



The Signpost Weekly

December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Zac Harmon, Vicar

<http://www.stchristophersnh.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
187 East Rd., Hampstead, NH 03841
Tel. (603) 329-4674

News or Info: signpostweekly@comcast.net

Calendar

Sunday, December 23

- ☆ Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 8 and 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation - Prayer Beads & other ways to pray, Br. David & Ann Gerns
- 9:30 a.m. Bishop's Committee
- 10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, December 24

- 9 a.m. Yoga
- ☆ **Christmas Eve**
- 3:30 p.m. Children arrive to be fitted for a costume.
- 4 p.m. - Christmas Pageant/Family Service

- 8:45 p.m. Christmas Carols Singalong.
- 9 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 25

- ☆ **Christmas Day**
- 9 a.m. Worship Service

Thursday, December 27

- 7 p.m., Evening Eucharist/Bible Study

Sunday, December 30

- 8 and 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation
- 10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, December 31

- 9 a.m. Yoga
- ☆ **New Year's Eve**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



When we asked the kids at our 10:15 service what they looked forward to on Christmas, one of the big things they listed was: gifts. And, indeed, gifts are a very important part of Christmas- because we celebrate the greatest gift of all on Christmas- the

gift of God's love given as the Son of God born to Mother Mary.

In one of the Christmas Scripture readings from Titus (3:4-6), it speaks of how nothing we did could have earned or purchased this most spectacular of gifts- but God gave this gift to us freely and lovingly. This gift of goodness and love is such an important reminder in the midst of Christmas. We saw a great example of this kind of giving with all the gifts lined

up for the Giving Tree a couple weeks ago.

So much of this season outside of the church though can be dominated by *transactionalism*. The transaction of money for a gift, the power of wealth and/or debt to buy 'bigger and better' gifts. Sometimes this transactional way of thinking creeps into how we approach God's love- worried that we have to earn love and worth before God or in the world- or it creeps into how we approach others- thinking that people in our world and in our lives have to earn love and dignity.

To all of this the good news of Christmas breaks out like an angel song-

'Glory to God in the Highest, and peace on earth.'
'Emmanuel- God is with us.'

'You shall find a child lying in a manger.'
'Mary treasured all of these things in her heart.'

God's love is abundantly given to us. God loved all of us so much as to come and be a tiny, vulnerable baby in our midst. You've heard that good news before, but it is still incredibly- almost impossibly-good news to hear.



[Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Christmas message 2018](#)

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry offers a profound reflection on gifts and giving in [his Christmas message](#). If you have time in the rush of these next few days, I would encourage you to watch it- he speaks of the importance of giving in Christmas, the importance of remembering refugees and others who need help in our gifts. You can watch it [here](#) if you like: May God richly bless your Christmas this year.

Family Christmas Eve Service w/Pageant, 4 p.m.

This celebration of Christmas Eve will be child and family focused with both room for the jubilation of children and the holy stillness of songs like Silent

Night. The pageant will be simple and enjoyable. Children who would like to participate in the pageant should arrive by 3:30 p.m. for a costume fitting.

Christmas Eve Service, 9 p.m. Come early, 8:45, for a Christmas Carol sing.

This is our full and festive service with candle light.

Christmas Day Service, 9 a.m.

The holy quiet joy of the Christmas Day service can be a beautiful and delightful part of celebrating this season, if you would like to include this in your celebration of Christmas this year.

"Hello Girls' documentary to air on PBS It's an abbreviated version airing on PBS / WGBH beginning 12/22 (Saturday). Schedule of air times below. The film is usually 55 minutes and this version is @ 30 minutes. Carolyn Timbie

<http://www.pbs.org/to-the-contrary/pages/airdates/WGBH>

Keeping 12 Days of Christmas?

The Christmas season begins on December 25 and runs until Epiphany (Jan 6). Have you ever tried keeping the 12 Days of Christmas? Sometimes we're really good at keeping penitential days like the 40 days of Lent in the church more broadly, but struggle for joy and celebration. Perhaps it might be right to consider the 12 Days of Christmas as an important time to remember and cherish God's love for us and the world around us. There are lots of ways to celebrate (which do not involve the difficulty of locating a partridge in a pear tree)- taking time to pray in gratitude each day, taking time out each day to spend time with family and friends we love, give a gift of compassion to someone we come across or take time to celebrate each day with a favorite book, movie or poem where you feel like you can connect with God. If you haven't tried keeping the 12 Days of Christmas before, you might find it both fun and meaningful to try this year.

Stewardship

We've had a great level of participation from the parish this year in our Stewardship Drive. More details will be to you soon. For now, we want to say a big "Thank You" to all those who have pledged support for 2019. If you are still thinking of pledging,

a pledge is truly welcome **any time of year. It is never too late to pledge.**



Narcan Training

I've been trying to coordinate a Narcan training for people in the parish who have expressed an interest. Is there anyone else in the parish who could use this training? If someone in your family struggles with addiction to opioids, Narcan training is something which could be helpful in the event of an overdose. If you would like to be included in such a training, please e-mail me, Fr. Zac, vicarstchristophers@gmail.com

2018 Pledge Receipts for the Week Ending Dec. 16

- Rec'd, \$1,176 (budget, \$2,308)
 - YTD actual rec'd \$116,018 (budget, \$115,385)
- Please note: Several of us are behind in our pledges. If you would like to know the status of your 2018 pledge gifts, please contact Nancy Hickey; nancy@howielegal.com or 603-329-7840

Prayers of the People

Prayers for the repose of **Joy Noyes**, and healing prayers for her husband, **Al**, and their 3 sons. Ingrid and Mark Chapman ask for your prayers for their daughter **Lisa**. Please pray for **Nick**, Anne Darrah's cousin's husband; please pray for **Angie McCurdy** and her family; please pray for **Lincoln**, Christine Collins' cousin's young son who is ill; and for **Aaron, Alex & family** in their time of grief. Prayers for **Zach**, a relative of a parishioner; prayers for **Noelle Schreiber; Ellie McCabe**; prayers for **Bob Gleason, Lucille Gigeure**. For Dave Darrah's brother, **Tom**; for **Deb**; for **Roy Jeffrey; Ann Donovan; Kate; Brayden; Matty; Ian**; prayers for **Howie**; for **Cheryl**; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin**; for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric**.

Serving in the Military: Pray for Pam Vazquez's son, **Army 2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Vazquez**, for Del's cousins, **Daniel, Matthew and Sandra**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Mike, Jen, Maddy, Natalie, and Sean Hayes; Ed and Sue Hale; Alexandra, Ian and Owen Handel; Fr. Zac and Rev. Kate Harmon Siberine.

Attendance

Tuesday, 12/3, 9 a.m., 8; Thursday, 12/5, 7 p.m. 11
Saturday, 12/8, 2 p.m., 4;
Sunday, 12/9, 8 a.m., 21; 10:15 a.m., 59

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2019 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 10 a.m. January 13, 2019

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

