

the Courier

THE NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends,

During the rush of the pre-Christmas season, as the world around me spun faster and faster in the joy and stress of preparations for the Big Day, I came across this story that a wise friend of mine had passed along:

There was a man who set up camp next to a group of Whirling Dervishes. Ever seen a Whirling Dervish? They wear white robes with red sashes and wear a red fez upon their head. They are called Whirling Dervishes because they ... well ... whirl. With their arms outstretched they spin around and around, and as they spin, they chant. Anyway, the man who camped next to the Dervishes was not himself a Dervish. And one day, he was visited by a friend who sat with him for some time before he turned to him and asked with astonishment, "How do you cope with these guys spinning around all the time?"

The man answered, "I let 'em whirl."

And it occurred to me, in the midst of the obsessive drive to make our lives better and brighter and more filled with joy, that perhaps we have lost grasp of our ability to just let things whirl. We find it very difficult just to be, without allowing ourselves to be caught up in it all.

It seems to me it's a question of contentment. Contentment: a small,

continued on page 2

The New Year is upon us, and we begin it here at Christ Church with changes looming that are at the same time unsettling and challenging. As I sit here writing, I find myself feeling burdened and not a little "down."

Our December vestry meeting lasted several hours during which we struggled to trim away at budget items in hopes of closing the gap between income and expenses. But the uncomfortable fact is that, as of now, our resources do not appear to be adequate to fund our ministry and way of life here at Christ Church.

So perhaps you can consider this reflection as a "heads up" for the annual meeting on January 22 in which we review the budget for the coming year and anticipate its ramifications.

As Bishop Gibbs exhorted us on December 11, 2005, our thanksgivings are not only for our past gifts, but are offered in anticipation of our future gifts. Because we may not always recognize a "gift" as such, we give thanks in *everything*, asking God to open our eyes to all around us and enable us to see a gift in the least likely of events.

Even this morning's paper front-paged a woman who had been laid off from her job, yet considered it a blessing as she found a way to move into work that was more suited to her. Rather than sink into despair, I want to face the future hopefully, in confidence that all of us working together can discern God's will for us and experience the faithfulness our Lord holds out to us.

So I am writing this reflection mainly for myself, as a way of reminding myself that God really is in charge. I don't have to resolve our budget issues, but I do need to be open and available to hear what is being called of me in this place at this time. And somehow, that does lift my spirits. May we together approach this new year with hearts and minds open and searching for the ways God is speaking to us and seeking to lead us forward. I'll remind myself over and over of St. Paul's words that inspired Bishop Gibbs' exhortation:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

*Vestry
Reflection*

By

Martha Amis

From the Assistant Rector

continued from page 1

quiet thing, greatly at odds with a culture that promises and desires constant improvement. Continual progress is our dream: each generation to do better than the last, each year a raise or promotion, each new version of Windows faster and more efficient than the last. It keeps us striving; it drives the economy; it makes us strong and competitive in a challenging world. But it comes with a price. If our goal is to "advance relentlessly" (as my husband Mike's company motto insists), we find it difficult to stop and appreciate what we have, what has already happened. What *is*. While we are chasing the dream of bigger and better, we cannot easily be satisfied by where we are currently and contentment becomes elusive.

How did simple contentment fall so out of the norm? Does it just seem hopelessly old-fashioned? It does conjure thoughts of a cozy cottage, a comfy old chair beside a crackling fire, and maybe a good book. But it can be reached anywhere or anytime we are able to appreciate what we have, not looking over the current day's shoulder to see what might be better on the horizon.

To be pleased with what we have. To find joy in the small everyday things. Stepping beyond the competitive whirl, to simply enjoy what is.

The world will keep turning. Will keep up its mantra of bigger and better, younger and prettier, smarter and more efficient.

Just let it whirl.

Wishing you contentment in the new year,

Clare

Of Christmas, the inconspicuous, and the Altar Guild

When Mary gave birth to the baby, Jesus, in Bethlehem, there certainly must have been a few women, children and men who assisted behind the scenes. I wonder who they were. People with deep respect for God's creation. People willing to share in others' pain and joy. People who were not averse to dealing with the physical reality of birthgiving. Also, they must have been people who gave high priority to hospitality and went so far as to receive absolute strangers with profound concern and attention.

