

## Welcoming newcomers and visitors to Christ Church

*This year our theme has been Fellowship. Our goal has been to build on the sense of community that exists among us by opening ourselves to God and to one another. In that spirit, we offer two opportunities for newcomers and visitors to experience, in informal settings, the congregation of Christ Church. Designed to allow us to get to know each other better, both venues provide the promise of meaningful fellowship and new relationships.*

### New Member Coffee and Catch Up Third Tuesday of the month

The New Member Coffee and Catch Ups are informal gatherings for new members and visitors to Christ Church, as well as those who may just want to ask questions, make suggestions or get more involved with our faith community. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Starbucks at 22155 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn between 7:00 and 8:30pm. This month's meeting will be Tuesday, December 19. Feel free to drop in any time during that time period. There is no need to RSVP, but anyone with questions may contact Lynn Borg at 313.792.0352 or lynn\_borg@yahoo.com.

### Newcomer Dinner Saturday, Dec. 2, 6:30PM

The Newcomer Dinner is a semi-annual event sponsored by the Evangelism Commission. It is intended to provide new members with an opportunity to meet one another and to spend some time in fellowship with each other and some parishioners. Dan and Clare will be join us, as will members of the Evangelism Commission and the vestry. If you are interested in attending, please contact Thomas Trimble at 313.414.6277 or mars@americanmars.com.

## Goals of Christ Church outreach committee mirror United Nations Millennium Development Goals

The Christ Church Outreach Committee has outlined its focus in the coming year, including local, national and international ministries. (Read more about the specific ministries in "Ministry Spotlight" on page 4.) The Committee's work aligns well with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight targets for eradicating global poverty adopted by the 191 member states of the United Nations, including the United States, out of the conviction that humanity can build a better and safe world if it is willing to unite.

The Episcopal Church USA began developing the goals with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) five years ago when the two denominations entered into a relationship of full communion entitled "Called to Common Mission."

"As the name of the agreement makes clear, the unity lived out between our two  
*See MDG Goals, Page 4*

THE YEAR OF  
2006  
FELLOWSHIP:  
2006  
Building  
2006  
Community  
2006  
with  
2006  
Open Hearts



# FROM THE RECTOR

## Waiting for the Christ child

Dear Friends,

**W**e are entering the season before Christmas — Advent - a season in which we are bombarded with commercials telling us what our loved ones “really” want and reminding us of how many days remain before the “big day.”

With such influences, it is easy to forget that Christians over the centuries have prepared for the “Feast of the Incarnation” in a different way. Instead of buying things, they have prepared spiritually for Christmas by trying to simplify their lives, and by regular times of prayer and reflection.

Thomas à Kempis explained this thrust in Christian living this way:

“By two wings people are lifted from the things of this earth — Simplicity and Purity.

Simplicity must be the keynote of their motive;

Purity, the keynote of their love.

Their motives aim at God; Their love embraces and enjoys God and Creation.”

As you view the lights of our neighborhoods or of Hines Drive, and make your holiday rounds, I invite you take the time to reflect on your lives, and to examine how you and your family embrace this time of preparation and celebration. In the midst of this hectic time, keep in mind that we are preparing for the coming of a Child who is the hope of the world. We are celebrating God’s Real Presence among us. Take the time to focus on the truer meanings of Christmas — simplify and purify it, so that you might join with the angels who soon will be singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all people, with whom God is well pleased.”

May this Advent and Christmas be filled with joy and love for you and your loved ones.

Faithfully Yours,  
Daniel.

## A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

“Lord God, help us in this busy, busy season, not to miss the miracle of the coming of Emmanuel in the days of waiting and preparation as well as in the feast itself. Help us not to be blind to gifts that come from getting ready and from waiting... Save us all from anxiety over what to give so that we can concentrate on how to give. Stand by the step ladder as we decorate our homes and trees and lives. And may our decorations not be mute, but rather singing symbols, sacred signs of the waiting and evergreen coming of the Lord of Life. Amen.”

The Rev. Edward Hayes, in *Prayers for the Domestic Church*

## 10 Tips for a Simpler More Meaningful Christmas

1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.
2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Three Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
3. Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.
4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been.
5. Draw names rather than everyone giving something to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give children ONE thing they really want, rather than so many gifts. If need be, pool funds.
6. Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy.
7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what you spent last year to the needy... individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally.  
Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, not from commercial importers, so that the artisans receive a fair price for their work.  
Give of yourself, not just “stuff” — a coupon book for future services (such as baby-sitting or an “enchanted evening”); something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.; or a family service project, such as working together at a soup kitchen.
8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas.
9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.
10. Make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance will make you feel defeated and lonely.

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# A harvest of giving at November in-gathering

By **Monica McLeod**

The Stewardship Commission would like to thank everyone who shared in the In-Gathering Celebration on November 12. From the full parking lot to the apple pie, we declared our heartfelt commitment to Christ Church and the role this community plays in our lives.

In a stirring gesture of faith and dedication, the pews emptied as we presented ourselves and our resources to God's service. Fifty six commitment cards were placed on the altar, joining with the 43 cards which had already been returned. Those who were able to participate in the November 12 services join with those who were not in parish-wide gestures of gratitude and generosity.

