

CCT Newsletter
January / February
Published bi-monthly by
Christ Church Tashua
5170 Madison Avenue
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Christ Church Tashua Newsletter

January / February - 2015

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From Our Rector

Happy New Year! I was so pleased to be able to celebrate Advent and Christmas with you all this year. This past year has been a time for us to begin to get to know each other and I pray that this year will bring a deepening of affection and friendship as a community.

You may notice some minor changes around as we move into the New Year, the Pasta Supper is back the night before our annual meeting, there are new lights on our sign out front, February should bring the return of our stained glass windows and I'd like to start Lenten soup suppers – a time for light soup fare and fellowship on Wednesday evenings starting the week after Ash Wednesday. It seemed last year that we all enjoyed coming together for fellowship, usually around eating, and that we'd tie in some form of fund raising as an excuse. I'd like to propose that we get together and break bread because we like each other.

New Year is a time of renewal and resolution. Let us resolve this year to recommit to each other and our community. We can start with a strategic plan for the next five years. Now that we have begun to know each other a little bit where do we want to be and how do we want to grow as a faith community? We need to hear from everyone. There are traditions to keep and build upon and new ministries and possibilities we can explore. First though we can take stock of who we are and what our plan might be. I will be asking you to join me in this definition or redefinition.

We need to move first to a level of sustainability amongst ourselves. We will talk more about this at our annual meeting. We are a community of abundance. We have an abundance of charity and as I mentioned throughout the year cast a positive shadow in our greater community. How can we continue that and remain true to the maintenance of the center from which our community operates and grows?

Like most communities in the Episcopal Church these days we need to understand how we relate and are relevant to the lives we live and the people we touch. Ask yourselves why do many of you pass other churches to worship here? It is your answer to that question that provides relevance. Help us to communicate that to others. We don't have the only way or perhaps even the best way to walk in faith but we do have a damn good way. I see it in your helping hands. I see it in your laughter and hard work. I see it in your devotion when there is so much else calling upon your time and attention.

Together we can grow and sustain the fellowship you let me and Maggie join ten months ago. We can inspire each other. You have inspired me. We will make fits and starts I'm sure. We'll try new things or repeat old things that might not work. We'll learn and laugh.

The scriptures and life tell us that to everything there is a season. Let us ride this new year into a season of love and spiritual growth and allow the Spirit to make new what needs to be made new, to winnow down those things we need not do anymore. Let us break bread and worship and find God's Kingdom in this place on the knoll of Tashua.

In God's grace we pray.

Rob+

*“We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord; trusting in His holy word, He’s never failed me yet.”
As we enter Epiphany, I found this piece by Linda Ryan I’d like to share with you.*

I had to clean the debris out of my purse again recently. It seems to get cluttered up with bits of paper, essentials like my iPod, Kindle and cell phone, pens, ChapSticks and just about anything else that will fit in there. In the process, I ran across a small printed piece of paper that’s been in there for who knows how long. I have no idea where I got it, but there it was.

I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger. Thank you.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel in the cellar and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached to me about the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

Christian, you seem so holy; so close to God But I’m still very hungry, and lonely, and cold...

John Stott wrote this based on a passage from Matthew 25, and it almost defies the reader to ignore it. Now, when it seems that the safety nets of the poorest and neediest of our citizens are being swiftly cut it seems more applicable than ever. What in the world are we doing?

Some insist we are a “Christian” nation but how can we be if we ignore the very people Jesus spoke about the most – the poor, the ill, the widows and orphans? How can we claim it if we enable the rich to get richer while the poor only get poorer? Whether we are Christian, a member of some other religion or no religion at all, we all bear a share of the blame.

The health of our nation depends on the health of its people, and our score right now is low and getting lower. Cuts to education, the elderly, the working poor, the children and the marginalized are weakening us on many fronts. Involvement in wars in other countries doesn’t win us many friends abroad as we penalize the soldiers and veterans who do the fighting by cutting their housing, training and benefits which doesn’t win us many friends at home. Our children are less able to excel in the world education standings and our old people are treated almost like freeloaders and nuisances. The homeless are almost invisible, even as they lie on the sidewalks and park benches. Who cares? Obviously not big business or even our own elected officials.