Today we do not know their names and, as a matter of fact, they weren't even mentioned in the ancient story. Wise men and shepherds and angels are remembered and celebrated. But these inconspicuous people were content to allow the great story to unfold with their contribution being muted and transparent. They were helpful, essential and invisible.

When the great feast of Christmas broke upon Christ Church in 2005, flowers were seen, sermons were preached and magnificent anthems were sung. In the midst of the glory of all of that, there was another tradition that was carried out. Before the celebration, a few Altar Guild members came quietly to the church and made careful preparations.

Afterwards when the dry needles fell from the pine branches and the poinsettias had been whisked away to shut-ins, they and others returned to finish the celebration with caring hands for sacred vessels. These men, women and young people were the modern midwives of our Christmas! They embraced a diaconal ministry! To serve our Lord Jesus Christ's birth! Helpful, essential and invisible.

God knows who all of you are; but, as you helped all of us enter into Christmas, we give you thanks for your role in the mysterious story of new birth in Jesus Christ.



DON'T MISS IT

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22, 9:00AM

(SCIENCE ALIVE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN
SEE PARISH EVENTS ON PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)

Giving Spirit Lives on at Christ Church

Some traditions never die! The annual gift giving program was a huge success again this year, thanks to all who purchased gifts to help those less fortunate this Christmas.

While picking up gifts on December 19 for St. Philips/St. Stephens, Jane Johnson shared with us that for many children (and adults) this is the only gift they

will receive. In addition, local families once again were the recipients of our parish's longing to help those in need over the Holy Days.

A special thank you is extended to Susan Ward and all her helpers who stepped in to fill the big shoes left by Mary Agnes Clickner, who master-minded the program for many years. It is clear that the giving spirit lives on at Christ Church!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

The New Year always seems to lead us to reflection and recommitment. As a community, we have come together over the past year to share our time, talent and treasure throughout the parish and beyond.

Just looking back on the last month, we prepared Thanksgiving baskets and gathered Christmas gifts. We decorated the church and sang in-the-round. We celebrated with the Bishop and placed our Christmas offerings in the plate. What will we give to this new month, this New Year?

At the dawn of 2006, take an opportunity to reflect and recommit: How did you use your time, talent and treasure last year? How can you share your time, talent and treasure with the Christ Church community during 2006?

“... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

The Heart of Christianity

– A Lenten Study by Marcus Borg

Imagine that you enter a parlor. You come late. When you arrive, others have long preceded you, and they are engaged in a heated discussion – a discussion too heated for them to pause and tell you exactly what it is about. In fact, the discussion had already begun long before any of them got there, so that no one present is qualified to retrace for you all the steps that had gone before.

You listen for a while; then you put in your oar. Someone answers; you answer him. Another comes to your defense; still another aligns herself against you, to either the embarrassment or gratification of your opponent, depending upon the quality of your ally's assistance. However the discussion is interminable.

The hour grows late, you must depart. And you do depart, with the discussion still vigorously in progress. Such is the “unending conversation” that has been going on since the beginning of human history and that we join at the moment of our birth and leave at the moment of our death.

During the coming season of Lent, we will be gathering together with members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, E.L.C.A. on six Sunday afternoons, February 26 through April 2, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lounge of Christ Church.

Our task during these sessions, led jointly by the clergy of both congregations, is to continue to participate in the “unending conversation” of Christian theology, receiving what we have been given within the tradition – Bible, God, Jesus, creeds, practice, and so on – interpreting the received tradition in our present cultural context, and allowing that which is “given” to have its own voice in a changed cultural context.

SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS
FEBRUARY 26
THROUGH
APRIL 2

JOIN US

Celebration of Ministry

Sunday, January 15, 11:30AM
Be with us to mark Margaret Haas' last Sunday with us and to celebrate her ministry with us.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 9AM
139th Annual Meeting of Christ Church. The combined service will be at 9am; followed by the meeting (and refreshments) to be held in the Undercroft. During the meeting, children can enjoy Science Alive, a hands-on opportunity to meet some very unusual animals.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Trinity Soup Kitchen

Saturday, January 7, 8:30AM
Everyone's invited to help serve a hearty meal to those in need. To carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am. We will return by 3:00pm.

FAMILY INTEREST

Baptism

Baptism: Sunday, Jan. 8, 10AM
Preparation Class: Saturday, Jan. 7, 10AM-12PM
The Baptism Preparation Class is designed for parents and godparents of the children being presented for Baptism during the First Sunday after the Epiphany service. Call the church office no later than Tuesday, January 4, if you are interested.

