

December 2012



TOGETHER

A word from the Rector

Dear Friends,

So, here we are, once again, in Advent time. For Christians of our own particular tradition, this is an especially cherished season. (And I'm inclined to feel that no one does it better, as well!) The theme is much worth it, and much needed: Waiting, not rushing. The broader culture certainly knows how to rush, and our own lives seem to become ever more hurried, more breathless.

So the church gives an opportunity, once again, to breathe—to wait in holy expectation. It's a reminder of a different kind of living; waiting for the inbreaking of Christ. "Come, thou long expected Jesus." We're invited, now, to a rather different set of aspirations.

The cultivation of interior quiet doesn't come about as yet another busy add-on to our burgeoning to-do lists. Frankly, living more fully into the Mystery of Christ will sometimes lead us to significant change. More often than we are inclined to think, we meet our real abundance by *releasing* rather than acquiring. However, the process of Godly release doesn't need to be anxious or agitated. Sometimes it's our deep-down utterance of a quiet "Yes," in response to the God who has already spoken the reconciling "Yes" to us.

It may not be dramatic, at all, but it certainly makes for real difference—and once again, we usually have to wait to see how it will all shape up anew.

"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him for we will see him as he is." (1 John 3:2) So then, indeed: "Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God." (Romans 8:19)

"Come, thou long expected Jesus."

God graces us to release our nervous quest for "more" (as we now define it). God graces us to release our super-assurances (both of what can *and* what cannot be). God graces us to hear (really hear) the Word spoken in our midst: "See, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

Waiting for God; waiting for ourselves.

How wonderful.

Blessings, in this season and always.

Adam +

A Word from our Pastoral Associate

This Advent marks the beginning of my first full church year with all of you. Happy New Church Year! With much joy, I welcome celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas with all of you. They say, “time flies when you’re having fun.” Well, I have enjoyed every minute of my time with you. Thank you for making me feel so welcomed and so at home. Just as Advent is a time of holy waiting, I wait with all of you for the joy that enters the world through our Lord. I would like to share with you a poem that maybe we could all meditate on this Advent as we wait together. *Sarah Kelb*

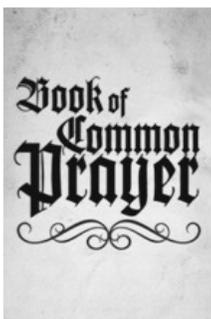
Advent

by Sr. Christine Schenk, CSJ

I wait
with quickened hope or crooked paths to straighten,
with tough-soul'd anguish,
while blinded keepers of the keys shut out
God's own. (If such a thing were possible.)
I wait,
and will not be dismayed.
For tiny shoot of Jesse tree
took root in me
to love, transform, give sight,
set free.



Morning Prayer returns to CHS



Beginning December 6, Morning Prayer, Rite II, will be offered every Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the side chapel. It will be led by Pastoral Associate, Sarah Kelb, until at some point any parishioners feel called to lead this office.

Morning Prayer is a part of the Daily Office, a common prayer of the church. Author Jeffery Lee writes in *Opening the Prayer Book*, “The daily offices of the prayer book are intended to be familiar, regular, and participatory, leading to what another author calls a ‘divine monotony.’ The offices have a corporate familiarity that leads us deeper into the regular rhythms of the day and of our life with God.”



Entered into Eternal Life

Richard C. Butterworth

Advent Quiet Day, Saturday Dec 15

“Holy Waiting, Holy Joy: Seeking God in Quiet Anticipation”

Come for a day of quiet reflection in anticipation of our Lord’s birth on Saturday December 15, at Christ Church, Harwichport. This is *our* “off-site” Advent Quiet Day. We will begin with gathering time starting at 9:30 a.m. and will move into Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. Throughout the morning and early afternoon three reflections will be offered by our Pastoral Associate, Sarah Kelb, as well as plenty of time to wait for the Lord in quiet anticipation. Closing prayers and dismissal will be at 3:00. This season’s Quiet Day is going to be held off site, however not far off site and carpooling will be available. Please bring a bag lunch.



Things you might like to bring: your own personal Book of Common Prayer, a Bible, other Spiritual readings, any “prayer tools” you might have such as a prayer shawl, prayer beads, a prayer rope, a prayer stool/seiza bench, or a small icon. All are welcome.