The pledges received to date represent significant progress toward our Vision Forecast for 2007. The Narrative Report, outlining the current ministries and hopes for the future that our support funds, is available at the back of the church and on our website. The Stewardship Commission looks forward to updating the parish when all pledges have been received.

If you have not yet had the chance to submit your commitment card, please place it in the offering plate, or bring it to the church office as soon as possible. Our many ministries await a fully-funded budget and the continued growth of our mission.

We are a community moved by the story of *Stone Soup*, moved by God's word as spoken by Elijah: "The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail."

*Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.*

# Celebration of ministry planned for church organist

After serving for nine years as the organist at Christ Church, Jung Yoo has resigned. Jung's departure comes as her husband, Ben, accepts a teaching position in Korea. He will teach mechanical engineering at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, his alma mater.

In response to her thoughts about leaving, Jung said, "In the past, Ben and I occasionally talked about moving back to California to be near my family, but this opportunity to move to Korea came unexpectedly. When he called me after the interview in Korea, it dawned on me that we had a major, life-altering decision to make soon. It helped to know that he and I share the same view that, next to conservation, designing safe, fuel-efficient vehicles is a pressing issue for the U.S. and the world. To think that he might be able to make a positive contribution to that end in academia, as well as in the industry, gives me courage to make this move.

"As I reflect upon my last eight years at Christ Church, I am filled with gratitude to Dan, Clare and Sean for their strong leadership, faith in God and in one another, and their constant nurturing. I am also grateful for the people of Christ Church that I got to know and love and those I did not get to know, yet who touch the lives of others. I am thankful that God gave me the incredible opportunity to grow in Christ and to serve God.

"As I prepare to leave this church, my home for the last decade, I give thanks. Thank you for your loving spirit, for your warm embrace. I will miss you and my thoughts and prayers will be with you. Let us sing to God our praise!"

***We will celebrate Jung's ministry with a reception in her honor on Sunday, December 17, at 11:30 am. Please be sure to join us for this opportunity to bid farewell to Jung. A purse will be collected on her behalf. Please make checks payable to Christ Church Dearborn and use the memo line to designate it for Jung Yoo.***

# Christ Church Quilting Bees help young girls' 4H Club

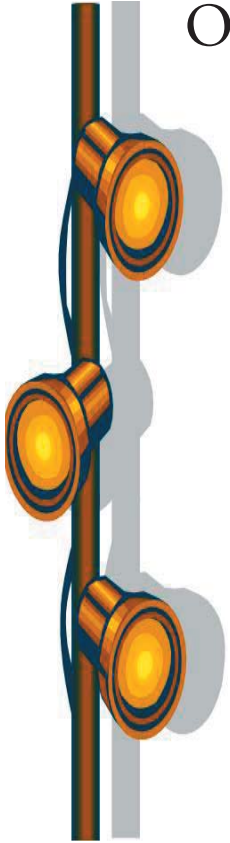
The Christ Church Quilters have labored over the years to finish quilts for many people. The proceeds from their efforts are given to the church for useful projects. The group, consisting of Sarge Thomas, Ruth Durbin and Virginia Ebling, comes together on Tuesdays in the choir room to do its work.

Recently, however, the group has become involved in a new project. Virginia Ebling's daughter-in-law, Stephanie — a retired teacher, former parishioner and gifted seamstress — has been doing volunteer work with a group of young girls who belong to a 4H club in northern Michigan and are interested in learning how to sew. One of the problems she has encountered is a lack of materials to use in her instructional work.

***See Quilters, Page 7***

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The focus of the Outreach Committee in the new year will be in three areas.

Locally, we will be promoting the great work of Crossroads, looking for ways we can help.

Nationally, we have been consulting with Helen Brewster from Hurricane Katrina Relief with the hope of finding avenues to help with rebuilding efforts there.

Internationally, we have decided to concentrate on the empowerment of women and the education of children and will be working in this area.

Would you like to join us as we seek to reach out to others? We meet regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. This month, that will be December 5. We would love your input and help. If you would like more information before then, please contact the church office or Sine Cookman 313.278.4734.

## MDG Goals

*continued from page 1*

churches is for the sake of God's mission in the world," said The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold in a joint pastoral letter and reflection published in September. "The full flourishing of our world and the human family requires our urgent attention to the fight to end global poverty and build a more peaceful, secure world for all God's people."

Griswold said the MDGs "reflect the reality that the resources, strategies and knowledge to end global poverty exist if only the moral and political will can be built." He said Christians must work together to develop that will and to call for accountability among governments.

To help you better understand each goal, we offer this first in a series of articles defining each of the MDGs.

### **GOAL #1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Meeting this goal calls for reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those people who suffer from hunger.

When the world meets this first goal, we will have 500 million fewer people living on less than a dollar a day, 70 percent of whom will be women, and more than 400 million fewer people will go to bed hungry each night.

