

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH


111 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
SMITHFIELD, VA 23430
OFFICE: 757-357-2826 OR 357-2810
FAX: 757-357-2810





DECEMBER 2011


'JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY'...THIS CHRISTMAS


This Advent, Christ Church is embarking on a special journey here in our community. While all of Smithfield participates in the annual Christmas Parade it is our hope to highlight our presence here and share our beautiful historic church with others. On the 10th we invite you to join in and 'walk' with us as we celebrate this holy season of preparation. Many of our Christ Church family will be helping out at numerous events around town this day. So come along too and **'join us on our journey'!**

 Begin your day with **breakfast with Santa** at the Smithfield Center from 8:00am til 10:00am . This event is sponsored by the Kiwanis . All proceeds go towards helping underprivileged children in IOW county experience the joy of Christmas . *Tickets are just \$5.00 and can be purchased in advance from any Kiwanis member or purchased at the door. Contact Angie Lowry for more information.*

 At 11:00 Christ Church will **open our doors to parade goers for a warm drink and sweet holiday treat!** Hot chocolate, coffee, and Kinderpunsch will be available for purchase as well as freshly baked Christmas treats. Also for sale will be gifted wrapped gingerbreads, holiday cupcakes, breads and more for that special gift. *Those who can donate bakery goods to be sold, please get in touch with Judy Cutler 757-357- 5133 or Michel Lujan 757-279-0124.*

 **Church tours** will be available at noon as well as an **art exhibition and sale**. Browse through a selection of local art, pictures, cards and poetry. Those who would like to give or assist with Church Tours and Church Beautification contact Pam Glanville 757-773-2700

 At 12 noon come in, warm up and join us as we feed the multitudes with a **Fish Fry Lunch**. Gene Lowery will be chef of the day, again preparing his famous hush puppies, delicious fish and coleslaw. A drink is included all for \$7.00. Those who would like to help with the Fish fry set up, assisting Gene with the cooking, and providing customer service to our guests, please call: Dona or Gene at 757-357-5879 or Mary Cole 757-675-5777.

 If you've ever wanted to ride in a **parade** here is your chance! Christ Church has entered a **float** in the parade with the theme "Join us on our Journey". Costumes are provided for all riders, and those not wishing to get dressed up can walk along side the float in street clothes. Contact Tammie and Roger Ash 757-357-2718 or Michel Lujan 757-279-0124 if you'd like to assist with the float, ride or walk in the parade.



Shoe Boxes and Prayers!



Thank you everyone, SO MUCH!

We packed **68 shoe boxes** with gifts, pictures, notes, love and prayers to go wherever God will send them and to the child that needs to receive just that box from you.

Please continue your prayers for the children who will feel the joy, and the love of Christ from you. Faithfully,
Dem & John

Look for more news coming soon on the

Advent Soup Community Night

We'll gather here at Christ Church for soup & bread to share some of our own stories about Christmases past . *Monday, December 12 from 6 til 8pm.*

No cooking or preparing! Just come share a meal and the community of your church family!



If you have a recipe you would like to share with the congregation please send it via email cchurchsmfd@verizon.net or put a copy in the office box at church.



Sincere thanks to all you ladies who throughout the year faithfully bake wonderful batches of bread for our Services! *Are you called to be a bread maker for our Church? If so contact Molly Lundie at 357-7483*



Many thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and the beautiful prayer shawl during my surgery and recovery. As most of you know, my prognosis is excellent and I am doing quite well. It is very meaningful to have the support of my Christ Church family and I appreciate your kind thoughts more than you know.

~ Rosemarie White

Pig watering cans sold by J2A as fundraiser for their pilgrimage. Contact Ray Locke if you missed purchasing one that day! (Allie pictured below)



GLUHWEIN:

Is popular in Germany and the region of Alsace in France. It is the traditional holiday beverage sold at the Advent and Christmas markets and drunk throughout the holidays. The French name is vin chaud (hot wine) and in Great Britain this festive drink is referred to as Mulled Wine.

Gluhwein can be served with or without alcohol (Kinder punsch). It can be made a few days before as the flavors blend and become richer and fruitier the longer it is kept in your stove top saucepan or large crock-pot. Great to serve over the holidays to friends and family!

- 1 pint cranberry juice
- Half pint of orange juice with pulp included
- 1 apple, chopped
- 1 orange cut into thick slices
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp. of each, cinnamon, nutmeg, & ginger
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 Tbsp sugar



Heat together thoroughly and reduce heat to low

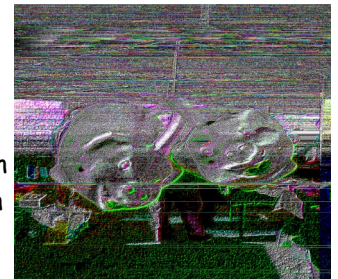
ADD 1 bottle of red wine or port.

****spices can be combined in a piece of cheesecloth or even coffee filter to avoid needing to strain gluhwein prior to serving****



Flying Smithfield Pigs!!!

While we didn't manage to get the pigs flying—still working on that!! The Welsh cakes, shortbread, and handmade door green ornaments certainly flew out of the Farmers market the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. The J2A group along with Ed Greskowiak, Ray Locke, Dana Parker, Michel Lujan, and Deborah Webb, worked very hard to bake tasty goodies, sell Smithfield Pig Watering cans, hand made live-green door ornaments and raffle tickets for a special Christmas Wreath. We had a lot of fun while raising a considerable amount of money for the J2A pilgrimage and various charities here at Christ Church.



