



Upcoming  
Services:

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of  
Advent 12/16/12  
Morning Prayer  
Rite II, includes  
Children's  
Sermon

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
Advent 12/23/12  
Morning Prayer  
Rite I

Christmas Eve  
Services:

7:00 Christmas Carol  
Sing

7:30 Holy Eucharist  
Special music by  
Mallory Erwin, Joyce  
Holden, and Matthew  
Linden

*Christ Church, Adrian (Episcopal)*  
720 Riverside, Adrian MI 517-263-1162

## We await the birth of the King

The First Sunday in Advent was celebrated this past Sunday with a Rite One Holy Eucharist service.

The celebrant, Fr. Peter Mackey, will also preside over the Christmas Eve celebration this year. It will be his last service with us.

Over the years he has served this parish as a part-time priest and provided supply to our

congregation for the past few years. Peter will now retire for good, and will officiate for the last time Christmas Eve.

When we pause to remember why we celebrate and what we celebrate, this Advent, let us also remember those who have joined us in those celebrations.

The word "advent" stems from two Latin words, "ad" and "venir", which means

"to come." We wait for Christ to come, as we do each year during this season. We know what follows; we know where His life leads Him. We are thankful that He came.

Give thanks each day for what we have as Christians. Hold Him and your families close as we wait again this year, for the joyous celebration of His birth.

Join us on Christmas Eve!

## Give pause and ponder this...

*"Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush."* **Anonymous**

*"This Advent we look to the Wise Men to teach us where to focus our attention. We set our sights on things above, where God is. We draw closer to Jesus... When our Advent journey ends, and we reach the place where Jesus resides in Bethlehem, may we, like the Wise Men, fall on our knees and adore him as our true and only King."*

**Mark Zimmermann in**

### **Our Advent Journey**

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. **Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac** "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on

*the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent."*

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

*"You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, Want us to wait. For the right time in which to discover Who we are, where we are to go, Who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you ... for the waiting time."*

**John Bell, quoted in The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers, compiled by Dorothy M. Stewart**



## Courtyard news

As many of you may know, a memorial fund was set up for Kelly Moran.

At the November meeting, the Vestry approved Todd Johnson's motion to officially classify the courtyard the Memorial Gardens.

The first memorial that will be placed in the Gardens will be in memory of Kelly. There will be a marble

statue, some plantings, and walking stones for a path.

In the future, those who wish to add statuary or plantings, in memory of lost loved ones, will be prayerfully considered by the Vestry.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Todd Johnson or any member of the Vestry.

It is the Vestry's hope that the courtyard Memorial Gardens will be a place of remembrance and contemplation.

If you have a special request, please contact any of the Vestry members currently serving Christ Church, Adrian.

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"- To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that Love is the reason for my existence, for God is love." Thomas Merton

## Out with the old (Senior Warden)...

It has been my pleasure to serve Christ Church, Adrian, as Senior Warden for the past year. I have also completed my third year of a three year term on the Vestry.

Sam Abraham has also completed his three years on Vestry. For those of you aren't aware, Sam is taking Sabbatical from his teaching position at Siena Heights and will be absent from us on occasion. He

has been instrumental this year in constructing our new website and keeping it updated each week. We thank him for putting us on the map!

Brent Erwin will be stepping in as Clerk of the Vestry, and Ed Johnson will perform the duties of Junior Warden. Stacie Dubin and Carol Newell are the newest members of the Vestry, and we welcome them.

Ted Wilkins' faithful service and stewardship of our Treasury are above and beyond. Our thanks are not enough.

Todd Johnson will serve as Senior Warden, a very strong and capable leader.

I'll still be busy, on Commission on Ministry, as well as the newsletter editor. I'll be around!

- Joyce Holden

## In with the new (Senior Warden)...

As the incoming Senior Warden as of January 2013, I would like to thank everyone for all their support. We all are to be commended for our stewardship here at Christ Church.

At this point, I am very

optimistic about our future.

We will continue to have Eucharist at least one Sunday a month. With Fr. Peter retiring, it will be a challenge but one we are committed to on behalf of this congregation.

As always, I will endeavor to persevere.

- Todd Johnson

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## Light of the Epiphany.....

"The twelve days of Christmas come to an end on January 6, and the season of the Epiphany begins. But Epiphany not only ends Christmas, it also fulfills it by celebrating the revelation of the Christ to the whole world. The coming of Incarnate God to all people, especially to those of us who are Gentiles, is the bridge from birth into life,

the event that makes Easter possible for most of us. The light of the Epiphany illuminates the church's year as it illuminates the human race from whom the kings came."

