

# WEEKLY MESSENGER

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical year--in this case, Year C. But at press time our interfaith thanksgiving service is still ahead, and then Thanksgiving itself, and then the beginning of Advent, with wreath-making and carol-singing, and then on December 6 our pledge ingathering, the culmination of our stewardship season, with its theme of Thanks=Giving. So perhaps a little holiday confusion is understandable.

One of our prayers at Wednesday night's service asks God to "enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship," a brave and risky hope, since a broader engagement with others will not only bless but also humble, challenge, and change us. Several years ago I got an even broader sense of "others" from a book called *Naikan: Gratitude, Grace and the Japanese Art of Self-Reflection*. The author, Gregg Krech, notes that Westerners tend to express gratitude to God for things rather than thanking the things themselves, as is customary in the East. What if we tried thanking (for example) our socks? "What are socks anyway?" he writes. "Are they anything less than the life efforts of the plants and people who made them? A cotton plant's life is the source of these socks. Farmers, factory workers, delivery people, and others gave moments of their lives to make these socks. These socks are full of life! . . . Acting most unselfishly, they go wherever I take them, shielding my feet and softening my steps upon the earth . . . Doesn't anything that serves, supports, and cares for us deserve a word of thanks? Saying thank you to people and things will change your experience of life. Each moment we say thanks is a shift in our attention. A shift away from our self-centeredness toward others. A shift away from our problems and difficulties toward the support we are receiving from the world. Our attention is our life. Shifting our attention opens us to reality and reveals what has been there all along: socks."

Wishing you soft and warm socks, a very Happy Thanksgiving, and a blessed Year C!

*Lisa*

## ADVENT SUPPER, STUDY & SERVICE

Beginning Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m., join me for a simple soup supper and discussion of *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily* by Joan Chittister. Bishop Beckwith has invited us all to take part in a "group read" of this book about living the Rule of St. Benedict, and dialogue at his blog at: <http://forgatesofhope.blogspot.com/>. Copies of the book will be available to group participants this Sunday for a small donation benefitting our Interfaith Food Pantry. Our schedule will be Dec. 2 (Chapters 1-4); Dec. 9 (Chapters 5-8); Dec. 16 (Chapters 9-12) and Dec. 23 (Chapters 13-end). After supper, at 7:30 p.m., we will have a short contemplative prayer service in the church. In tension with the glitz and busyness of the pre-Christmas season, the liturgical season of Advent calls us to deepening darkness, space and silence. Carve out some time to prepare a place for the coming Light. --Lisa Green

### Other Advent Opportunities:

*Narnia Study: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Mondays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
*Yoga for Advent*, Mondays, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 8:30-9:25 a.m.

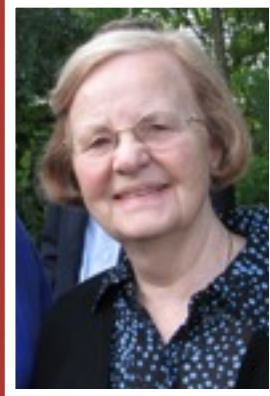
# THANKS=GIVING

Our stewardship theme for this year is thanks = giving.

And this is the way giving works for me: as my sense of what I have received from an organization grows, my giving to that place grows as well. Some examples are my school and college which gave me a great education and Interweave where my spiritual journey has been encouraged and enhanced.

When I think about Christ Church I have an abundant sense of the many gifts I receive there: the vibrant, caring community of people; the wonderful worship we have enjoyed this fall; the beautiful stained glass

windows that surround us throughout our buildings; EFM, which has strengthened my faith; and the outreach to the community that Christ Church does as a congregation.



So giving to Christ Church is a joyful experience for me, which makes it easy for the first check I write every quarter to be the one to CSH.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families, I hope you will remember our mutual family at Christ Church and our many blessings, and bring/send in your pledge on December 6.

*Juli Towell*

## PLEDGE SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 6



### ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S ANTHEMS

This Sunday's anthem 'Prepare the Royal Highway; the King of Kings is Near!' is the traditional Advent text set to a soft jazz setting for choir and piano, perhaps with a tambourine thrown in, a fresh alternative to the season of preparation and anticipation. The Advent response 'Jubilate Deo, Alleluia' (Rejoice in God, Alleluia) was written by Michael Praetorius around 1600. It will be sung by the children during Advent with hand bell accompaniment. The Kyrie, Sanctus, and Fraction Anthem from Schubert's 'Deutsche Messe' will also be sung during Advent. These settings lend themselves well to our contemplative and reflective focus in this season of joyful anticipation.

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Coffee hour hosts are needed to sign up right away. The task is easy; do not delay! Could it be your turn?

Check your calendar and let us know now;



we'll mail you tips and the "how." Coffee we'll have, but no goodies at all, 'less folks hurry to sign up to answer this call!!

