Farewell With Gratitude To The Austin Organ At Epiphany

By Jason Abel, Music Director

By the time you read this column, we will be nearing the end of our time with the Austin Organ. We give thanks for the generosity of donors who helped to put this organ in our church. When one counts the number of services it has played since 1975, one recognizes that is has had a long and impressive tenure.

I intend to provide regular updates on the status of the work being done for the new instrument built by Harrison & Harrison. The “Bromley Organ” is just now beginning to be built in England. There are no exciting pictures to share at this time, but we hope to have things in the near future which will allow us to follow the organ’s construction.

On January 6, the Austin Organ will begin to be dismantled and moved out of the church. Our church will be closed during the week for tours as this is a pretty messy process. A hydraulic lift will be used to carry the organ console over the railing, and setting it downstairs so that it can be taken out the front doors of the church. The pipes will all be carefully removed as well, being sure that each rank of pipes is kept together. And lastly, the wooden cabinets will go. Parts of the floor will be exposed upstairs that have been covered up for over 40 years.

We are currently looking at bids from several different contractors regarding the work that will need to be done to the gallery floor. There

Letter of Intent with Kensington Senior Living Approved, 90 Days to Agree on Details

In November the Vestry accepted the recommendation of the Fowler House leadership to enter a non-binding letter of intent (LOI) with Kensington Senior Living. The Reston-based firm intends to build an assisted living and memory care residential facility on our Fowler House property.

Kensington operates six communities, including The Kensington at 700 West Broad Street in Falls Church. According to the company’s website, “Kensington Senior Developments are high-end, high-quality senior living communities in sought after urban and semi-urban environments.”

The Fowler House property would be developed under a 99-year ground lease, which would give Kensington the right to build, run, and maintain the facility. The LOI includes 10,000 square feet of buildable space for our use, space that will be accessible from the Christ Church yard. We will also net substantially more in annual rent than we currently receive under the Ross lease. The exact amount will be calculated based on the final assessment of buildable space. In 99 years, the land and building would revert to the church.

Now we are in a 90-day period of negotiating a ground lease acceptable
The Christ Church Gift Shop Has Unique, Thoughtful Finds for Your Holiday Shopping

The Christmas season is now upon us – a time to reflect on the year past and the year ahead. And a time to shop!

This is the best time of the year to visit the Gift Shop. You’ll find everything from Christmas ornaments to stocking stuffers (some for as little as $3.50) to Christmas cards, the ever-popular Pocket Calendars for 2020 at $25 each, and sets of Christmas crackers, sometimes called poppers, for $23.50.

Also available are four sets of elegant Baldwin brass candle holders ranging in price from $30 to $40; 100 percent acrylic scarves with the feel of cashmere for only $10.50 apiece; both delicate and statement jewelry, some made by local artists, some from estates and always those whimsical Holly Lane pieces with their subtle Christian messages.

You’ll also find bird-themed matching wine bags and tea towels for $10.50 each; and a sizable collection of vintage goodies from half-aprons to Christmas crackers, sometimes called poppers, for $23.50.

The Christ Church Gift Shop has unique, thoughtful finds for your holiday shopping. As you craft your New Year's resolutions, consider making one of them a pledge to join these volunteers. You can work as little as half a day a month or as much as a full day a week. Then you too can be a nice, happy volunteer elf next Christmas season – and all year long.

The volunteers are a friendly, outgoing, fun-loving group whose volunteer time in the Gift Shop results in charitable contributions to local outreach programs in the community. That's where the Shop's net proceeds go, so you'll be having fun and helping your neighbors.

To learn more, email Kris Lebras at giftshop@historicchristchurch.org.

Organ continued from page 1

...will be a steel beam installed for reinforcement in the flooring, and some pathways will be made for the new wind tunnels and wiring for the new instrument. Once we have selected the contractor, we will be able to get a more detailed plan/schedule. Cole & Denney Architects has been doing an enormous amount of work up to this point with all of the designs and drawings, and working carefully with the city regarding code issues.

There might be some Sundays when work is being done upstairs that prohibits us from using the gallery for any seating. I thank you in advance for your flexibility. I hope that this will be a minimum amount of time. As a colleague of mine regularly states, “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall never be bent out of shape.”

