

Christ Church Good News & Notes!

Deadline for GNN submissions is Wednesday at noon.

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Angel Tree has ONE tag left!



If you haven't already gotten an angel or two, please consider pulling this last angel and purchasing a gift for the recipient. Christ Church has provided Christmas gifts to residents of the two group homes in the county for disabled adults for several years now. The Sam Evans group home has higher functioning adult women, many of whom you've met when they join us for Sunday services. They will be with us on tree decorating day, December 21st. We also provide gifts for another group home with more severely disabled adults.

Please remember to return your gift(s) wrapped & labeled to the church on or before Dec 21st when we decorate the tree and give our Sam Evans friends their gifts. *If you bring it before December 21st, you can leave it in the office or put it behind the piano.*



Get ready for a Holly, Jolly, Jingle, Christmas Lunchon!



This festive holiday lunch is **THIS Sunday, Dec 14th**! Have you figured out what special dish you want to bring? We hope so! Bring your dish to the kitchen no later than 10:15 am so folks can arrange the food prior to the lunch and still get to church on time. **See you Sunday!**



END OF THE YEAR REMINDERS:

All requisitions for reimbursement in this calendar year must be turned in to the office *no later than Thursday, Dec 18th*. Mary Lee needs enough time to have requisitions signed, checks written, and checks signed.

The last week of this year, **Dec 29-31**, Mary Lee will be working hard to close out the calendar year. She'll be **in the office but not available on those days**.

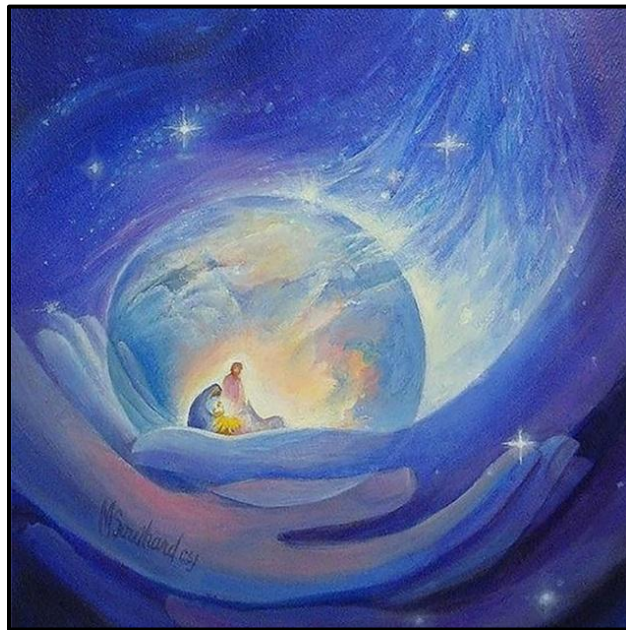
Contribution letters (for 2025) will be mailed in early January 2026.



Advent Quiet Day

Monday Dec. 15 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Led by The Rev. Karla Woggon. (Bring a bag lunch)



Join Karla for a time apart from daily demands to reflect, pray, and renew the spirit. Using art, music, silence, and our imaginations we will explore the stories of Holy Scripture to awaken to the presence of the living Christ within each of us. Silence will surround the times we gather as a group. In the silence you can pray in the sanctuary, walk the labyrinth, write in your journal, or create. Art materials will be provided, feel free to bring your own as well. This day offers the blessing of sacred pause: a chance to set aside busyness and rest in the presence of God.

If you *have not* contacted the office to confirm your plan to attend the Advent Quiet Day, please reply to this email and let Mary know. Some materials are being prepared so a head count is important.



Greenery has been placed in the church. We started this practice last year and the Vestry agreed to continue it. *No bows will be placed on wreaths or decorations in the church until Sunday, December 21st.*



Order your poinsettias now!



The deadline for purchasing a poinsettia is NEXT Wed, Dec 17th. For those of you new to Christ Episcopal, each Easter and Christmas we collect money & the name of an individual(s) you'd like to honor by placing flowers at the altar. At Easter, the altar is covered in lilies and at Christmas, poinsettias. Checks are usually written for \$20+ to cover the expense of one poinsettia. *{We will continue to display the poinsettias through the Christmas season that ends on Jan 4th, If you're able to leave your poinsettia through that Sunday, it will keep the display full. After the Jan 4th service, you're welcome to take your poinsettia home.}*

Gifts can be made *in thanksgiving for or in memory of*. We ask that you email the office if you'd like to donate flowers and indicate who you are making the gift for. Then put your check or money gift in the offering plate (make sure to write on the memo: poinsettias), or mail it to PO Box 1866, Sparta, NC.

Please let us know no later than Wednesday, December 17th.



Check out our website at: www.christchurchalleghany.org

Join us on Facebook at: Christ Episcopal Church – Sparta, NC

NEW email address: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com



Please join us in prayer for...

Intercessions:

Ann & Frank Withrow, Antje & Bill, Bill (Ruthie's brother), Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Hal & Nancy Wilson, Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jean Callison, Jesse James, Jim Lambie & Libba Evans and family, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha Adams, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Sally Besaw's mother, Savany Demmink, and Vanita. We also pray for local neighbors that fear detention, the River North Correctional Center inmates & staff, and for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Jim Lambie's sister

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & other Thanksgivings:



**Please pray for all the staff, volunteers, supporters & inmates at
River North Correctional Center, Independence, VA**

Book of Common Prayer

Collect 37. For Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. Amen.