Office Staff Updates

As many are aware, Judith Reppucci is no longer serving as our parish’s Office Manager. We wish her well.

I want to provide a brief word on where we are, in terms of office staff, and how we’ll be proceeding. We’ve opted to take our time to study what will serve us well in the future. Already a Best Practices review of administration in several like sized parishes has been completed and we are studying several interesting ideas. This is why we are not proceeding with a new hire at this time, merely perpetuating the configuration of our office staff as it has been. So, we’re going with an extended “interim” arrangement. We have excellent folks now in place who have been doing an outstanding job for us meeting our current office and administrative needs. We’ll be using their services while we take the time to discern “where we go from here.” The interim arrangement will extend well into next year.

Celia Calhoun’s role has been expanded to full time, to serve as our Acting Office Manager. Debbi Manning is continuing as our part-time Office Assistant. The Wardens, Vestry, and I are most grateful for Celia’s willingness to step forward in this critical yet provisional role. She and Debbi are a truly effective team. We are blessed to have the right people at the right time working for us.

Meanwhile, I’m going to be working closely with our Wardens—and our new Personnel Committee—as we prepare for the next phase. This will not be a rush job. Only when we’ve done our work and seen our way clear to what’s the right next step for us will we then move to all that’s involved in a new hiring process.

Father Adam Linton, Rector

Adult Education ✦ Sunday at 9:00 a.m.: Continuing John One

In December, the Sunday Adult Education Series at 9:00 a.m. continues with further study of John’s Gospel. Please join us! Drop ins welcome!



Adult Education ✦ Thursdays at Three: Waiting with Mary

Thursdays at three will be quite special during Advent. Join us for an exploration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord. This special offering will include music, poetry and other writings, as well as images of Mary from around the world. This very sacred time will be held in the North Transept of the church.

If you have never experienced “Thursdays at Three,” this is a perfect time to start and a series you will not want to miss! You may also wish to bring your friends to this special and sacred offering.

Thursdays at 3:00 p.m., December 6, 13, 20.

Please join us!



Vestry Highlights — November, 2012

RECTOR’S REPORT: Fr. Adam reported on the Diocesan Convention. The office staff is working well together. A Personnel Committee has been established.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Jack Nixon, Acting Treasurer, reported continuing cash flow problems, but third quarter DIT figures were good.

PROCLAMATION:

Worship and Praise: Starting in Advent Morning Prayer will be held at 8:30 in the chapel.

Church School: The Church School Team is preparing for the Advent and Christmas season; nine students in the confirmation class, six students in the High School class held twice a month.

Adult Education: Continues planning for programs for “Adult Sunday School” and “Thursdays at Three.”

WELCOMING:

Sharing the Blessing: The process of forming an Integrity chapter is still ongoing. During February we will utilize the Ministry of the Month bulletin board to advertise our work in the parish.

SERVING:

Lay Pastoral Care: More requests for rides to church. An EV meeting is planned for after Thanksgiving.

Living with Loss has about a dozen participants.

Health: Ideas for the bulletin board discussed; Safety at church policy to be revised and distributed.

Outreach: Ruth Campbell has received a grant of \$23,000 for a Free Food for Kids program. Chip said that our church will participate in Habitat’s Apostle’s Build to raise \$55,000 for a house in Orleans to be built next year.

Justice and Peace: Deacon Dan gave an update on the Cape Hub Mission. Future events were discussed.

Building and Grounds: Parking lot lights have been updated and are much brighter and better for safety.

Stewardship: Pledge responses to date were shared – weekly updates will appear in the Bulletins.

NEXT REGULAR VESTRY MEETING: Thursday, December 20, at 7:00 pm in the Fireplace Room.

Carol Call, Clerk

[Copies of Vestry Minutes are available for viewing in the Parish Office]

Justice & Peace

Dear Holy Spirit family,

The following are some things your Justice and Peace Committee is working on. We invite your participation and your suggestions to help us all contribute to building a **JustPeace** in our world. Shalom, Peace, Salaam, Fr. Ken+

We are so proud of Ruth Campbell and Deacon Dan Horgan as they exercise extraordinary leadership in, respectively, developing teams to implement "Free Food for Kids," and "Cape Hub Mission." for 2013 and beyond. Ruth's application for a start up grant from the Episcopal City Mission won first place! Fr. Adam received the official notification on behalf of Holy Spirit at the Diocesan Convention on November 4th. Speak to Ruth or Dan if you would like to help.

