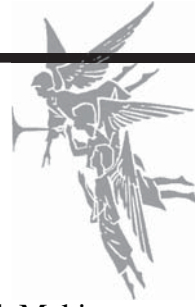
## Make Way for Choristers!

A group of choristers from Christ Church, Bronxville, enjoyed a trip to Boston on the weekend of November 9th. Members of the Christ Church Choir, the Schola Cantorum (an ensemble for young people from middle to high school) and Voices for Life, an elementary school group, were invited to sing at Trinity Church Copley Square. They performed at the 9am service on Sunday, November 11th, opening with a Choral Prelude: 'Ave Verum' by William Byrd, 'Holy is the True Light' by Harris, and Ives' 'There is a Land of Pure Delight.' The Bronxville singers were joined by the Trinity Church Choir and choristers in Purcell's 'O God thou art my God' and Gibbons' 'Almighty and Everlasting God.' Led by Director Christopher Wells and Organ Scholar Robert Richter,

and accompanied by rector Father Michael Bird and a game group of parent chaperones, the choirs left Bronxville for Boston early Friday morning, and spent a weekend full of sight-seeing and rehearsals. Highlights were an amphibious 'Duck Tour' of the city, an afternoon at the science museum, and of course, the Sunday morning service.



# Highlights



## DECEMBER

Saturday December 1st	8:00 PM Charis Concert
Sunday December 2nd	10:45 AM Advent Wreath Making 5:00 PM Advent Lessons and Carols
Thursday December 6th	6:00 PM Schola Dinner
Tuesday December 18th	6:00 PM ONE Tuesday; 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting
Sunday December 23rd	11:15 AM Christmas Party
Monday December 24th	4:00 PM Creche Service 10:30 PM Solemn Midnight Mass
Tuesday December 25th	10:00 AM Solemn Mass of Christmas Day

## JANUARY

Sunday January 6th	The Solemn Feast of the Epiphany and the Arrival of the Three Kings
Sunday January 13th	The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord
Sunday January 27th	The Christ Church Annual Meeting

Jot it down on a pad by your bed. On Christmas Eve, read your list of links aloud and offer a prayer for the gift of human relationship which illumine our relationship with the child born of God's love for us all.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Mother Malin*