Matthew records Jesus’ words about the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned and the marginalized but he also recorded something that should be uppermost in the minds of any Christian, “Whatever you did to the members of my family, you did it to me.” Of course, the ones who ignored those same people received the opposite message and a condemnation. It seems we pick and choose which instructions from Jesus we want to follow and too often the ones we look at are the ones that line up with our personal wants and desires.

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Some preachers preach against the “social gospel,” preferring to encourage the “name it and claim it” or “prosperity gospel” instead. They put the focus on “I/me/mine” rather than “ours.” There are also some politicians who seem to put the prosperity gospel ahead of the social one when they hang on to the benefits they receive as elected officials while cutting the possibility of those same kinds of benefits for others. Christianity, whether preached by ministers or practiced by politicians, isn’t about “I/me/mine,” just as Christianity practiced by so many ordinary folks. Jesus didn’t restrict his teachings or his healings to people who voted for him, gave him big campaign contributions, practiced Judaism or even were from his own family or town.



I wonder what Jesus would say if he walked around our country today? He’d probably thank us for our prayers for the poor and suffering but ask what were we actually doing to fix the problem. He’d probably want to disown the lot of us because we’re all part of the problem unless we’re part of the solution. That being part of the solution is the tricky part, though. It means giving up some of the “I/me/mine” and handing it out to the “them,” in short, making the “I” “us.”

It occurs to me that I have a responsibility to do something, anything that can make even the smallest difference. The epiphany produced by Stott’s words need to have an action to complete it. What am I willing to do about the problem? And what are others willing to do in turn? Our future hangs in the balance. And Jesus is watching.

Rev. Diane Peterson
Deacon, Christ Church Tashua

From our Treasurer

You can now donate and submit pledge donations from our website at your convenience. If you want to automate your pledge payments or just make a one-time payment. Here are instructions for how to use the convenient Paypal service. Paypal is the credit card vendor we used at the Apple Festival to accept credit card payments.

Follow these simple instructions:

The screenshot shows the homepage of Christ Church Tashua. A navigation menu at the top includes 'Christ Church Tashua', 'Ministries', 'Social', 'Services', 'About Us', 'Sermons', and 'Donate'. The 'Donate' tab is highlighted. Below the navigation, there is a 'Donate' section with a 'Donate' button and a 'Message from the Rector' link. Annotations with blue boxes and arrows point to the 'Donate' tab and the 'Donate' button.

STEP 1 Go to www.christchurchtashua.com

STEP 2 Select the "Donate" tab from website

STEP 3 Select the "Donate" button

The screenshot shows the donation form on christchurchtashua.com. The form has a table with columns for 'Payee', 'Donation amount', 'Make This Recurring (Monthly)', and 'Total'. The 'Payee' is 'Christ Church Tashua' with the reference 'Save or Print Donation'. The 'Donation amount' is '\$ 50.00' and the 'Total' is '\$50.00 USD'. An annotation with a blue box and arrow points to the 'Donation amount' field.

STEP 4 Select the Amount to donate
You may also set up a recurring monthly payment.

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From Our Treasurer ~ Continued



Review your donation and Submit and that's it! Simple!

This chart summarizes our year to date (Jan-Dec. 14, 2014) income and top expenses. Final year end statement will be presented at the Annual Meeting this month.

MONEY IN	\$\$	MONEY OUT	\$\$
Giving	87,857	Clergy	62,537
Fund Raising	22,813	Staff	33,053
Other	8	Building & Grounds (maintenance, snow, etc)	11,677
		Facilities (utilities, heat)	29,682
		Fundraising Expenses	10,047
		Other (pledge, admin expenses, worship, mortgage)	32,495
Income Total	\$110,678	Expense Total	\$179,491
Other Income:			
Monthly Endowment	38,652		
Moving Expense	7,000		
Adjusted Income	\$156,330		

Please let me know if you have any questions and the details can be reviewed on the bulletin board in the Undercroft. Look for your final 2014 Giving Statements in the mail.

**Kim Atherton,
Treasurer**

...We show our children the love of Jesus Christ by reaching out to feed the hungry and clothe the needy..

Calvary St. George's Community Supper



Thank you to all of our wonderful parishioners for their outreach giving in December.
Thanks to your unending generosity, we were able to help a lot of people!

We delivered coats and winter items to St. John's for their annual St. Nicholas Coat Drive.

We delivered coats, winter items and household items to the refugees supported by IRIS.