*For more information, visit [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)*

## Vestry Reflection

*By Sine Cookman*

Christmas has always been my favourite time of year. I revert to four years old annually on the first of December. But recently I have struggled to find any magic in the season, becoming more and more disillusioned. Maybe it is the distance from my extended family, who are all in England. It could be that every year I fight to find enough present ideas for my four children from that overseas family. But it seems ridiculous to complain about such problems with so much need in the world.

This year has been the Year of Fellowship at Christ Church. We have looked at the ways all of the different groups and committees can meet together and find greater spiritual focus, especially on our fellowship together. The vestry has been deciding on the next title for the coming year. The next focus will hopefully build on Fellowship, like the next building brick. I personally found having an annual touchstone to be very rewarding and concentrated my mind.

The important lesson I have learnt this year is that fellowship requires us to share our blessings with others. Whether it is our time, money or gifts. Leviticus, chapter 19, says "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God."

When I asked my grandmother what fellowship was, she replied, "fellowship is gathering with friends and family, setting a place for Jesus, and asking someone to join you who does not feel they belong."

This year I am living by that definition. Mark and I have been giving money away at Christmas instead of spending it on each other. We are also sharing our fellowship time with our new extended family here in Detroit. We are learning to celebrate our abundance and count our blessings, but also to share our time, talent and treasure. So if you feel like you need a special Christmas watching children open presents, I have an abundance of them to share with you.

# BRIEFLY

## ***Giving to others at Christmas***

As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birthday, we have an opportunity to share the gift of giving with others. Christ Church will once again organize a Christmas gift-giving program with St. Stephen's and St. Philip's of Detroit and other groups.

On Sunday, December 3 and 10, after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services, you will have the opportunity to pick up cards, which specify suggested gifts, sizes and gender of the prospective recipient. We ask that you provide one of the suggested gifts on the card, wrap the gift, attach the card onto the gift and bring the gift to church by December 17. The gifts will then be distributed.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Ward at 313.390.0870 or smw@ameritech.net.

*Susan Ward*

## ***Calling all bread-bakers!***

If you love to bake bread, we have a terrific ministry for you. Each week, during the seasons of the church year in which we use real bread, we need someone to bake the small loaves we bless for communion. The recipe is simple and the task enjoyable. Contact one of the clergy or Kris Hipp at 313.563.4959 if you'd like to try it once or to sign on as a regular baker.

*Clare Oatney*

## ***Problems with Gluten?***

Recognizing that growing numbers of people in our country are sensitive or allergic to gluten, we are looking into the purchase of gluten-free communion wafers. Those who are celiac could then let us know beforehand, and we would consecrate a separate portion of the soy-rice wafers to allow them to receive the sacrament in both bread and wine.

What we are wondering at this point is what kind of response we might get to this offer. To assist us in this, we are asking you to let us know if you or

your child has this (or another) sensitivity. Contact one of the clergy by phone or email.

*Clare Oatney*

## ***Serving our community***

On the first Saturday of every other month, Christ Church hosts Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen, which provides free meals to anywhere from 125 to 200 people. Christ Church is responsible for supplying, preparing, cooking and serving the food and clean-up of the kitchen.

We are looking for up to six volunteers to be the coordinator for one of the six times a year that we host Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen. The coordinator will be responsible for choosing the menu, purchasing and transporting the food to Spirit of Hope Church in Detroit and coordinating the activities on the Soup Kitchen Saturday. Sample menus and necessary quantities of each ingredient, as well as instructions for the Soup Kitchen, are available from Susan Ward. Of course, as any good coordinator knows, one can certainly delegate any part of the job.

The dates for Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen in 2007 are: January 6, March 3, May 5, July 7, September 1 and November 3.

If you would like to volunteer to be a coordinator for one of the Saturdays, please contact Susan Ward at 313.390.0870 or smw@ameritech.net or sign-up on the sheet posted outside the church office.

Sign-up sheets for volunteers to prepare and serve the meals will continue to be posted every other month. Whether you would like to try your hand at coordinating one of the Soup Kitchen Saturdays or whether you volunteer to help prepare the meal, you will find it a very rewarding experience as we share our bounty with others not so fortunate.

*Susan Ward*

## ***Clothing Closet items go to local agencies***

Over the last several months, Patti McKellar and her husband, Daniel, have bagged and delivered all of the clothing stored in our Clothing Closet to Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) and Crossroads. Though we had initially planned to give the clothing to a shelter for abused women and children, the shelters we contacted would only accept new items or money.

COTS is an organization that helps the homeless by offering emergency shelter to resolve their immediate needs, and then provides support and direction to break the cycle of homelessness. In addition to housing, COTS has two child care centers in the Detroit area, offering classes in life skills, parenting sessions, money smart, and relapse prevention to mention a few.

Crossroads is an ecumenically based social service organization under the auspices of the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. An integral part of the ministry of the Church, Crossroads exists to give support to any member of the community at large, regardless of race or creed or any of the other classifications which divide our society. The Crossroads ministry is funded by financial contributions and gifts of food and clothing.

Currently we are not accepting clothing contributions.