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

Tuesdays, 10AM
Intercessory prayer offered for the needs of those on our current and

sustaining prayer lists. Also sends notes of encouragement to those prayed for. All are welcome.

The Adult Forums

Sunday, January 8, 29
11:30AM-12:15PM
We begin a new series on racism this month, called Pride and Prejudice. Edwina Simpson facilitates on January 8 and Daniel Appleyard leads on the 29th.

Via Media

Sundays, January 8, 15, 29 & Feb. 12, 5:00-7:00PM
A second part of a series of eight meetings that explores the basics of Christian faith and specific aspects of the Anglican way. We will offer the program on Sunday afternoons, from 5:00-7:00pm. It will be potluck, with the church providing dessert and beverages. Childcare will be provided. The four meetings will occur on January 8, 15 and 29, and February 12.
Classical Anglicanism centers our life as a church together in worship, community and outreach rather than rigid confessional statements or strict moral codes. The "Via Media", or "Middle Way," has been a hallmark of Anglican theology, spirituality and worship for centuries and holds that choosing the broad middle path between extremes is a deliberate choice to further God's purposes in the world. Scripture, Tradition and Reason are all valued in the Anglican tradition and are used as counter-balancing sources of authority.

MEETINGS

St. Martha's Guild

Tuesday, January 10, 12:00PM
The Rev. Daniel Appleyard is the guest speaker at this month's Guild meeting. He will share some of the highlights of his trip to England and his meeting with the Interfaith Community there. Bring your own lunch; beverages will be served.

Not Necessarily Religious Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, January 11, 7:30PM
Start off the new year with a good book and great discussion with this group of readers. This month's book title is *Hard Ball on Holy Ground: The Religious Right vs. the Mainline for the Church's Soul*. Edited by Stephen Swecker, the book is a collection of research, essays and interviews focuses primarily on the United Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. It's available on amazon.com for \$11.99. Group Contact: Bill and Peg Poceta, 313.561.2975.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Prayer Room

Sundays, 10:05AM
Worship activities for children 3-7 years.

Church School

Sundays, 11:30AM
Bible stories, singing and crafts for children preschool-aged to 9.

Journey to Adulthood

Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM
Coordinators: Jerry Behm & Monica McLeod

Rite 13

For youth ages 11-13. Contacts: Erika Morrison, 313.791.2709 and John Porter, 313.354.3169.

J2A

For youth ages 14-16. Contacts: Susan Gregg and Dale Taylor, 313.277.1975

MUSIC MINISTRY

Children's Choir

Sundays, 9AM
Choir for elementary school-aged children led by Tess Dowgiallo. Includes chimes. Meets in Rm 213.

Handbell Choir

Wednesdays, 7-8PM

Adult Choir

Thursdays, 7:30-9PM
(Childcare available)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room	2 Office Closed 8:00 AA	3 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE & Healing 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA	5 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	6 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	7 8:30- Trinity Soup K 10:00-12:00 Baptism Preparation Class 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
8 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Children's Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, J2A, Rite 13, Forum 1:00 Vestry Meet 5:00 Via Media	9 8:00 AA	10 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha's 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Common Vision 7:00 Property Meet 7:30 Book Club / AA	12 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	13 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	14 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
15 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Children's Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, J2A, Rite 13, Haas Celebration of Ministry 5:00 Via Media	16 M. L. King Day Office Closed 8:00 AA	17 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Children's Ed	18 12:30 Library Meet 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA	19 11:30 AA 7:00 Finance 7:30 Choir	20 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	21 11:00 Grief Support 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
22 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:05 Prayer Room Annual Meeting	23 8:00 AA	24 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 5:30 Genl Conv Dep 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Common Vision 7:30 AA	26 11:30 AA 6:30 Stewardship 7:30 Choir	27 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	28 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith 7pm World Sabbath Service @ Christ Church Cranbrook
29 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Children's Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2a, Forum 5:00 Via Media	30 8:00 AA	31 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts				

WEEK OF January 1

Acolytes A Joens, C Bell, E Brehob, C Kappauf
Ushers (8am) J Pedler
 (10am) Team 1 – Baker, Garris
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) D Brehob
 (10am) N Lehnert, M Amis, R Groover
Altar Guild L Pedler, L Conklin
LEVs Clergy visit
VPOD S Ward
Sunday Readings: Holy Name Day
 Exodus 34:1-8; Psalm 8, Romans 1:1-7; Luke 2:15-21

