

CCT Newsletter
January/February
Newsletter
Published bi-monthly by
Christ Church Tashua
5170 Madison Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611

Christ Church Tashua Newsletter

January and February 2016

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From Our Rector

Happy New Year one and all. I hope your holidays were full of joy. As we enter the new year I would like to give you a preview of the state of the parish. I won't go into the specifics I will in my report during the annual meeting, but generally the state of the parish is good.

We are smaller than we once were averaging a little over 45 or so on Sunday mornings. We seem to have a number of people who come regularly, volunteer and pledge yet don't come to services but close to once a month. Everyone who is attending seems to be active in some part of our common church ministry just are not liturgical participants every week. This is an indication of the demise of Christendom rather than something specific to our community. Church is but a portion of everyday life and less so then when Sundays were sacrosanct. We are gaining new members from time to time and we are adjusting to what we have and who we are at present.

We have achieved a balanced budget I believe. With the replenishment of our endowments through the generous bequests in the past year, we have been able to reduce our draw on trusts to sustainable levels across the board and fill in the balance of our day to day budget with your pledges. This is a huge achievement people. In less than two years we've gone from a budget which would have bankrupted the parish in ten years to one where we can be sustainable on an on-going basis. This has been done with fewer pledging units. There are some hurdles to overcome, particularly we are in arrears to the diocese still, and we will need to manage the cash flow throughout the year but these are well within our abilities to accomplish.

We have a youth group, yeah! Alas we have no real Sunday school, sob! In the past several months the participation in our youth group has come pretty much solely from our congregation and the friends of our young people. We will continue to reach out to the other parishes locally for efforts to collaborate. With the announced retirement of Rev. Kennedy at Trinity Nichols, the Episcopal Church in Trumbull continues to be in a state of flux. We will help where we can as always. We will probably need to look to ourselves for direction and leadership in any event.

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That being said I should mention my additional positions since our last newsletter. I am as you know the Missional Priest at Grace Trumbull. This is an eight to ten hour a week commitment which doesn't impact the time and energy I provide to Christ Church. I have set up hours there at Grace which don't impact my time here and things seem to be working smoothly. I have also taken on the role of Chaplain to the Long Hill Fire Department. This is a volunteer position and is part of my community outreach ministry. As we are part of the community at large living a life in Christ may attract participation.

The early church gained members more through how the disciples lived and died than any particular scriptures or stories. People learned who Jesus was from people they wanted to hang out with or took inspiration from. The scriptures came afterwards once people showed an interest in belonging to the community. That was the pre-Christendom way of evangelizing. People chose to come into a community of faith it was not something they were obligated to do, in fact the powers that be were hostile. Today while there is not really any "war of Christmas or Christians" there is no longer accommodation from society to attend worship. We are sustained by people who want to be here rather than who are supposed to be here. This is a good thing.

We have a vision for who we are and where we are going as outlined in our strategic plan. The decisions we will be making in the coming year and years will reflect who we are and how we want to enact God's ministry in our community. Most of you participated in a real way to the plan through your input. As the diocese is re-imagined through the TREC-CT process those who know where they are going will fare better, I believe, than those who let the winds of change propel them.

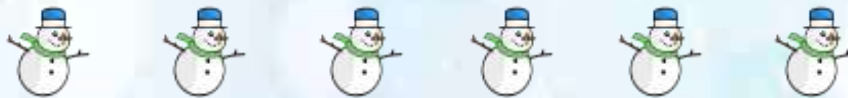
Our ministries and fellowship is vital. We just completed a vibrant Advent series and will be starting a Lenten series before the next newsletter comes your way. We have ideas for on-going youth events, for example we've opened the safe in the office and perhaps the youth could produce a time capsule to place in the safe to be opened in thirty years. Our physical plant is being repaired slowly but surely and more may happen this coming Spring. The spirit of this place is vital and alive. We have variety in our liturgies from our periodic Rite 1 8 a.m. service to our monthly Youth Service. We will be including healing into our services in the coming months to make up for the loss of Deacon Diane's ministry on Sunday mornings. I would appreciate your feedback concerning our efforts and your patience until we "get it right".

Continued on next page

Our annual meeting is in early February this year and I would like to invite those who feel inclined to join us on the vestry. We also need some of you to step up into the role of delegates to the ECCT convention. I know a couple of you have volunteered tentatively and we'll need to make it official by February.

I can't tell you how excited and pleased I am at all the positive changes which have happened during our time together. We've been truly blessed by the work you all do and the community you built. A community that drew several of those who've left us to remember us so generously during the past two years. We can begin to think about how we want to move forward based upon the firm foundation you've laid. Let us pray that this year the Spirit moving in this place continues her blessing.