*Jan Timpko*

## ***Serving at Diocesan Center***

The Diocese wants to develop a list of volunteers to assist with various projects throughout the year. You may offer an hour or two once a week, once a month or more. For your effort, the Diocese promises a friendly environment where you can meet new people, free coffee or tea, and the opportunity to participate in a valuable ministry that enables other ministries. To volunteer, pick up a form in the church office.

*Susan Ward*

# Music Notes

by Sean Jackman, Assistant Director of Music

## Wednesday Workshops

Our first Wednesday Workshop program went well with approximately 12 to 14 adults and children attending weekly. Our first workshop culminated in a presentation during an extended Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 12.

Our second Wednesday Workshop began on November 29 and will run until Wednesday, December 13. During this workshop, we will work on instruments of all kinds. Please come with your brass, woodwind or string instrument. I would appreciate hearing from you beforehand so that I can plan music. Also, if you do not play an instrument, we will be working with the Orff instruments (xylophones) during this time as well, and will include small and large groups as we are able. Each session runs from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, and supper is included as part of the evening. We will present our work to the congregation on Sunday, December 17, during the service.

## Christmas Eve Opportunity for Children

Children will have an opportunity to be involved in the

Christmas Eve family service again this year. There will be one rehearsal on Wednesday, December 20 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Supper will be included as we have been doing for Wednesday Workshops.

## Schubert Mass in G Major

Four Dearborn-area churches – Sacred Heart Roman Catholic, St. Paul's Lutheran, First Presbyterian and Christ Church – collaborated to present Schubert's Mass in G last month on Sunday, November 19. The choirs enjoyed singing together and this event turned out to be a wonderful time of fellowship for members from each of the four churches. We hope to make this an annual event with the host church rotating. Special thanks are due Carolyn Haury, St. Paul's Music Director, and John Haury, also from St. Paul's, for leading this venture in its first year. Thank you also to those who supported our first combined concert.

I hope that you enjoy the Music program at Christ Church as an important part of your family's holiday. Merry Christmas to you and yours!

## Nominations sought for vestry

Would you like to be a part of helping to form the community at Christ Church? Would you like to be involved in a more meaningful way at the church? Please give prayerful consideration to offering your time and talent as a Vestry member. The Vestry Nominating Committee is looking for people to serve three-year terms beginning January 2007. Interested persons may contact Daniel in the church office at 313.565.8450.

## CONGREGATION 2 CONGREGATION

By Mark Jenkins

Last summer, about a week before I was supposed to go on a much-needed vacation, I received an email from Ted Wyman, Journey of Faith's musician. Ted was in the midst of great personal turmoil and he was writing to let me know he needed to resign, effective immediately.

I'll confess that my first reaction didn't exactly show much pastoral concern for Ted. Given how important music is in our worship services and how close I was to leaving for a month, I was panicked to say the least. Fortunately, Dan stepped in and bailed us out by speaking with Sean Jackman about filling the position on an interim basis. Sean was there that Saturday evening and I left for vacation knowing that things would be okay.

When I returned, I formed a group of JoF'ers to begin the process of finding a permanent replacement for Ted. We made numerous contacts and held interviews. And, at the end of the process, I am pleased to announce that Sean will be

working with us on a permanent basis, effective immediately. While the Jazz style that we are looking for is something a bit new to Sean, I am convinced that he is the right person for the job. And, he and I are both hopeful that as he tries new things with us on Saturday evenings, Christ Church will also benefit from his expanded range of experience.

It's hard to believe a year has passed since Journey of Faith began worshiping in Christ Church's building. Little did I know, when we arrived, just how incredibly helpful and gracious Christ Church's people and staff would be to us. The work that we have done in shared programming, outreach and community involvement has been exciting and, I pray, good for both of our congregations. I am deeply filled with gratitude to God for the ministry that we have come to share in this place. And I am grateful to all of you for your continuing companionship in Jesus' ministry in this place.

*Journey  
of Faith  
Church*

## A letter of introduction from new visiting deacon, Thalia Johnson

Greetings,  
It's introduction time and that seems appropriate for the beginning of Advent. Christ Church is part of a new adventure, both for me and for the Diocese. For six months beginning in December, I will be a visiting deacon, spending one Sunday a month with you and possibly additional time as needed to learn about specific ministries.

The church building itself is familiar, as a number of diocesan meetings and Whitaker School of Theology classes have taken place here. I met and worked with Dan Appleyard as part of the deputation to General Convention 2006. I've also known several other members at Christ Church over the years since ordination in 1987.

I live in Adrian now, but my childhood years were spent in Dexter and my study years took place in East Lansing. My most significant educational experience was earned as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia. I returned to Michigan and spent the next 25 years as a MSU Extension 4-H Youth Agent serving in Hillsdale, the Upper Peninsula and Wayne and Lenawee counties before retiring in 1996.

Part of my diaconal ministry at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Cambridge Junction, was helping to form and direct Cambios, Inc., a non-profit organization providing anti-racism resources to educators and families in Lenawee County.