We donated many new toys and/or personal gift items to the McGivney Center so that their members could "shop" for their families for the Christmas holiday.

And, last but certainly not least, we donated warm winter clothes and socks to each person who is supported by The Prospect House in Bridgeport.

In addition to all of those who donated, a very special thank you goes out to all of those who organized, drove, delivered and volunteered their valuable time to our outreach programs.

We couldn't do it without you!!

A great big THANK YOU to everyone - kids, parents, parishioners and guests who helped make our Christmas Pageant so much fun and a big hit!



Christmas at Christ Church Tashua





SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER - Please join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Christ Church Tashua on Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in our church undercroft. Prepare for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Fast with delicious pancakes, sausages and Mardi Gras Gumbo. Invite your family and friends. Free will donations accepted. Hope to see you there!



Pasta Dinner at Christ Church Tashua! Saturday, January 24th at 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Our delicious menu will include soup, salad, ziti and meatballs, bread, dessert and beverages.

Adults: \$15 or 2 for \$25
Children under 12: \$10

You can RSVP to CCT (by January 16th) a couple of ways:

- There will be a sign up sheet in the Undercroft.
- Email the Parish Office at: parishoffice@christchurchtashua.com with number of adults and number of children.
- Call the Parish Office at: (203) 268-5566 with number of adults and number of children.

Invite your friends and family! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Parish Office. Please join us for a delicious dinner!



CONFIRMATION will be held at Christ Church Tashua on Sunday, April 12th, 2015, with Bishop Ian T. Douglas presiding. Confirmation class will take place on Wednesdays, starting on January 28th - April 1st. It will run for 8 weeks, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. (Please note that on February 18th and March 18th, there will be **NO CLASS**, as Fr. Rob will be in Vestry meetings. There may also be another week in February that he will be unavailable, but once confirmed, the date will be forwarded to you.) If you would like your child to participate and haven't notified either Margaret Marcotte or the Parish Office, please call Maryanne in the Parish Office at (203) 268-5566.

No Saturday Evening Service - There will not be a Saturday evening service on January 24, 2015.

Christ Church Annual Meeting - will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015. There will be one service at 9:00 a.m. A parish brunch and the Annual Meeting will follow in the Undercroft. Please bring a dish if you wish! Join us to elect our new Vestry members and to conduct the pertinent business of our parish.

Special Event!

Producer & Musical Director Joel A. Martin & Panacea Global Partners LLC have joined forces with The Klein & performing artists from around the globe to present the 2nd installment of an original musical production promoting reconciliation, forgiveness and peace through the arts.



Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Special Guest Performers Include:

Eugene Friesen, 4-time Grammy award cellist with the **Paul Winter Consort**

Jazz singing sensation **Sharón Clark**

Gospel/Jazz recording artist **Jolie Rocke Brown**

World renowned Live Artist **Josee Nadeau**

John Hanifin, classical cellist/pop singer

FOM Interfaith Choir

Fairfield CT's superstar drummer, **Ethan Furman**

EarthDrums, a collection of drummers from around the world

R. Patryce Bryant, Bridgeport's own special guest reader with the

Triumphant Christian Church Fire Choir

Readings of Mandela's legacy by guest speakers and more!

COME BE A PART OF THE NEW MANDELA CONSCIOUSNESS!

Tickets are \$15, \$25, \$35 & \$50.

COME TRAVEL IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MANDELA ON THE EVE OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office at (203) 268-5566 or via email at: parishoffice@christchurchtashua.com.



St. John's Family Center - As you may know, Christ Church Tashua has pledged our on-going commitment to the babies, children and parents of St. John's Family Center. They are always in need of clothes and supplies for the babies and children. Also, the mothers and fathers are in need of personal care items. If you would like to donate, we have a box in the Undercroft for collecting these items. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for continuing to support this very worthy and meaningful outreach program. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

The following is a list of the most needed items for the families:

Food Items:

Cereal
Oatmeal
Pancake Mixes
Syrup for pancakes
Fruit – fresh or canned
Soups – chicken noodle, beef, vegetable
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Canned Vegetables – corn, green beans, etc.
Canned Meals – beef stew, beef-a-roni, etc.
Tuna Fish
Beans and Lentils (dry or canned)
Rice – large or small bags
Potatoes – white and sweet
Rice or Potato Side Dishes
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Apple Sauce
Flour
Sugar
Oil
Butter
Margarine
Cake Mixes
Muffin Mixes
Brownie Mixes
Juice
Unsweetened Kool Aid packages