We will use piano for our services for as long as we can. If necessary, we will utilize a keyboard downstairs when the gallery is inaccessible. We will have an electronic organ to use for Palm Sunday and Easter, and possibly a few additional Sundays.

We expect the new organ to arrive next October or November. It will then take several weeks of installing the new instrument. Once it is installed, we still won’t be able to use it until it has been voiced properly (a meticulous process of going through each one of the organ’s pipes and...
We Find Ourselves in the Presence of God When We Are Present With Each Other

By The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector

In his book I and Thou, theologian Martin Buber writes about how God resides in the space between two people. One of the best ways to find yourself in the presence of God is to be in right relationship with others. Over the last several months, we at Christ Church have been providing and availing ourselves of opportunities to be together, to meet new people, to build community, to laugh, to talk, and to break bread.

Our monthly Dinner Church and Fellowship Breakfast events are going strong, with tables filled with great people and great conversations. Our first annual dinner with Beth El Hebrew Congregation was packed and joyful and ended with excitement for the next one. Sunday morning coffee hours have grown into happy weekly reunions of friends and strangers. We are trying new ways of gathering outside when the weather is beautiful, to witness to our city with our love and affection for one another. We are turning both outward toward our city to welcome new people and inward to better love and understand each other in our own parish.

These initiatives have required a lot of hard work, creativity, and flexibility to pull off. And they have required the presence of everyone who comes in order to be successful. I have seen our programs growing in numbers, which is wonderful, but even more wonderful is the growth in the number of hugs shared, the number of arms that hold babies, the number of stories told, the number of newcomers folded in to become old friends. It is in this space between us that God resides.

We are in the season of Advent, moving into the season of Christmas, when our parish will see many new faces or faces we haven’t seen in a while. It is my hope and my expectation that the joy and delight we take in each other will be apparent to all who join us in these busy beautiful days. This is the way we share the love of God: we manifest it in everything we do. We show up for each other and for those we do not yet know.

I continue to be grateful to be the rector of a parish that so readily embraces each other and is committed to spreading that love as far as our arms will reach. I am grateful for you in this Advent season, in the Christmas season and into the new year.

adjusting them for the right pitch, timbre, and volume). We hope that it might be usable for Christmas Eve 2020.

In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the display outside the Gift Shop which details the history of our previous organs as well as more detailed information about our new instrument. Thanks are extended to Carol Donlan, Marilyn Bromley and Craig Keith for curating this exhibit.

Fowler House continued from page 1

To both parties. Kensington is conducting its due diligence including survey, title searches, and environmental assessments. If at the end of 90 days Kensington elects to go forward with the deal, then it will begin to obtain the necessary City approvals. That is estimated to take approximately 18 months.

We do not yet know the timeline of demolition and construction, but we will have more of this information as the negotiation process unfolds. Please continue to read emails and parish publications to stay informed on these negotiations.

Please also continue to keep the Fowler House committees in your prayers as we move forward.

Vestry Elections

With Vestry elections scheduled for Sunday, February 23, 2020, it’s time to prayerfully discern who our candidates should be. To be on Vestry you must be over 16 years old, baptized, and a member in good standing of Christ Church. If you feel called to nominate yourself or someone else; or if you just want more information about the process, please contact the Nominations Chair, Jessica Hughes, jesshughes51@gmail.com or 703-850-6181.
**HISTORY CORNER:**
**The Tale of the Free Pew for Strangers**

*Christ Church History Committee*

As we prepare our church and our homes during Advent for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the twelve days of Christmas through Epiphany, we may be all be preparing to welcome visitors and serving guests, and incorporating historic traditions may play a role.

Reflecting on this thought, here is an excerpt from the booklet, *The Silver That Surrounds Us*, available in the Christ Church Gift Shop.

“In 1799, a Mr. Antoine Charles Cazenove appears to have moved to Alexandria, Virginia from Philadelphia, having emigrated from Europe years earlier. He founded A. C. Cazenove & Company, and subsequently went on to serve as director of the Bank of Alexandria.