I left St. Michael's in May 2005 when the priest retired and I've been on sabbatical ever since. In the meantime ministry has centered on teaching for the Whitaker School of Theology and serving on a statewide strategic planning team responding to the passage of Proposal 2 in 2004.

In addition to Christ Church, I will also spend one Sunday a month at Church of the Incarnation in Ann Arbor as part of this Visiting Deacon program. For most people at both churches, the experience of a deacon in liturgy will be new. We will also share information about the diaconate and I may share my own experiences as a deacon through preaching opportunities and in forum time. You have ministries here and a geographic setting that will be new and educational for me. I look forward to that.

As we introduce ourselves to each other, please feel free to call me Thalia, and to give me any suggestions you might have as this program begins.

Gratefully,  
Thalia Johnson

The clergy and staff  
of Christ Church  
wish you a Blessed  
Christmas and a New  
Year filled with peace  
and joy.



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Why a simpler Christmas?  
A simpler Christmas leads to freedom. A consumer Christmas leads to stress and debt.

Simplicity leads to generosity. It leaves room for more joy. It is such a joy to get the burden of stuff off our shoulders. It builds relationships. We are told thousands of times every day by commercial advertising that we will find meaning and happiness through stuff. Voluntary Simplicity says we will find happiness and meaning in life through relationships – within ourselves, with others, with the Earth and with God.

*Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* is an alternative to the negative pressures on Christmas. It has practical ideas to help re-think the ways to celebrate Christmas. Everyone deserves a Christmas that has meaning, value and peace. Slow down, take a breath, and read the suggestions that let the real Spirit of Christ come home this Christmas.

- Reprinted with permission from *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* published by Alternatives for Simple Living. A limited number of copies of *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* are available in the Library for your reflection. For more information, call 800.821.6153 or visit [www.SimpleLiving.org](http://www.SimpleLiving.org).

## Quilters

*continued from page 3*

Enter the Quilters, who often have leftover materials, fabrics, etc. Arrangements have been made for the Quilters to send materials to be used by Stephanie in her work with these girls who live in an economically depressed area and who have no money to buy supplies. So the Quilters will help these youngsters develop skills which they can use all of their lives.

Congratulations, Quilters, for your new outreach program.

## JOIN US

### Newcomer Dinner

**Saturday, Dec. 2, 6:30PM**

A semi-annual event sponsored by the Evangelism Commission. It is intended to provide new members with an opportunity to meet each other and to spend some time in fellowship with each other, our clergy, parishioners and members of the evangelism commission and vestry. Anyone who is interested in please contact Thomas Trimble at 313.414.6277 or by email at mars@americanmars.com.

### Wednesday Workshops

**Wednesday, Dec. 6 & 13, 5:30PM**

The second workshop for adults, young people and children to enjoy an inter-generational time of music making and fellowship using Orff instruments (xylophones) and drama. Small instrumental ensembles will be included as we are able. On December 17, participants will share with the congregation what they've learned and experienced. See Music Notes on page 6 for more information.

### St. Martha's Guild Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

**Tuesday, Dec. 12, Noon**

There's still time to reserve your spot at the Guild's December meeting with annual catered luncheon to celebrate the holidays. All are welcome. \$6 per person. Call Luceil Pedler at 313.563.1843 by December 5.

### Greening of the Church

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:15AM**

Join us after the 10:00am service as we decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

### Christmas Gift-Giving

**Sunday, Dec. 3 & 10**

Get your wish-list cards after both services on December 3 and 10. Wrapped and labeled gifts must be delivered to the church no later than December 17. For more information, contact Susan Ward at smw@ameritech.net or 313.791.0483.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Breakfast Bunch

**Sundays, 9AM**

Meets after the 8:00am service at Leon's Restaurant in Dearborn.

### St. Mary's of Bethany

### Prayer Group

**Wednesday, Dec. 6, 20, 27, 10AM**

**Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10AM**

Intercessory prayer offered for the needs of those on our current and sustaining prayer lists. All are welcome.

### The Adult Forums

**Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM**

**Dec. 3** Fellowship

**Dec. 10** History and Purpose of the Deaconate with Thalia Jackson

## CHILDREN'S ED

### Prayer Room

**Sundays, 10:05AM**

Worship activities for children 3-7 years.

### Church School

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

Children aged 4 to 7 and 8 to 11 participate in a variety of creative learning experiences exploring a biblical story or theme in three- to four-week blocks.

**Dec. 3 and 10:** Painting Mural Banners  
NOTE TO PARENTS: Have your child wear paint clothes or something you won't mind them getting paint on.

## JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

### Pre-Rite 13

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

One-year bridge program from Church School to the Journey program, with a focus on building the dynamic of trust and attention needed for the Journey program. Contacts: Jeanne Martens, 313.565.4827, Mark Cookman 313.278.4734 and David Blake 313.561.2465.

### Rite 13

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

For youth ages 12-14. Contacts: Erika Morrison, 313.791.2709 and John Porter, 313.354.3169.

### J2A

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

For youth ages 15-16. Contacts: Susan Gregg and Dale Taylor, 313.277.1975.