For Women, Children and Babies:

Formula – Enfamil
Diapers – all sizes
Personal Hygiene Items for Women

For Men:

Personal Hygiene Items
Socks
Underwear
Clothes – large sizes

For Any Holidays:

Canned Ham
Turkey Breast
Butter or Margarine
Flour
Sugar



We Episcopalians of the fifteen diverse parishes in the Community of Greater Bridgeport, being one in Christ through Holy Baptism and guided by the Holy Spirit, strive through prayer and action, to grow in understanding and commitment to share, to celebrate, and to witness God's love in our life.

Coffee Hour

If you would like to provide refreshments for one of our Coffee Hours on Sunday morning, please do!

There is a sign up sheet on the front table in the Undercroft.

Thank you!



Altar Guild

Please support our Altar Guild!

One way to support our Altar Guild and the beautiful arrangements that they create every Sunday is to sign up for *Altar Flowers* in memory of or in honor of loved ones ... or whatever you'd like!

There is a sign up sheet on the front table in the Undercroft.

Feel free to sign up for a few dates!

Altar Servers

Thinking about becoming an Altar Server?

We always welcome new members!

There are many ways to serve. You can be a Chalice, Lector, Greeter, Crucifer, Torchbearer and/or a Banner Bearer.

If numbers are more your thing, you can become a Counter.

If you are interested in any of these, you can let Fr. Rob know or call Maryanne in the Parish Office.

Vestry Information

Current Vestry Members

Jaime Hernaez.....	Senior Warden
Jerry Gregory.....	Junior Warden
Jody Irwin.....	Clerk
Kim Atherton.....	Treasurer
Jane Flader.....	Buildings and Grounds
Margaret Marcotte.....	Christian Formation
Patrick Liganga.....	Outreach
Lisa Woods.....	Fundraising

Christ Church Tashua Vestry Meeting Policy

Parishioners are welcome to attend Vestry meetings if they have a particular concern, idea or proposal that should be brought to the attention of the Vestry. A written request should be made to one of the Vestry officers or the Rector a week in advance for inclusion on the meeting agenda, along with any documentation to be reviewed in advance of the meeting. Approximately the first 15 minutes of the next Vestry meeting will then be set aside to address the parishioner's concerns, ideas or proposals. Otherwise, in the interest of covering all of the items on the agenda in a timely way, Vestry meetings are generally closed to parishioners.

Upcoming Vestry Meeting Date -- 7:30pm

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

JANUARY

1-Jan	Bruce Benedict
2-Jan	Noah Green
4-Jan	David Green
5-Jan	Victoria Vasone
7-Jan	Alexandra Baird
7-Jan	Karen Holmes
9-Jan	Jeanne Spath
12-Jan	Elizabeth Hawkins
13-Jan	Natalie Green
14-Jan	Jenelle Hernaez
20-Jan	Matthew Mitola
24-Jan	Georgla Yourieff
29-Jan	Joseph Franzino



FEBRUARY

3-Feb	Linda Halaby
6-Feb	Jade Hernaez
6-Feb	Jana Hernaez
7-Feb	Elizabeth Gregory
8-Feb	Gary Green
9-Feb	John Vasone
11-Feb	Betheny Hawkins
12-Feb	Richard Lamy
13-Feb	John Lundy
16-Feb	Luke Lamy
19-Feb	Susan Mitola
23-Feb	Charles Spath
25-Feb	Victor Reagan-Rivera
26-Feb	Michelle Miklus
27-Feb	Chandler Green