Overnights of Hospitality continues to provide overnight hospitality, food, and friendship to men who are homeless on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Our one need is for 2 more men who would be willing to be overnight hosts 3 times a year! **This need is critical.**

Noted author and researcher, Larry Minear, former Tufts and Brown University faculty member, who has interviewed hundreds of veterans, and published 14 books, will speak on "Carnage and Conscience in Iraq and Afghanistan" on Saturday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m. at the Chatham Library. This is co-sponsored by Cape Cod Veterans for Peace and the Fellowship of Reconciliation

During the Epiphany season, beginning January 4th, we are sponsoring a 'monastic lunch' series on Fridays at **noon** in the parish hall. Bring a sandwich or salad and join us! (beverages provided) While we eat in silence, we will watch a 20 minute DVD each week from a different scholar or theologian exploring what an open, inclusive broad-minded Christianity looks like. After the DVD we will discuss and debate for a while! Reservations not necessary, just show up!

The Justice and Peace Committee is planning on establishing a FAIR TRADE table at Holy Spirit for selling such items as coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil. If interested in helping see Fr. Ken.

The Diocesan Convention approved several resolutions on November 3rd and 4th related to Social Justice. Next month we will address these issues in our Together article. We will also be sending an email to parishioners who are interested in receiving a quarterly email from J & P regarding an issue of advocacy in the wider community that needs to be addressed. If you would like to be on the list please tell Bob Winter or Fr. Ken



Office Corner

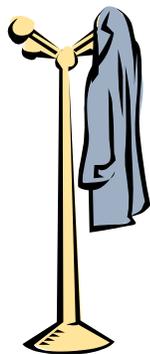
Annual Reports are due!

Please submit Annual Reports for your Committee or Group for inclusion in The Annual Report of the Parish by/on Monday, December 31st. Please send them by email to holyspirit@leansadmin@verizon.net if possible (the font we use is Times New Roman size 12). Handwritten reports are of course acceptable too. Copies of the report for your group last year will be placed in your mailbox in the office by December 7th. If you need an email copy please let us know (same email as above).

January *Together* deadline:

Due to the Christmas Holiday the deadline is Monday, December 10th. We are trying to keep to the new 8-page standard, so please submit brief articles that cover events and news relevant to the coming month, or very early the following month.

Free Shop ✦



Don't forget the Free Shop this Advent season - it fulfills "wishes" a father finds socks for his small son, a woman finds clothing to start her off on a new job after being jobless for months, a father finds birthday presents for his child, a woman finds a book by her favorite author, an artist finds materials for her next project, a grandmother finds infant clothing for her daughter, a teenager finds a t-shirt for Nauset High School T-Shirt day, a infant car seat is delivered to a family in need, numerous bags of clothing are delivered to a Red Cross Relief truck, a woman going through chemo finds clothing after losing a lot of weight, hooded sweatshirts & winter coats are delivered to men & women living on the streets in Hyannis, a child finds a toy, a book the "wishes" are endless as are your donations to the Free Shop. Thank you!

Donations can be dropped off any time the Parish Hall is open (M - Thurs, 9 to 3) - there is a container outside the door if the shop is closed. The Free Shop is open every Monday - 12 to 3 and every Wednesday - 10 to 1.

Kathy Chapman (508 255 5647) & Sharyn Laughton (508 255 7277) - Co-Directors

Artist of the Month: featuring The Church School ✦

We are all on the way to Bethlehem.

We are all making the journey.

We are all getting ready to enter the mystery of Christmas.



There a still a few months "open" in 2013 to exhibit/sell your art in CHS GALLERY. The sign up sheet is located in the gallery by the exit door. Questions? Call Sharyn Laughton - 508 255 7277 - artoff@comcast.net.