## MEETINGS

### Outreach Committee

**Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7:00PM**

### Stewardship Committee

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 9:00AM**

### Vestry Meeting

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 1:00PM**

### Adult Formation

**Tuesday, Dec. 12, 5:00PM**

### Property Committee

**Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:00PM**

### Library Committee

**Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1:00PM**

### Finance Committee

**Thursday, Dec. 21, 7:00PM**

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*For more information about the music program, contact Assistant Music Director, Sean Jackman, at seanmjackman@hotmail.com or 313.562.0136.*

### Adult Choir

**Thursdays, 7:30-9PM**

Those interested in joining the choir may attend weekly rehearsals.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY 2007

### Baptism — Preparation Class:

**Jan. 6, 10AM-12PM; Baptism,**

**Jan. 7, 10AM**

Preparation class is required for parents and godparents of children being presented for baptism the next day. If you're interested, call the church office by January 2, 2007.

### Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen

**Saturday, Jan. 6, 8:30AM-3:00PM**

Plan now to help us prepare and serve lunch at Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen. Sign up on the sheet posted near the church office. For more details, call Susan Ward at 313.791.0483.

### St. Martha's Guild Luncheon

**Tuesday, Jan. 9, 12:00PM**

Get it on your calendar now and plan to take advantage of this great program. Detective Sgt. Tom Lance of the Dearborn Police Department will speak to the Guild about personal safety and security issues, such as avoiding scams, answering telephone solicitations and much more. For more information, contact Deborah Taylor at 313.292.2587.

### Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 21, 9:00AM**

140th Annual Meeting of Christ Church. The combined service will begin in the church at 9:00am, followed by the meeting and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Commission and Committee Chairs need to submit their year-end reports to the church office no later than Monday, December 18, 2006.

# New law offers tax-advantaged giving

New legislation was recently passed by Congress and signed by the President that gives new incentives to make gifts from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs.) The new law allows donors who are 70-½ years old or older to make an IRA charitable “rollover” of up to \$100,000 directly from their IRAs to their church or other qualified public charities during 2006 and 2007.

The benefits of this “rollover” option are that the distribution:

- counts toward the minimum IRA distribution,
- is not included in the donor’s adjusted gross income,
- does not have an effect on the taxability of the donor’s Social Security payments, and,
- does not qualify for an income-tax deduction.

This is an ideal way to make a gift from income that you may not be using or if you do not itemize deductions. And it's easy to do as well. Simply give instructions to your IRA custodian to transfer the distribution to the church or charity.

If you think this is a good option for you to make a gift to your favorite church or charity, call your IRA custodian or tax advisor today. The time to make this kind of gift is limited to 2006 and 2007 only, but the tax advantages will be well worth it!

(Portions of this article were prepared by Carl Knirk, Stewardship and Planned Giving Officer of the Diocese of Olympia, with the assistance of Jean McCord.)

*Edwina Simpson*



**“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”**

*~Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby*

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
D E C E M B E R  2 0 0 6						<b>1</b> 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	<b>2</b> 9:00 Altar Guild 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith 6:30 Newcomer Dinner
	<b>3</b> 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 3:30 Martial Arts 4:30 Martial Arts	<b>4</b> 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Scout Leaders 8:00 AA	<b>5</b> 9:30 Quilters 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Outreach	<b>6</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE & Healing 5:30 Wed Workshops 6:30 Martial Arts 7:00 Cycling Club 7:30 AA	<b>7</b> 11:30 AA 7:00 Garden Club Bd 7:30 Choir	<b>8</b> 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	<b>9</b> 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
	<b>10</b> 8:00 & 10:00 HE (Prayer Room Graduation at 10) 9:00 Stewardship 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 1:00 Vestry 3:30&4:30 Martial Arts	<b>11</b> 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	<b>12</b> 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha’s 5:00 Adult Formation 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 5:30 Wed Workshops 6:30 Martial Arts 7:00 Property 7:30 AA	<b>14</b> 11:30 AA 6:30 Blue Christmas 7:30 Choir	<b>15</b> 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	<b>16</b> 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
	<b>17</b> 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church Greening 3:30&4:30 Martial Arts	<b>18</b> 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	<b>19</b> 9:30 Quilters 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 New Member Coffee & Catch Up 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 1:00 Library Meet 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA	<b>21</b> 11:30 AA 7:00 Finance Comm 7:30 Choir	<b>22</b> 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	<b>23</b> 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 9:00 HE 9:05 Prayer Room 5:30 Family Service 11:00 Festive Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Office Closed 10:00 HE 8:00 AA	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA	<b>28</b> 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	<b>29</b> 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	<b>30</b> 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
	<b>31</b> 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 3:30&4:30 Martial Arts						

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 3**

Acolytes A Piernick, E Hines, E Sallman  
 Ushers (8am) D Baker Sr  
 (10am) Team 1 – R Baker, Garriss  
 B & P Owens  
 Greeters (8am) K Green  
 Lector/LEM (10am) D Petts, D Brehob, D Cardwell  
 J Reiner, L Boyar, J Piernick  
 Altar Guild S Mulkern, J Anderson  
 LEVs K Green  
 VPOD  
 Sunday Readings: The First Sunday of Advent  
 Zechariah 14:4-9; Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;  
 Luke 21:25-31