*Valerie Richards, Hope Lampe & Bobbi Engler  
Volunteer Coffee Hour Coordinators*

# CHRIST CHURCH IN SHORT HILLS

*"Ye are all one in Christ Jesus"*

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## CLERGY AND LAY STAFF

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*The mission of Christ Church in Short Hills is to be a center of Christian faith in the Episcopal tradition through ongoing worship and pastoral care, to provide educational opportunities for children and adults to grow in their faith through reflection on Scripture, reason and the tradition of the Church, and to meet the ever changing challenges and needs of the community, the Diocese and the world through our outreach and prayers.*

## WISE WOMEN CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

All women of the parish are most cordially invited to the Wise Women Christmas potluck supper on Tuesday, December 8 from 6-8 p.m. It will be a treat to again meet at Inese Houli's beautiful home in Florham Park. Seems hard to believe that it's been two years since we celebrated there!

Directions: Take 124 (Main St.) through Chatham. At light, turn into Brooklake Rd. At blinker, go left onto East Madison. Take 2nd left to 3 Annabelle Rd. Let us know if you'd prefer to carpool from the church lot and we'll arrange. RSVP to Dot Leslie at **973-761-0997** by Saturday, Dec. 5 to tell her what type of dish you'd like to bring so we can balance the menu.



Please let Cynthia McChesney or Patricia Shewmaker know if you would like to help with the **HEIFER CAMPAIGN**

this year. We have several volunteers already and we are getting geared up. Many hands make light work and some of the things we need done are

really easy and fun. Adults, teens, and kids - we can use help from any and all. By the way, if you're a teen (or parent of one) this can be an easy way to gain community service hours.

## ADVENT WREATH MAKING PARTY 11/29!

Join us for a cozy evening this coming Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall with delicious lasagna dinner, Italian wine or spirited punch, music of the season, and Advent wreath-making. Live music featuring John Pivarnik, Jake Oleson, and our wonderful soloists, games, and more. \$5 per person; maximum \$20 per family.

Prospective angels, shepherds, and other Christmas pageant cast members--come early (5 p.m.) to the church to sign up. If you can't make the pageant meeting and have children who want to be included, email Bridget O'Brien at [bobrien222@comcast.net](mailto:bobrien222@comcast.net) with their names and ages.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

11/27 Amy + Michael Richardson  
 11/28 Nancy + Jim Sammartino  
 12/05 Linda + Richard Carchia  
 12/06 Lizzie + Chris Burn  
 12/08 Valerie + Michael Boyle

**BIRTHDAYS**

11/27 John Thomas  
 11/27 Gordon Estes  
 11/27 Virginia Barney  
 11/28 Peter Sammartino  
 11/29 Julia Khademi  
 12/01 Matthew William  
 12/01 Mia Grove  
 12/02 Andrew Clark  
 12/03 Barbara Armour  
 12/03 Roger Hoit  
 12/04 Graham Riley  
 12/05 Anne Bunn  
 12/06 Kyle Syracuse  
 12/08 Annie Stathis  
 12/10 Bryce McCourt  
 12/10 Lisa Gadsden  
 12/12 Katherine Sankovich  
 12/12 Paul Speaker

*A Concert to Benefit Jersey  
 Battered Women's Service*

Denise Mihalik, *mezzo-soprano*  
 Danielle Sinclair, *soprano*  
 Kathy Shanklin, *piano*

**Sunday, December 6, 2:30 p.m.**

Chatham United Methodist Church  
 460 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928

Free-will donation  
 100% of the donation will benefit JBWS

**MEMORIAL  
 FLOWERS**

**November 29**  
 To The Glory of God

**December 6**  
 Page N. Pyle  
 Wallace A. Sprague  
 Charles E. Dull  
 Kathryn B. Dull  
 Ann Sommer

**December 13**  
 Henry W. Gadsden  
 Patricia P. Gadsden  
 Jessie Cooper Downer  
 William N. McCain

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 HEIFER LIVING MARKET 8:00am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Nursery Care and Sunday School 9:30am - Holy Eucharist 10:45am - Coffee Hour, Embrace-A-Family 5:00pm - Pageant sign-up 5:30pm - Advent Wreath Making Party and Dinner	30 9:30am - Adult Ed : Chronicles of Narnia 8:00pm - Investment Committee meeting	1 9:30am - Staff meeting	2 10:00am - Short Hills Garden Club wreath making 6:30pm - Advent Supper and Service	3 7:30pm - Education for Ministry	4	5 8:30am - CCNS Breakfast with Santa 8:30am - Careers in Transition (at the School)
6 HEIFER LIVING MARKET + SCRIP SALES 8:00am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Nursery Care and Sunday School 9:30am - Holy Eucharist 10:45am - Coffee Hour	7 8:30am - Yoga for Advent 9:30am - Adult Ed : Chronicles of Narnia 7:00pm - Buildings and Grounds 7:45pm - Stewardship meeting	8 9:30am - Staff meeting 6:15pm - Wise Women Potluck at Houli's, 3 Annabelle Rd, Florham Park	9 6:30pm - Advent Supper and Service 8:00pm - Outreach Grants meeting	10 9:30am - Altar Guild meeting 7:30pm - Education for Ministry	11	12 LATVIAN SCHOOL