Gathering Together

Women's Luncheon: December 6



Entertainment this month: FATHER CHARLES MORRIS

Father Charles Morris will play Christmas Carols at our regular luncheon on December 6th at 12 noon-- what a treat for us all! The luncheon is for ALL women in the parish; please encourage those who haven't joined us in the past to come. Bring a sandwich to share and canned goods for the Food Pantry. Volunteers for the day: Ruth Campbell, Ginny Lucil, Sue Stevens and Bobbi Nickerson. If you need transportation call Peter Blank, 508-760-1516.

Shepherd Groups

Eastham-Wellfleet Shepherd Group will meet December 16 at the home of Libby Pratt, 180 Mill Rd., Eastham. The other Shepherd Groups are not meeting in December.

Ask

In a recent sermon, our Pastoral Associate Sarah Kelb preached on Jesus' healing of the blind man in Jericho. Jesus asked the man, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51) The blind man asked that his sight be restored. Jesus did and told the man it was his faith that had made him well.

Sarah went on to share that in today's society, asking for help may be considered a sign of weakness. We are taught to 'suffer in silence', be self sufficient and keep our own counsel on the challenges we face. It is good to not always rely on others for our well being and happiness. However, our pride can hold us back from getting the help we need. When times are tough, it is ok to ask for help.

The Church of the Holy Spirit is a vibrant parish family made up of many independent and self sufficient people. However, as explained in the 2013 Pledge Packets material, we face a projected financial shortfall next year. If you consider us your full or part-time Cape Cod parish, please prayerfully consider making or increasing your stewardship pledge for 2013. Our collected faithful responses can make us financially healthy and remain the special parish we've become.

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

If you have not returned your 2013 pledge, please do so ASAP.

If you need a pledge packet, please contact the Parish Office, on 508-255-0433

In-Gathering weekends, when pledges are blessed,
will be November 24/25th and December 1st and 2nd
Pledges received after that will be individually blessed.

2012 pledge payments made by December 30th will be reflected on your 2012 statement.

If you have any questions about your 2012 pledge status, please send an email to holyspiritorleansdatabase@verizon.net or call the Parish Office.

Angelica Center: Speaker Series

Thanks to the combined efforts of Kate Paradise, Father Adam and Sarah Kelb, we have a very exciting program to offer next year: **Barbara Brown Taylor** April 13, **Kathleen Norris** June 8, **Walter Brueggemann** July 27. All events will be held on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in Parish Hal. Each distinguished guest speaker will also be delivering a sermon the next day at the 10:00 a.m. service.

We anticipate an enthusiastic response from the public and throughout the diocese. In order to give every parishioner the opportunity to assure a seat for the Saturday address, we are making tickets available now before they go on sale elsewhere in February. Please see Tom Dewing at coffee hour or contact him, at 508-255 2656 , email, st.dewing@verizon.net . A ticket is \$20 suggested donation.

Stay tuned. We will also be providing an opportunity to read selected books from each author and the book discussion group will be reading and discussing them as well.

Together December 2012

***The Church of the Holy Spirit
204 Monument Road
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512
508-255-0433/
www.holyspiritorleans.org.***

Vestry Officers:

Chip Bechtold, Senior Warden
Nat Goddard, Junior Warden
Jack Nixon, Acting Treasurer
Carol Call, Clerk

Vestry Members:

Mary Anne Bragdon
Virginia Clarendon
Ike Cole
Sally Dewing
Bev Dreher
Jon Idman
Ernie LaFrance
David Moore
Dilys Smith



The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

Sarah D. Kelb, Pastoral Associate
The Reverend Dan Horgan, Deacon
Celia Calhoun, Acting Office Manager
Darlene T. Hagon, Director of Music
Sandra H. Cole, Organist
John P. Hagon, Handbell Choir
Debbi Manning, Office Assistant
Larry Kane, Head Sexton
John Larner, Sunday Sexton

***Our mission as The Church of the Holy Spirit is
to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
welcome all people and serve one another with love.***



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Dates to remember

Sunday, December 2, First Sunday of Advent,

First Fruits Sale, Advent Wreath Making

Thursday, December 6, at 12:00 p.m. Women of the Parish Luncheon

Sunday, December 9, Sale of Gingerbread Houses

Saturday, December 15, Advent Quiet Day at Christ Church, Harwich

Monday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m., Children's Nativity Pageant

Monday, December 24 at 10:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m., Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 31, Annual Reports Due