WEEK OF January 8

Acolytes J Swiecicki, A Green, E Hines, B Green
Ushers (8am) G Borgeson
 (10am) Team 2 – Ludwig, Sallman, D Leduc
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) M Amis
 (10am) B Hofmann, youth, D Cardwell, B Hall
Altar Guild I Behm, K Green, A Green
LEVs Henry Ford Village
VPOD D Brehob
Sunday Readings: The 1st Sunday after Epiphany
 Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 89:20-29, Acts 10:34-38;
 Mark 1:7-11

WEEK OF January 15

Acolytes B Games, T Morrison, T LeDuc,
 M Swiecicki
Ushers (8am) K Goss
 (10am) Team 3 – M Piernick, Prokoff, Kedzo
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) D Cardwell
 (10am) M Farquharson, A. Johnson, E. Simpson

Altar Guild

L Coghill, L Conklin, C Goss
LEVs C Goss, D LeBlanc
VPOD R Groover
Sunday Readings: The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 63:1-8;
 1 Corinthians 6:11b-20; John 1:43-51

WEEK OF January 22

Acolytes L Culp, A Behm, J Pellegrino, E Sallman
Ushers (9am) Team 4 – J Groover, D Piernick,
 L Leduc, D Young
Lector/L.E.M. (9am) M McLeod, M Sallman,
 M A Zawada
Altar Guild C Goss, J Piernick
LEVs M Pellegrino, M Sheldon
VPOD E Simpson

Sunday Readings: The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany:
 Jeremiah 3:21-4:2; Psalm 130, 1 Corinthians 7:17-23;
 Mark 1:14-20

WEEK OF January 29

Acolytes S Matthews, A Piernick, J Groover, B Green
Ushers (8am) D Baker Sr
 (10:00am) Team 5 – Brim, Mills, Searles
Lector/LEM (8am) R Groover
 (10am) Youth, M Amis, D Cardwell
Altar Guild K Hipp, D Hipp, S McCullen
LEVs J Anderson, S Quaint
VPOD M Amis
Sunday Readings: The 4th Sunday after Epiphany
 Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1b-13; Mark 1:21-28

CHRIST CHURCH AND JOURNEY OF FAITH

A COMMON MISSION AND THE PORTICO

Living the Christian Faith in Christ Church and Journey of Faith.

Seldom does one find two separate Episcopal parishes worshipping in the same building.

In November 2005, the Journey of Faith community began worshipping at Christ Church, Dearborn. Although we have separate clergy and governing boards, we have much in common. We are two congregations of the Episcopal Church USA that hope to do significant work together on program and outreach in the years to come.

Members of each congregation are invited to consider together the possibility of a common mission in ministry. Imagine how Christ might call together our adult and children's education, our service

to the community, pastoral care, worship and fellowship in ways that will enhance and enliven all of our ministries.

Our worship is similar, but distinct. Each congregation worships in an Anglican style of liturgy. Journey of Faith is quite casual, preferring an eclectic blend of modern music and contemporary sources for prayers and readings. Christ Church leans toward a blend of ancient and modern in a more traditional worship setting.

Christ Church has sought to incorporate all ages into a life of fellowship, service and spiritual growth. Journey of Faith's congregation also embraces all ages, but intentionally seeks to reach out to people who have found more traditional approaches to religion to be ineffectual, irrelevant or even repressive.

The association of Journey of Faith and Christ Church has the potential to create a "portico"

between a non-institutional style of being a Christian community and one that has the goal of imitating Jesus' Servanthood embedded within its organizational style.

Just as a "portico" is a way of entering a space, so Journey of Faith can serve as a "transitional space." The potential is that people who long for a life of faith and service may be drawn into community. Some of these people, we expect, will be attracted to the programmatic life that Christ Church offers to adults, young people and children. Others, no doubt, will feel more at home in the less structured life of the portico, choosing to move in and out of Christ Church as their comfort level allows.

As we travel on the Way together, each community shares in a common vision: to restore all people to unity with God and each other, gathering for a life of service and worship.