SUNDAY SERVERS ~ January 25 through March 29, 2015




	January 25	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Altar Guild:	Shirley Mayo Jaime Hernaez	Barbara Stowell Martha Kaechele	Ruth Mohr Jaime Hernaez	Shirley Mayo Cat Lamy	Barbara Stowell Martha Kaechele
Altar Linen:	Ruth Mohr	Barbara Stowell	Barbara Stowell	Barbara Stowell	Barbara Stowell
Greeters:	Jody Irwin Jaye Irwin	Martha Kaechele Sharon McNeal	Tom Fox Joe Franzino	Pat Foster Susan Vasone	Todd Rossel Sally Lundy
Lay Assistant:	Sally Lundy	Susan Vasone	Jaime Hernaez	Sally Lundy	Susan Vasone
Lector:	Jenelle Hernaez	Pat Foster	Margaret Marcotte	Jaye Irwin	Martha Kaechele
Crucifer:	Jana Hernaez	Marala Baijal	Jana Hernaez	Vanessa Woods	Louisa Rossel
Torchbearers:	Sarah Holmes Vanessa Woods	Eliane Baijal William Holmes	Casey Rossel Marala Baijal	Sarah Holmes Eliane Baijal	Vanessa Woods William Holmes
Banner Bearer:	Luca Franzino	Dylan Lamy	Vanessa Woods	Ryan Lamy	Collin Woods
Counters:	Martha Kaechele Maxine Murray	Todd Rossel Bev van der Ploeg	Susan Vasone Cat Lamy	Jaime Hernaez Margaret Marcotte	John Holmes Michelle Fox
Refreshments:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Greens for Lent</i>

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Altar Guild:	Ruth Mohr Jaime Hernaez	Shirley Mayo Cat lamy	Barbara Stowell Martha Kaechele	Ruth Mohr Jaime Hernaez	Shirley Mayo Cat Lamy
Altar Linen:	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele
Greeters:	John and Jane Flader	Jaye and Jody Irwin	Martha Kaechele Sharon McNeal	Tom Fox Sally Lundy	Pat Foster Joe Franzino
Lay Assistant:	Jaime Hernaez	Sally Lundy	Susan Vasone	Jaime Hernaez	Sally Lundy
Lector:	Todd Rossel	Marala Baijal	Sharon McNeal	Louisa Rossel	Jana Hernaez
Crucifer:	Eliane Baijal	William Holmes	Jade Hernaez	Sarah Holmes	Jenelle Hernaez
Torchbearers:	Casey Rossel Marala Baijal	Sarah Holmes Vanessa Woods	Eliane Baijal William Holmes	Casey Rossel Marala Baijal	Sarah Holmes Vanessa Woods
Banner Bearer:	Luke Lamy	Luca Franzino	Dylan Lamy	Vanessa Woods	Ryan Lamy
Counters:	Jane Flader Jody Irwin	Sally Lundy Martha Kaechele	Maxine Murray Todd Rossel	Bev van der Ploeg Susan Vasone	Cat Lamy Jaime Hernaez
Refreshments:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Greens for Lent</i>	<i>Greens for Lent</i>	<i>Greens for Lent</i>	<i>Greens for Lent</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>

JANUARY 2015 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3 5:30pm Worship Service at CCT
4 The 2nd Sunday After Christmas Day <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	5	6	7	8	9	10 5:30pm Worship Service at CCT
11 The First Sunday After the Epiphany <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	12	13	14	15	16	17 5:30pm Worship Service at CCT
18 The Second Sunday After the Epiphany <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	19	20	21 Vestry Mtg 7:30 p.m.	22	23	24 CCT Pasta Dinner 5:00pm- 7:30pm
25 The Third Sunday After the Epiphany <u>One Service at 9:00 a.m.</u> Annual Meeting and Brunch to follow service.	26	27	28	29	30	31 5:30pm Worship Service at CCT

FEBRUARY 2015 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany</p> <p><u>Worship 8 & 10:00 a.m</u></p>	2	3	4	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>5:30pm Worship Service at CCT</p>
<p>8 The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany</p> <p><u>Worship 8 & 10:00 a.m</u></p>	9	10	11	12	13	<p>14</p> <p>5:30pm Worship Service at CCT</p> 
<p>15 The Last Sunday After the Epiphany</p> <p><u>Worship 8 & 10:00 a.m</u></p>	16	<p>17</p>  <p>5:30 - 7pm in our church undercroft</p>	<p>18</p> 	19	20	<p>21</p> <p>5:30pm Worship Service at CCT</p>
<p>22 The First Sunday In Lent</p> <p><u>Worship 8 & 10:00a.m.</u></p>	23	24	25	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>5:30pm Worship Service at CCT</p>

CHRIST CHURCH TASHUA ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2015

One Service at 9:00 a.m.

BRUNCH FOLLOWS
(Please Bring a Dish!)

COME AND ELECT THE NEW VESTRY
CONDUCT THE PERTINENT BUSINESS OF THE PARISH

January / February 2015

*Christ Episcopal Church Tashua
5170 Madison Avenue
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