Rob+



Christ Church Tashua Annual Meeting ~~ Sunday, February 7th

Come and help us conduct the business of our parish.

There will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Our Annual Meeting and brunch will follow our worship service
in the undercroft.

Please bring along a brunch item and/or dessert item to share.

Looking forward to a big turn out!

The Sew-Caring Quilters would like to thank all those who have supported our mission this past year. We had many people who gave us material so we did not have to purchase much other than the lining. ***Thank you!!***

We do have some quilts for sale right now in the Undercroft if anyone is interested. Some of them have been quilted and others, just tied.

We are looking forward to another productive year!!

First; I hope you all had a Blessed Christmas surrounded with family and memories to be treasured. Second; I want to wish you all a Happy, Safe and Successful New Year.

So what will 2016 hold for us a Christ Church Tashua? I'm not much on New Year's resolutions; but I am big on setting a few goals and trying my best to get them done. I think we made some significant progress at the church this past year, with the help of our new rector and some incredible gifts. So I think we can build on this past year and continue to move ahead. And how will we move ahead, you might ask? Well, we have a Strategic Plan compiled with input from every member of our parish who did contribute. This plan should be our foundation. And while we are inching toward a self-sustaining parish, we still have a loooooong way to go and we still have bills to pay. But if we just keep our pledging at the same level as 2015, we should be able to hold steady and this is a good sign financially.

This leads me to an issue Christ Church has suffered with since I became a member. I call it "Summer Amnesia"; or forgetting about your pledges during the summer when we are away and not attending services. This really puts a real squeeze on cash and our ability to pay bills. So many times "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul". Bills get pushed out or not paid for extended periods during the summer. So for one of our New Year resolutions, please keep our pledges up to date or pay them forward if you are going to be away.

I am going to make every effort in 2016 to summarize all our previous work on completing the second floor so it can at least be used for activities and save it from a lifetime of being a closet, and a messy one at that. Maybe we will have to do it in pieces, like eating an elephant. And the first bite would be to put in a fire exit which is part of the deck we have planned. But we have lots of maintenance to do to our church as well so think about what's important to you and talk to your favorite vestry member. Give us your voice.

We have accomplished some great things this year. Through some very generous gifts we have some extra money for maintenance-but not daily expenses. We restored our beautiful stained glass windows. We have a new fence in the front of the church and now the pine trees in Fr. Rob's yard - those messy needle dropping, gutter clogging pine trees - will be gone. How nice will that look come spring when Martine and her crew get to work on the new lawn.

Come to the parish annual meeting with ideas and suggestions on where we can beautify and preserve our church while working to bring in new members to sustain our operation expenses through creative, out of the box efforts. I'm sorry but our comfortable, traditional, warm and friendly spirit at Christ Church Tashua is just not working. You all know some of our best work is outreach; so in 2016 let's all reach.

As always I am available to listen to your thoughts and concerns whether at coffee after the 8 o'clock or on the phone. You can reach me most times at 203-459-0629.

**Regards and blessings for 2016,
Jerry Gregory
(aka Senior Warden)**

From Our Treasurer



This chart summarizes our year to date (January to December 7, 2015) income and top expenses as reported to the Vestry.

MONEY IN	\$\$	MONEY OUT	\$\$
Giving	102,576	Clergy	60,107
Fund Raising	21,721	Staff	34,395
Endowment Interest	40,755	Building & Grounds (maintenance, snow, etc)	16,031
Other	124	Facilities (utilities, heat)	24,698
		Fund raising Expenses	6,570
		Other (pledge, admin expenses, worship, mortgage)	33,561
Income Total	165,176	Expense Total	175,362

Please let me know if you have any questions.

For your convenience, pledge payments can be made on our website's Donations page. You can find us at: www.christchurchtashua.com.

Kim Atherton
Treasurer



Outreach at Christ Church Tashua

A big THANK YOU to all of our parishioners that donated Thanksgiving food items to St. John's Family Center. Here's a photo from delivery day, when turkeys and all the fixings were provided to clients of the St. John's Family Center food pantry. A great team who selflessly gave of themselves to make a difference for others ... I spy William Holmes, Deacon Diane and Fr. Rob. 🙏



Our second Thanksgiving outreach donations this year went to the Trumbull Food Pantry. Because of the amazing generosity of spirit of our parishioners, we donated over 25 turkeys and roasting pans to the families supported by the Trumbull Food Pantry. Thank you!! Thank you!!



Outreach at Christ Church Tashua

At the beginning of December, Jody Irwin and Martine Yourieff delivered a substantial quantity of coats and warm clothing to the St John's Family Center in Bridgeport and a further donation of sheets, blankets, towels and pillows to IRIS in New Haven.