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 10**

Acolytes L Culp, J Pellegrino, M Swiecicki  
 Ushers (8am) L Crane  
 (10am) Team 2 – Ludwig, M Sallman, D Leduc  
 B & E Buzby  
 Greeters (8am) D Petts  
 Lector/LEM (10am) K Green, R Groover, D Brehob  
 K Green, A Green, L Pedler  
 Altar Guild M Pellegrino, S Quaint  
 LEVs S Quaint  
 VPOD  
 Sunday Readings: The Second Sunday of Advent  
 Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126; Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-6

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 17**

Acolytes S Matthews, B Games, E Hines, C Kappauf  
 Ushers (8am) G Ebling  
 (10am) Team 3 – M Piernick, L Prokopp, R Kedzo  
 J Connelly  
 Greeters (8am) M Piernick  
 Lector/LEM (10am) Youth Reader, A Johnson, M Sallman  
 TBD  
 Altar Guild Clergy Visits  
 LEVs S Mulkern  
 VPOD  
 Sunday Readings: The Third Sunday of Advent  
 Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85:7-13; Philippians 4:4-7;  
 Luke 3:7-18

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 24**

Ushers (9am) T Foster  
 Greeters TBD

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 24 (CONT'D)**

Lector/LEM (9am) B Hofmann-Porter, E Simpson, M Amis  
 Altar Guild TBD  
 VPOD TBD  
 Sunday Readings: The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 Micah 5:2-4; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-49

**CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30PM**

Acolytes A Behm, T LeDuc  
 Ushers Team 4 – J Groover, D Young  
 Lector/LEM D Cardwell, B Hall  
 Altar Guild TBD  
 VPOD S Cookman  
 Christmas Eve Readings: Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7; Psalm 96;  
 Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

**CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00PM**

Acolytes A Green, A Piernick, J Pellegrino, B Green  
 Ushers Team 5 – Brim, Searles  
 Lector/LEM M Piernick, R Groover, M Amis  
 VPOD M Amis

**CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:00AM**

Ushers VPOD – R Groover  
 Greeters M Lee  
 Lector/LEM B Hall  
 Altar Guild TBD  
 LEVs Clergy Visits  
 VPOD R Groover  
 Christmas Day Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6;  
 Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 31**

Acolytes C Bell, T Morrison, E Hines, E Sallman  
 Ushers (8am) J Pedler  
 (10am) Team 1 – R Baker, Garriss  
 B Markowski & P Snyder  
 Greeters (8am) N Lehnert  
 Lector/L.E.M. (10am) N Lehnert, M Sallman, B Hall  
 TBD  
 Altar Guild A Johnson  
 VPOD  
 Sunday Readings: The First Sunday after Christmas  
 Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147:13-21;  
 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

***Send a Christmas card to those unable to participate in church activities***

**Jewel Beckstrom**  
 Forest View Assisted  
 Living, #120  
 19341 Allen Road  
 Brownstown, MI 48183

**Earl Bergeron**  
 Laurel Park West  
 Assisted Care  
 38910 6 Mile Road  
 Livonia, MI 48152

**Margaret Breil**  
 3114 Lincoln  
 Dearborn, MI 48124

**Bob MacDonald**  
 Chelsea Retirement  
 Community  
 805 W. Middle Street  
 Chelsea, MI 48118

**Shirley Mooney**  
 3813 Roosevelt  
 Dearborn, MI 48124

**Olga Most**  
 521 N. Martha  
 Dearborn, MI 48128

**Phyllis Potter**  
 33065 John Hawk  
 Garden City, MI 48135



**Shirley Zaler**  
 Oakwood Rehab &  
 Skilled Nursing Center  
 5500 Ford Street  
 Trenton, MI 48183

**CHRIST CHURCH WINS THREE NEWSLETTER AWARDS**

At this year's Diocesan Convention, *The Courier* was awarded Red Ribbons for "General Excellence" and for "Sharp Layout and Appearance" in the Lois Leonard Church Newsletter Contest.

Daniel and Clare tied for Red Ribbons in the category of Theological Reflection. Commenting on the award, Herb Gunn, editor of *The Record* said, "In fact, *The Courier* of Christ Church must be praised for routinely publishing reflections from both clergy and lay writers. Keep up the conversations."

# ETCETERA

*And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. **What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.** ~Dr. Seuss*

## Order your Christmas flowers

If you would like to purchase poinsettias to honor loved ones this Christmas, please call the church office by Monday, December 19. Those who want to repeat an order from last year, also must call the office.

## Offering envelopes for the new year

Your 2007 offering envelopes will be available for pick up in the office reception area in Stacey Hall beginning Sunday, December 11.

## FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of October 31, 2006

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$298,482	\$295,511
Other	\$24,626	\$21,805
Total Operating Income	\$323,108	\$317,316
Less Operating Expenses	\$327,548	\$342,353
Surplus / Deficit	\$(4,440)	\$(25,037)

# PASSAGES

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01	SarahAnne Drake, George Morrison, Phyllis Tippett	12/20	Marion Farquharson, Patricia Hamann
12/02	Joseph Wallace	12/22	Maggie Pellegrino
12/09	Daniel Cookman	12/23	Andrea Blake, Cynthia Kibilko, William Maddocks, Bill Warner
12/10	Lauren Engelhardt, Bill Owens, Nathan Schmidt	12/24	Elmer Farkas, Dylan Quaint
12/11	Isabelle Behm, Lena Gray, Katina Hamann	12/25	Kathleen McClorey
12/13	MaKenzie Burns, Emily Sallman,	12/28	Julia Beckstrom
12/17	Karen Marzonie, Eugene Simmons	12/30	Janice Shaw
12/18	Luceil Pedler	12/31	Joanna Connelly, Ilene Krogman, Mark Somerville
12/19	Brian Whalen		

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/7	Kurt & Heather Giberson, 20 years
12/12	Leslie & Michele Nolan, 10 years
12/14	John Porter & Brooke Hofmann, 10 years
12/17	Doug & Phyllis Brim, 49 years Patrick & Stephanie Mulkern, 29 years
12/19	Frank & Carol Kery, 38 years
12/27	Charles & Ross Groover, 25 years
12/29	Ken & Suzanne Drake, 17 years James & Ruth West, 55 years

## Thoughts on Mary

By Marion Farquharson

The role of Mary in the Christian Church has always been and still is, tremendous. There are many legends about her, such as her parents, Anna and Joachim; her immaculate birth and assumption into heaven; many appearances and countless miracles.

The historic Mary is very sketchy. She was undoubtedly very young and from a good Jewish family. She stood by her son all his life, even to the foot of the cross. She must have been a faithful mother, intelligent, devout and courageous — remember she did bring him up and it must have been difficult! Imagine Jesus as a teenager trying to discover his God-given destiny!



In the early Church, God and Jesus were stern judges to be feared. Hell, punishment and the misery of life were little comfort to the ignorant, suffering and superstitious masses. Mary became the human Mother in whom everyone would find warmth, love and approachability. She became the supreme protectress of civilization. Indeed, she taught a race of tough, ruthless barbarians the virtues of tenderness and compassion.

How sad that gentle Mary, who still brings joy to so many Christians, has become one of Christendom's divisive problems. Most Protestant churches ignore her, but the Episcopal Church honors her with five special days. We say, she was just like us: could have said "no thank you" to God, but did not.

Our prayer as we stand before the stable is this:

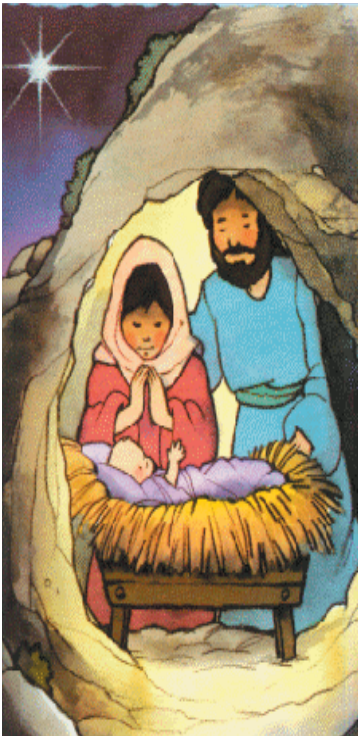
May God give us grace now and ever  
By the Grace of His Son,  
The humility of the Shepherds  
to kneel before Him.  
The reverence of the Angels  
to adore Him,  
The wisdom of the Wise Men  
to seek him,  
And the faith of Mary  
to accept Him.

PERIODICAL

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

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Website: www.christchurchdearborn.org

## Holiday Service Schedule



### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

5:30pm Family Eucharist  
(designed for families  
with young children)

10:30pm Festival Eucharist

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

10am Holy Eucharist

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 31

8 and 10 am Holy Eucharist

#### **Staff**

The Rev. Daniel S. Appleyard, *Rector*  
The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, *Associate Rector*  
Jan Timpko, *Parish Administrator*  
Bob Smith, *Sexton*  
Josh Groover, *Assistant Sexton*  
Jung Yoo, *Organist*  
Sean Jackman, *Assistant Director of Music*  
Tess Dowgiallo, *Children's Choir Director*  
JoAnn Amicangelo, *Freelance Editor/Designer*

#### **Vestry**

Martha Amis, *Stewardship*  
Diana Brehob, *Property*  
Jamie Connelly, *Senior Warden*  
Sine Cookman, *Outreach/Service*  
Kevin Green, *Junior Warden*  
Ross Groover, *Communications*  
Anthony Johnson, *Outreach/Service*  
Stephanie Mulkern, *New Member Ministry/Evangelism*  
Sean Quaint, *Christian Formation*  
Carrie Serfass, *Finance*  
Edwina Simpson, *Outreach/Service*

#### **Officers of the Vestry**

George Morrison, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Susan Ward, *Treasurer*  
Maggie Pellegrino and Michele Nolan, *Recording Secretaries*

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