Schedule

Sunday, December 14 – The Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Holly, Jolly, Jingle, Christmas lunch follows the service

Monday, December 15

10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Advent Quiet Day with The Rev Karla Woggon

Tuesday, December 16

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

3:00 pm – Outreach team meeting

Sunday, December 21 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Decoration of our church follows the service with light refreshments

Tuesday, December 23

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Christmas Eve service with The Rev Karla Woggon

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day!

The Office will be closed for the holiday

Sunday, December 28 – The First Sunday after Christmas Day

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, December 23

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group



Ladies Lunch Out with Karla on Mon, Dec 29th!



Ladies, please sign up to attend our next Ladies' Luncheon. **Barbara** will be hosting the lunch at her **home** at 451 East Whitehead Street at **11:30 am**. Barbara will prepare a large salad and others can bring dessert, bread, and wine. The sign-up sheet is on the information table!



Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Dec 14	<i>Poinsettias</i>	Holly, Jolly, Jingle, Christmas Lunch
Dec 21	<i>Altar Guild</i>	Decorating the church
Dec 28	<i>Poinsettias</i>	
Jan 4	<i>Poinsettias</i>	



Stewardship Campaign Summary

We have completed our Annual Stewardship Campaign for 2025, and I want to thank all who participated.

This year we really wanted to focus on the time and talent side of things, the back of the card, if you will. There are so many little jobs needed to keep a parish going. They are easy work for the most part so long as you are not committed to covering the need each and every week.

Unfortunately, for some of these jobs, we don't have enough folks involved to be sure that everyone gets a break, and the Vestry wanted the congregation to know that volunteering to help is just as important as your financial commitment. That's why we spent most of our Sundays highlighting our various ministry teams, to share what they do and how you can be a part of it.

It seems our approach helped since we did receive a few new commitments to serve. We are grateful for that, and hope that as we go through next year you will continue to be open to helping when the need arises.

Financially, this year we received over 26 pledge cards with pledges that total nearly \$96,000, including three new pledges. This is a little short of our goal of \$105,000 but I still feel that we had a successful campaign.

Thank you again for your commitment to serve both our God and our community.



Centering Prayer & Book Discussion groups meet on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall

Centering Prayer meets Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Our **Book Discussion group**, which meets on Tuesdays at 2:00, is reading and discussing **Richard Rohr's** book, *Falling Upward*. It is a book about spirituality in the two halves of life and is considered one of his most influential and important books. We know that the first half of life is about projects, goals, striving, discovering who we are meant to be. But what do we do with this in the second half of life? This is the stage which everyone in Christ Church is in, and Richard Rohr will give us practical guidance on this brand-new time in our lives.

Everyone is welcome to both the prayer time and the book discussion. If you only want to participate in one, we'd love to have you. If you have any questions, get in touch with Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com.



The Prayer Shawls/Lap Blankets are available in the narthex under the table

The prayer shawls/quilts have been moved under the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for someone you know and love who would benefit from being wrapped in love

from Christ Church. Be sure to fill in the book in the box which tells who and why. We've had thanks expressed from new mothers to a death in the family to surgery. These are gifts made by parishioners who want to share their talent. If you're interested in making a shawl or quilt, please contact Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com.



PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE DROP-OFF

We **recycle prescription bottles with lids** and *with the labels pulled off*. There is a bag attached to **the water fountain just inside the Narthex on your left** for you to leave your pill bottles in. A **BIG** thank you to Ann & Frank Hazard for delivering the bottles to the vet's office!



**If the holidays
feel heavy,
reach out.**

Support is always here.

Call, text, or chat 988.

988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE



Need prayer now?

If you have a prayer need, for example, illness, upcoming surgery, death in the family, big life decisions or needing comfort/support, there are a few ways to communicate that need. You can call or email Mary at the office and she'll email the members with a Prayer

Request, you can share your request with a Vestry member, or you can fill out a Prayer Request Card (found in the pew backs in the sanctuary).

If you're sharing information about another individual(s), *please make sure you have permission to share the need*. If you prefer not to share any details, you can simply email or call and ask for urgent prayer.

Also, if there are reasons to remove anyone from the prayer list, please let us know that, too.

We know the power of prayer and if each of us stops and takes a few minutes to pray for the individual(s) in need, it will have a great impact. In the absence of a priest, it falls to our membership to provide support in this way.



Our website Members Only section...

Our updated website (christchurchallegghany.org) has a **Members Only** page that contains the most updated financial reports, Treasurers' Report, Vestry minutes, and the 2025 budget. Once you get on the website, you can easily navigate each page to review the information. *If you're interested in accessing the Member's Only section, email Mary at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com and she'll provide you the password.*

We also invite you to share our website – christchurchallegghany.org – to introduce the Parish and encourage others to visit.



NEW contact information!

Grab a pen and write this information down! We have created a **NEW email address for the church** and **one for Karla, too**. Our new email address is christchurchspartanc@gmail.com. And Karla's new address is priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com. We know the email addresses are long but there are quite a few "Christ Church" locations and they've snatched up the good email addresses!