Many thanks to all who brought in gently-used or new items for these very organizations. Both donations were very gratefully received.

And it is not too late if you missed the December 6 ingathering!

St. John's Family Closet is still in need of the following items:

- * Warm clothing for men, including jeans in larger sizes (waists 40" and up)
- * Socks for all sizes and ages
- * Hand and Feet warmers (these are available in bulk at BJs and Costco!)
- * Sleeping bags

IRIS (Refugee Services in New Haven) has an ongoing need for :

- * Sheets
- * Blankets
- * Pillows
- * Towels
- * Rugs

Due to these pressing needs we will have an ongoing collection for any of the items above. Please bring to Church during office hours (Tuesday through Friday – 8am-12pm) or on Sundays and we will deliver as promptly as we can to St. John's and IRIS.

Thank you once again if you have already cleared out your closets/linen cupboards and for those who have yet to do so, the opportunity will continue into the New Year.



Outreach at Christ Church Tashua

Our friendly parishioners served 125 people at the Calvary St. Georges Community Supper in December. Thank you to those who volunteered and baked for us! A huge thank you to all that have volunteered and baked during the year. We couldn't do it without you! Our suppers are always very well received -- especially this time around. The extra treats of clementines and candy canes were a big hit. And, an extra special thank you to Martine Yourieff for giving a whole lot of power bars to the dinner guests.
What a great and generous idea!





A great time was had by all at our annual ECW Christmas Party! We enjoyed being with friends, delicious food and ... party games!

Our little elves are always planning something fun ... Here's a couple of photos from our "Reindeer Game". Thank you to Maggie and Ruthie for being such good sports!

And, thank you to "the elves" for making home-made decorations to turn our undercroft into a festive holiday party room!



Our Jesse Tree was once again a great success!!

Every single one of our tags were taken from our church Christmas tree by our very kindhearted parishioners.

An extra special thank you to Ray and Betty Hofbauer for continuing their commitment to this meaningful outreach each and every year.

Thank you everyone!!



Chili Cook Off

Our Chili Cook Off was a great success! We had 10 chili contestants and even more “judges”. Some entrees were hot and spicy, one was vegetarian, some were made with beef, bison, turkey or pork. Some even had coffee in it! A lot of variety and a lot of fun! We raised \$400 from this fundraising event. A portion of the donations went to buy turkeys for the Trumbull Food Pantry for our Thanksgiving outreach and the rest went to pay a bill. For future events, the kids want to have a Cupcake War and the adults want a Beer Fest ... slightly different perspectives!! Stay tuned for future events!



Join us for Bible Study

Fr. Rob holds a weekly Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 10:30. It runs for about an hour.

We'd love to have some new members join us.

Come and see what it's all about.

All are welcome!

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!



***"Heavenly Housekeeping!"
Our Altar Guild Needs
You!!***

Would you like to learn about preparing the altar for our weekly services? If so, we'd love to have you!

Please call Martha Kaechele at (203) 268-8865 for more information.

Thank you!

***Are you thinking about becoming
an Altar Server?***

If so, we need you!

There are many ways to serve...

You can be an Altar Guild member, Chalice, Lector, Greeter, Acolyte and/or a Counter.

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



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. In addition to food items, 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 items are always in demand:

- Tuna fish
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Soups
- Cereals/Oat Meal
- Juice
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Kids Snacks
- Canned Pastas
- Meal Helpers
- Baby food
- Baby formula (not dry)
- Noodles
- Rice
- Beans (dry & canned)
- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Seasonings
- Fresh fruit/produce



Personal Items:

- Soap
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Combs and brushes
- Personal hygiene products
- Diapers and wipes
- Bath tissue
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream
- Shaving razors
- Deodorant
- Kleenex



In addition to dropping your items in the box in our undercroft, items can be delivered directly to the St. John's Family Center (1067 Park Avenue, Bridgeport) for sorting and distribution between St.Lukes/St.Paul's and the St. John's Family Ctr. Drop off can be made on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9:00am - 4:00pm. You may also call (203) 335-2999.

Would you like to be a Food Pantry Volunteer?



Make a difference in the lives of the clients who visit the Deanery food pantries. They would love to have you assist and they welcome all ages and church youth groups. If interested, please contact Diane Peterson at: peterston6@optonline.net for available dates.

Volunteering makes a difference!