Bridget, Deb and Michel at the grill



Mandy Dubinsky & Samantha Taplin share and savor a sweet moment before selling out of the 'hot' Welsh cakes and Scottish shortbread.

THE RECTOR'S VISION BY REV. GARY BARKER



Edith and Fr. Gary with Bishop Holly

Oct.23rd 2011

As we work our way through Advent towards the celebration of God among us at Christmas, there are many tugs at our time and heart and wallet and soul. It is easy to be overwhelmed or just so busy being busy that we forget the joy of it all.

How do you stop long enough to let your soul breathe? How do you remember the joy of the season? One way I like to slow down each Advent is to take time in my daily prayer to explore my life up to now and ask: "How has being a Christian changed your life?" Sure we live in a culture that is strongly influenced by Christian and European ways so that some parts of Christ are imbedded in the culture, but in truth our cultural values are not always particularly Christian. So it doesn't suffice to say, well I go to church and celebrate Christmas!

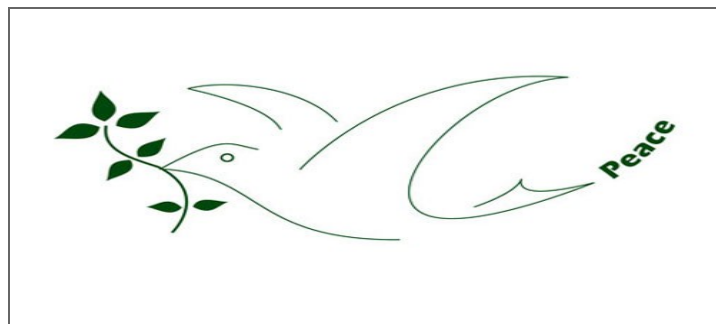
I write this as we move from Black Friday Week to Cyber Monday Week with a Small Business Saturday in between. No talk of Advent or Christ in all of that. Just buying and getting the best deals and a fickle market that has a small "bounce back" because people are spending money they probably don't have to spend. . Much of our culture twists our lives into something that has a Christian façade but is not particularly Christian in substance at all.

I am always embarrassed this time of year when I hear fellow Christians raise the pious-sounding battle cry that beats members of our society for not saying Merry CHRISTmas instead of seasons greetings, etc. Embarrassed, I say, not because I do not very much want Christ in my Christmas, but because I also believe Jesus would not verbally beat people who believe differently from me. It does not show the world that I am Christian by being unpleasant with others who do not believe in Christ; I show the world I am Christian by offering the love of Christ to others whether they say "Christmas" or "Holiday Season."

So I recommend to you this season to stop long enough to think and pray about about what being a Christian has meant and does mean for your life. What better way is there to find God among us than to begin by looking for God in your life?

Blessed Advent and Holy Christmas!

Gary+



Advent



Into the bleakest winters of our souls, Lord, you are tiptoeing on tiny Infant feet to find us, hold our hands. May we drop whatever it is we are so busy about these days to accept this gesture so small that it may get overlooked in our frantic search for something massive and overwhelming. Remind us that it is not you who demands large, lavish celebrations and enormous strobe-lit displays of faith. Rather, you ask only that we have the faith of a mustard seed and willingness to let a small hand take ours. We are ready.

CELTIC EVENSONG SERVICE , CONCERT AND RECEPTION

Sunday, December 4 at 6:00pm, Christ Church will offer a *Celtic Evensong service* which will commemorate Saint Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland whose feast day is a few days before the December 4th date.

The service will include the lighting of candles for prayer and the opportunity for the laying on of hands in healing. This is our third Celtic service which, no doubt, will continue to touch our hearts and souls as we behold the beauty around us and absorb the spoken word and music unique to such an experience.

A *Celtic concert and reception* will follow the service with our guests, **9 Points of Roguery**, an ensemble of the Williamsburg Youth Harp Society. The "Rogues" play harp, fiddle, mandolin, tin-whistle, flute, piccolo, concertina, cello, accordion and bodhran (Irish drum) and will perform traditional Irish as well as other Celtic music. Formed in 2009 with a grant from the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission, 9 Points of Roguery began when some of the group's musicians were just in the third grade playing classical harp music together! Please join us for a memorable evening!



December at a Glance



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Services 7.45am, 9am & 11am. Parish meeting 10am Celtic Service 6	5 Bible Study 7-8.30pm	6 Daughters of the King 7.30pm Exectutive 1st Tuesday Meeting 7pm	7 Bible Study 4-5pm Eucharist 6-7pm	8	9	10 Breakfast with Santa Christmas parade Fish Fry Bake Sale
11 Services 7.45am, 9am & 11am Sunday School 10am	12 Advent Community Night Soup & Bread 6-8pm	13	14 Bible Study 4-5pm Eucharist 6-7pm	15 Brownie Troop meeting 6.30-7.30pm	16	17 Prayer Shawl Meeting 10am
18 Services 7.45am, 9am & 11am Sunday School 10am	19 Bible Study 7-8.30pm	20	21 Bible Study 4-5pm Eucharist 6-7pm	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7pm Service & 11pm Service
25 <i>Christmas Service</i> †† 11am	26 Office closed No Bible Study	27	28 Bible Study 4-5pm Eucharist 6-7pm	29	30	31