“By 1822, Cazenove had established himself as a successful wine and tobacco merchant in the city. He also performed diverse diplomatic duties until 1852. Several generations of the Cazenove family continued to prosper in the city for years.”

“It is his son, William George, who having inherited a thriving merchant firm, appears to have gifted funds for ‘The William G. Cazenove Free Pew for Strangers’ and its purpose [at Christ Church, which is marked with an inscribed this silver marker].

“Until the early part of the 20th century, pews at Christ Church were purchased or rented to raise money to build the church. Twelve of the large box pews were auctioned off, and George Washington bought one of the near the pulpit. After the Revolution, all pews were rented.

“By 1917 the practice of renting pews had ended. Such monies were needed through the 18th and 19th centuries to sustain both the health of the building and the salaries of clergy and staff.

“What better way to encourage strangers or business acquaintances to attend services than to financially support a reserved pew for ‘strangers.’

“Today, Christ Church welcomes everyone to sit in any of our pews.”

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**There Are A Variety of Year-end Contribution Options at Christ Church**

*By Carla Rosati, Christ Church Foundation*

As 2019 draws to a close, you may wish to consider the following gift options to Christ Church and the Christ Church Foundation by December 31st.

**Qualified Charitable Distribution from IRA**
Donors aged 70 ½ and older can give up to $100,000 directly from their individual retirement accounts as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The QCD counts toward satisfying the required minimum distribution, and excludes the distribution from the taxpayer’s income.

**Gift from Donor Advised Fund**
If you have established a Donor Advised Fund, you can request the fund administrator to direct a contribution before the end of the year.

**Gift of Appreciated Stock**
If you have stock that has appreciated in value and have held for longer than one year, you can contribute the stock directly, thus avoiding capital gains tax on the increase in the value of the stock. Donors who itemize can claim a deduction up to the full fair market value of the stock. Firm Name: Merrill Lynch, DTC: 8862, Account Name: Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Account #: 7WD – 02546. Broker Contact Information: Justin Gaither, 1152 15th St NW, Suite 6000, Washington, DC 20005; 202.659.7240; Justin_gaither@ml.com.

Whichever way you may choose to give, current tax laws still allow for deductions of charitable gifts for donors who itemize on their tax filing. To qualify for a charitable deduction for 2019, please ensure that your gift is received by December 31st. If mailed, the envelope must be postmarked by December 31.

For more information on giving by year end, contact the Christ Church Foundation at foundation@historicchristchurch.org; or call Stephanie Woodland Kelly, Controller, at 703-778-4933.
Christ Child Ministry 2019 Delighted More than 190 Children and Teens

From the Christ Child Ministry Team: Caroline Carbaugh, Nancy Carson, Melanie Gray, Anne Ramsey, and Stephanie Roberts

The Christ Child Ministry was a great success, thanks to the many volunteers who took part in the store! We shopped for 171 children from 83 families from the Boys & Girls Club and from our Lazarus families.

There are many components to this festive and generous ministry. The core team begins work in September by determining what activities and sponsors are needed. They prepare a list for shoppers in October to be ready for the program’s kick-off on the first Sunday in November. This year’s list was generated by our very own Sunday school youth to ensure shoppers get the right items for 2019.

For many years, Charlie & Sally Chadbourn have taken time to gather just the right books from Hooray for Books on King Street with an anonymous donation. This year we fostered our partnership with Washington Street United Methodist Preschool, Alexandria Country Day School and Old Town Montessori School. They donated books, bicycles and to generously fill the store. We are grateful for their time and effort on supporting the Christ Child Ministry.

In addition to benefitting children, this ministry also supports local businesses and literacy!

Multiple teams of volunteers helped orchestrate the entire project. From shoppers with church money, including Christ Church youth, to those using their own funds, gifts of all kinds were brought to the Sunday Ingathering. The pricing team then marks down items by about 75 percent so that the $25 per child paid by the parent would purchase approximately $100 worth of gifts. Then the Friday evening store set up team got to work. Creating an amazing retail space from an empty auditorium takes imagination and effort. Some strong volunteers carried six shopping carts up the stairs from the Ross store.

On Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., more volunteer elves helped the moms and dads shop, keeping their lists and accounting straight for each child, helping create what would become a wonderful Christmas for their children. Gift cards for $25 to Walmart were given to each family at the checkout thanks to additional donations from church members!