Music Notes by Sean Jackman

Later this month, the Children's Choir and the Adult Choir will be participating in a World Sabbath Service at Christ Church Cranbrook. This service will involve many area congregations from a variety of worship traditions. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our church musicians to worship with those of different backgrounds.

The service is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to those of you who assisted Tess Dowgiallo and me in the preparation of the Children's Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. "Candlelight Christmas Garden" was a fitting way to begin Christmas celebrations in our community.

Thanks also to all members of the Music Program who worked hard to prepare music for our Christmas Eve service. We do have



many committed and talented people.

Thanks to Margaret and Kevin Green for hosting our Music Program Christmas party. A fun time was had by adults and children with caroling and compulsory singing around the tree (Thanks, Tess)!

The New Year is a great time to start new endeavors. Think about joining one of our musical groups. See me for more information.

ETCETERA

In our Mailbox ...

The following comments were included in a card of thanks to Christ Church from the AA group that meets here:

“14 years of AA, you have helped save my life. God Bless.”

“Thanks for the use of the building.”

“My life depends of the fellowship of AA. Thank you for all the years.”

“Thanks for the use of the Church.”

Thanks, God bless you and have a Merry Christmas.”

Be sure to pick up your 2006 Offering Envelopes near the church office.

FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of November 30, 2005

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$317,044	\$323,215
Other	\$58,743	\$21,373
Total Operating Income	\$375,787	\$344,588
Less Operating Expenses	\$394,116	\$403,439
Surplus / Deficit	\$(18,329)	\$(58,851)

Lenten Reflections returns this year

Sharpen your pencils, loosen up your keyboards and get your inner author to a coffeehouse. *Lenten Reflections*, a booklet of daily reflections written by the parishioners of Christ Church for use by the congregation during Lent, is being resurrected in 2006. The first edition, published in 2002, was an inspiration, with entries a few sentences long to almost half of a page, attributed or anonymous and directly or tangentially related to the readings. There are only 40 spots available and they'll go fast, so see Todd Kappauf early to reserve your space.

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Staff, vestry, ministry listings • Weekly Sunday readings
• Community Highlights • The *Courier*

passages

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/02 Barbara Markowski
1/03 Sandy Percy, Julie Wojtowicz
1/04 Audrey Laude
1/05 Jessica Riney
1/06 Bob Smith
1/07 June Anderson, Doug Brim,
Daniel Hipp, Linda Juergens
1/08 Joyce MacKinnon
1/09 Barbra Loreto
1/11 Joyce Faulds, Michele Nolan
1/12 William Barber, Sharon Smith
1/13 Ann Louise Cwiek
1/15 Marybeth Turmel

1/16 Nolan Lowery, Jean Piernick
1/17 Barbara Brandenburg,
Madison Leidel, Matt Sallman
1/18 Kyle DeGiulio, Thomas Foster
1/19 Eunice Buzby
1/20 Helen Cooper, Eva Greenwood,
Jennifer Somerville,
Stanley Witt
1/21 Elizabeth Boyar
1/22 Barbara Homan
1/25 Lindsay Sitarski,
Kathleen Spencer
1/26 Margaret Breil, Frederick Sheill
1/28 Barbara Darin, Deborah Taylor,
Dean Young

1/29 Patrick Mulkern
1/30 Colette Blake, Nan Giovanini,
Jeff Nichols

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/7 Bruce & Edwina Simpson,
16 years
1/29 George & Margaret Breil,
62 years
1/31 David and Nicole Nichols,
2 yearS

DEATHS

Jack Pearce, December 2005

PERIODICAL

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 N. Military
Dearborn, Michigan 48124
Phone: 313-565-8450 Fax: 313-565-8515
E-mail: office@christchurchdearborn.org
website: www.christchurchdearborn.org

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The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Margaret A. Haas, Assistant 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

Vestry

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Diana Brehob, Evangelism
Jamie Connelly, Finance
Jane Culp, Senior Warden
Kevin Green, Education/Christian Formation
Ross Groover, Property Commission
Sean Quaint, Service Commission
Edwina Simpson, Evangelism
Roger Somerville, Stewardship
Susan Ward, Service Commission

Officers of the Vestry

George Morrison, Clerk
Robert Buzby, Treasurer
Susan McCullen, Recording Secretary
Jan Motsinger, Recording Secretary

The Courier (USPS 564320) is published monthly by Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124-1099. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at DBN. MI 48120. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Christ Episcopal Church, Courier, 120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124-1099.