Current Vestry Members

Jerry Gregory.....	Senior Warden
Susan Vasone	Junior Warden and Christian Formation
Jen Rossel.....	Clerk
Kim Atherton.....	Treasurer
Jane Flader.....	Buildings and Grounds
Patrick Liganga.....	Outreach
Lisa Woods.....	Fundraising
Karen Holmes.....	Worship
Marala Baijal	Youth Vestry Member

Upcoming Vestry Meeting Dates -- 7:30pm

**January 20th
February 17th**

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.



JANUARY

Jan. 2.....	Noah Green
Jan. 4.....	David Green
Jan. 5.....	Victoria Vasone
Jan. 7.....	Alexandra Baird
Jan. 7.....	Karen Holmes
Jan. 12.....	Elizabeth Hawkins
Jan. 13.....	Natalie Green
Jan. 14.....	Jenelle Hernaez
Jan. 20.....	Matthew Mitola
Jan. 24.....	Georgia Yourieff
Jan. 29.....	Joe Franzino

FEBRUARY

Feb. 6	Jade Hernaez
Feb. 6	Jana Hernaez
Feb. 7	Elizabeth Gregory
Feb. 11	Betheny Hawkins
Feb. 12	Rich Lamy
Feb. 13	John Lundy
Feb. 16	Luke Lamy
Feb. 19	Susan Mitola
Feb. 25	Victor Reagan-Rivera
Feb. 26	Michelle Miklus
Feb. 27	Chandler Green

SUNDAY SERVERS ~ January 10 through March 13, 2016

	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31	February 7
Altar Guild:	Barbara Stowell	Martha Kaechele	Shirley Mayo	Barbara Stowell	Martha Kaechele
Altar Linen:	Barbara Stowell	Barbara Stowell	Barbara Stowell	Barbara Stowell	Shirley Mayo
Greeters:	John and Jane Flader	Susan Vasone Martha Kaechele	Jaye and Jody Irwin	Sharon McNeal Joe Franzino	Pat and Diane Foster
Lay Assistant:	Todd Rossel	Tom Hawkins	Sally Lundy	Susan Vasone	Todd Rossel
Lector:	John Holmes	Peter Ulisse	Margaret Marcotte	Tom Hawkins	William Holmes Eliane Baijal
Crucifer:	Sarah Holmes	Marala Baijal	Eliane Baijal	Louisa Rossel	Vanessa Woods
Torchbearer:	Casey Rossel	Vanessa Woods	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Sarah Holmes
Counters:	John Holmes Jane Flader	Jody Irwin Sally Lundy	Maxine Murray Todd Rossel	Bev van der Ploeg Margaret Marcotte	John Holmes Jane Flader
Refreshments:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Annual Meeting Brunch
Flowers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

	February 14	February 21	February 28	March 6	March 13
Altar Guild:	Shirley Mayo	Martha Kaechele	Barbara Stowell	Shirley Mayo	Martha Kaechele
Altar Linen:	Shirley Mayo	Shirley Mayo	Shirley Mayo	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele
Greeters:	Sally Lundy Todd Rossel	John and Jane Flader	Jaye and Jody Irwin	Susan Vasone Martha Kaechele	Sharon McNeal Joe Franzino
Lay Assistant:	Tom Hawkins	Sally Lundy	Susan Vasone	Todd Rossel	Tom Hawkins
Lector:	Pat Foster	Martha Kaechele	Jaye Irwin	Vanessa Woods Marala Baijal	Sharon McNeal
Crucifer:	Volunteer Needed	William Holmes	Louisa Rossel	Vanessa Woods	Marala Baijal
Torchbearer:	Casey Rossel	Marala Baijal	Eliane Baijal	Sarah Holmes	William Holmes
Counters:	Jody Irwin Sally Lundy	Maxine Murray Todd Rossel	Bev van der Ploeg Margaret Marcotte	John Holmes Jane Flader	Jody Irwin Sally Lundy
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>Greens for Lent</i>

JANUARY 2016 CALENDAR

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		Happy New Year 2016			1 New Year's Day	2
3 The 2nd Sunday After Christmas Day <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 The 1st Sunday After the Epiphany <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 The 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	18	19	20 Vestry Mtg 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24 The 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 The 4th Sunday After the Epiphany <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 am</u>						

FEBRUARY 2016 CALENDAR

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 The Last Sunday After the Epiphany <i>One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Annual Meeting and brunch to follow service in undercroft</i>	8	9 	10 	11	12	13
14 The 1st Sunday In Lent <u>Worship 8 & 10:00 a.m</u>	15	16	17 Vestry Mtg 7:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 The 2nd Sunday In Lent <u>Worship 8 & 10:00a.m.</u>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 The 3rd Sunday In Lent <u>Worship 8 & 10:00a.m.</u>	29  It's a Leap Year!					