One parishioner shared the impact of this ministry when shopping for the store. While purchasing gifts, the parishioner chatted with the cashier who shared her own story of how the Christ Child Ministry brought the magic of Christmas to her home. Our parishioner writes, “She told the kids and me all about how important Christ Child is to her and her family, and how important it is to her that she buys the gifts instead of taking free donations.”

Thank you to every single person who shopped, donated, waited in line, braved big box stores, went online, set up the online shopping choice, helped at the ingathering, did the pricing, set up the store, worked as an elf, helped carry bags — this is the largest volunteer effort we do all year, and it takes dozens and dozens of people working together to make this a Merry Christmas. We want to offer a special thank you to Patrice Hall from the Boys and Girls Club for her continued support with this ministry.
Twelfth Night:
Alleluia, Song Of Gladness, Voice Of Joy

Sunday January 5, at 6:00 p.m.
Christ Church

Come share the joy of the season with Armonia Nova as we celebrate Twelfth Night/Winter Solstice/Epiphany with music that calls us to gladness and sweet memories. From the ethereal beauty of Hildegard von Bingen to early pieces that have become traditional favorites, this music reflects the beauty of the human spirit and its ability to carry hope and faith. We welcome you to join us for Armonia Nova’s 19th annual performance of ‘Twelfth Night’!

Epiphany Book Study
The God Who Sees
beginning January 15, 2020 (Online)

The story of scripture, writes Karen Gonzales, is the story of displaced people. Our Epiphany Book Study will read and engage with The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong, a new book by Karen. The God Who Sees is a personal narrative of her immigration story from Guatemala to the United States, weaved with theological reflections of some of the immigrants in the Bible. The book follows the narrative arc of the Bible that grafts strangers or immigrants into the family of God. The class will be taught online. You can sign up at bit.ly/EpiphanyBookStudy20. Contact Rev. Lyndon for more information at lshakespeare@ccalex.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 1</td>
<td>Advent I</td>
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<td>Gift Shop Christmas Market</td>
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<td>Bringing Advent Home Workshop</td>
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<td>Ingathering for Christ Child Ministry</td>
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<td>Baptisms at 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 4</td>
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<td>Holy Eucharist 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Festal Eucharist 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Unto This Night: Family Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Festal Eucharist 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Festal Eucharist 10:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 25</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 26</td>
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<td>Friday, December 27</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 29</td>
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<td>Walk the Labyrinth</td>
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<td>Monday, January 6</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday</td>
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<td>Monday, January 20</td>
<td>Day of Readings of the Works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Church) 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, January 24</td>
<td>Youth Ski Trip</td>
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<td>Sunday, January 26</td>
<td>Foundation Sunday</td>
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From Susan L. Hahn, Region President

Several Alexandria Region participants were among the 450 lay and clerical delegates at the 225th Diocesan Convention in mid-November at the Gateway Marriott in Crystal City. Many were recognized for work contributions during the year and some were elected to service positions.

Delegates to Convention have several responsibilities including the election of leaders to governing bodies, passing a budget for the upcoming year, and voting on any resolutions that come before the Convention.

**Elections**

**Standing Committee**

Among those elected to serve as Deputies to the 80th General Convention to be held in Baltimore in 2021 was the Dean of the Alexandria Region who will serve as an Alternate Clergy Deputy, The Very Rev. Randolph J. Alexander, Jr., Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. Russ Randle of Christ Church was elected to serve as a Lay Delegate and Cindi Bartol of Christ Church was elected as an alternate Lay Delegate.

**Deputies to Provincial Synod**

The following people were elected to serve as Deputies to the Provincial Synod. The Diocese is part of Province III, which includes dioceses in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and Washington D.C. The Rev. Collins Asonye, Rector at Meade Memorial, will serve as the Alternate Clergy Delegate.

**Budget**

Convention delegates approved a budget totaling $5,137,000. This budget increases funding for the work of race and reconciliation and continued support for growing ministries across the Diocese. The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons was among those acknowledged for work on the budget committee of the Convention. Janet M. Osborne serves as a member of the board of Trustee of the Funds.

**Resolutions**

Russ Randle of Christ Church and Karen Grane of St. Paul’s were among those recognized for work on the Resolutions Committee of the Convention. Among Key Resolutions passed were: the discontinuance of single-use plastic produces; an amendment to the diocesan Alcohol Use policy to establish standards for use of alcohol in church, parish and diocesan settings; a request for Reconsideration of Water Intake Site to Avoid Monacan Nation Ancestral Village and Grave Sites and to Provide Improved Protection of Graves of Native American and Enslaved People; and a resolution calling for the Diocese of Virginia to continue reporting at every Annual Convention its progress toward achieving pay equity for stipendiary clergy by gender and race. Further, it requires that the Diocese of Virginia and each of its congregations make public its compensation and benefits for clergy by amount and type for each of its stipendiary clergy.

The Rev. Chuck McCooart of Immanuel Alexandria was noted for his work on the Committee of Credentials.

A youth delegate and youth alternate delegate represented the Alexandria Region as part of the youth presence at convention. Julie Cizek of Grace Church was the delegate and Jules St. John was the alternate delegate. Both are high school seniors in Alexandria. The region was grateful to be able to send them both. Each young leader provided the Region with their early post-convention observations as follows.

Julie Cizek, Grace Church: I enjoyed the Convention greatly and it’s something I really want to encourage others at my church to apply for next year. I particularly enjoyed listening to the keynote speakers because they opened my mind to different things happening in the Episcopal Church as a whole.

“There were two speakers on photography who did a really good job drawing the crowd it. They talked about how to represent your church through photography which I found invaluable. They warned not to over represent minorities at your church in the photos that you share with the world and they also recommended that photos show activities, not just people.

“These speakers, and others really made me think about how I and others could make an impact as youth at my church. As a result of the keynote speakers, I feel I have a lot that I can use to benefit my church. I learned a lot at Convention and felt like a real member of the church.

Jules St. John, Christ Church: “The episcopal convention was a new and interesting experience which I appreciated being given the opportunity to participate in as the alternate delegate for the Alexandria city region. The politics of the church are what was most interesting to me in the course of the Convention as well as the innerworkings of how important positions in the church are filled. This is because of the fact that these events were ones that helped me better understand the church and how it functions.”
Our Little Roses Update

Have you been on a mission trip, were deeply moved by the experience, and would like to go again? Have you never been on a mission trip, but are curious about the experience and would like to learn more about making a difference in the lives of these young girls? The next committee meeting for Our Little Roses (OLR) mission is January 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome. Among other things, we will be discussing some of the activities being planned for the Church calendar year. MARK YOUR CALENDAR! We are planning a trip to Our Little Roses in San Pedro Sula, Honduras leaving on July 4 and returning July 13, 2020. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Anne Reed, anneftreed@gmail.com, or Jane Baird, bairdjf@verizon.net, Co-chair of ORL Mission Committee or Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach and Mission, mgray@ccalex.org.

Rites of Passage

Deaths:
- Shawneen Giordano
- the Rev. David Gillespie
- Jean Ingling
- William Talcott
- Chester Coffman
- Dave Williams
- Hazel Lawson
- Evangeline Jones
- Bobby Jones

Embodied Witness:
A Day of Readings from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 20, 11:00 am – 4:00 p.m/ with a service of thanksgiving at noon

Christ Church will mark Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, on Monday, January 20, by hosting a day of readings from the works of Dr. King. From 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., with a service of thanksgiving at Noon, join us to hear the writings, speeches, and sermons of Dr. King. Families with youth or children are encouraged to attend. This event will be open to the public. Those interested will be able to participate by reading sections from King’s writings. Contact Rev. Lyndon for more information.

Adult Forum – Objects of Faith & History
January 5, 12 and February 2, 2020

Christian faith is a material faith. Objects large and small, valuable and worthless, are part of the Christian tradition from the beginning, creating memories and meanings for those who pray and worship, love and share, make pilgrimage and make music. For our Epiphany forum series, we will examine three objects from the history of Christ Church: the baptismal font, the turnstile, and the bishop’s crosier. With each object, we will discuss the history and significance of these items in helping to shape our story as a Christian community.