Phyllis A. Tickle, "What the Heart Already Knows", *A Book of Christmas*, Nashville: Upper Rooms, 1988, p. 13

**Act Christmas . . .**  
Anonymous

"It is easy to *think* Christmas, and it is easy to *believe* Christmas, but it is hard to *act* Christmas."



## Welcome!

You may have noticed some new faces in our worship services recently!

First of all, we'd like to welcome each and every one of you. It is our hope that our worship time together is meaningful.

Many of you have met Kim DeVore, an Adrian College student, who has been so faithful in attending in between track events, horse

shows, and her studies! She has volunteered as a Lector when time permits.

Stacie and Doug Dubin and their three young children have been in attendance now for several months. Doug is the Farmers' Market guru, and Stacie teaches at Sand Creek Schools. She has also volunteered to take on Sunday School duties, and welcomes all children who come to

Christ Church. We are so thankful to have this vital part of church life alive again.

Our third new face is Tara Coumoundourous, mother of three year old and three month old sons. Tara is a pharmacist at K-Mart, and her husband is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Adrian College.

Welcome to you all!

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"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."



## Blue Christmas Service 12/12/12, 7:30 PM

During this time of year, many of us are celebrating Christmas with family and or friends and the thought of welcoming that tiny infant into our hearts and the world we live in. However, this season is not one of joy for everyone. On Wednesday,

December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 St. Michael and All Angels, Cambridge Junction will hold a "Blue Christmas" service – a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we may have at Christmas time. People who are not having a very

merry Christmas and friends who support them are invited to come and sit with one another in a liturgy that speaks of the love of God for the grieving. Our prayer is that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.



## Cinderella coming to the Croswell in February!

Our very own Mallory Erwin has the starring role in the upcoming production of "Disney's Cinderella" at the Croswell Opera House.

Rehearsals begin January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for this cast of local young students.

This timeless fairy tale meets the magic of Disney in this adaptation of the treasured animated film.

Performances are Friday, 2/8, Saturday, 2/9, Sunday, 2/10, and the following Saturday,

2/16, and wrapping up on Sunday, 2/17.

We are planning a group outing to one of these performances. Adult tickets are \$20, Senior/Student \$15, Child \$5. Come out to support Mallory!

## Ministry Retreat comes to Weber Center in January

The Diocesan Annual Ministry Retreat will be held January 10-12 at the Weber Center on the campus of Siena Heights University. The Center is a unique setting for worship, fellowship, learning, and reflection.

All candidates and postulants to the Diaconate and Priesthood are required

to attend.

In addition, the Commission on Ministry, the Standing Committee, as well as the Bishop and staff will be in attendance.

Joyce Holden is currently serving on the Commission on Ministry, appointed by the Bishop at the Diocesan Convention this past October.

Please remember this entire group of people in your prayers as we worship, learn, renew, and rekindle friendships during this retreat.

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*"The retreat offers an opportunity to explore academic and financial requirements, clergy wellness, field placements, spiritual direction and much more."*

## Colors of the Candles....

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one rose-colored or pink candle. In the centre of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. On the first

Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Each week on Sunday, an additional candle is lit. On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some Traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger. On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-

colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. White represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. Also, those who receive Christ as Saviour are washed of their sins and made brighter than snow.



Prepare for Advent with the traditional wreath and candles!

## What are the Twelve Days of Christmas?

The **Twelve Days of Christmas** are the festive days beginning Christmas Day. This period is also known as Christmastide and Twelvetide. The Twelfth Night of Christmas is always on the evening of 5 January, but the Twelfth Day can either precede or follow the Twelfth Night according to which Christian tradition is followed. Twelfth Night is followed by the Feast of the Epiphany on 6 January. In some traditions, the first day of Epiphany (6 January) and

the twelfth day of Christmas overlap.

Over the centuries, differing churches and sects of Christianity have changed the actual traditions, time frame and their interpretations. St. Stephen's Day (or Boxing Day), for example, is 26 December in the Western Church and 27 December in the Eastern Church. Boxing Day, on December 26, is observed as a legal holiday in parts of the Commonwealth of Nations. 28 December is Childermas or the Feast of

the Innocents. Currently, the twelve days and nights are celebrated in widely varying ways around the world. For example, some give gifts only on Christmas Day, some only on Twelfth Night, and some each of the twelve nights.

Twelfth Night is the last day for decorations to be taken down, and it is held to be bad luck to leave decorations up after this.

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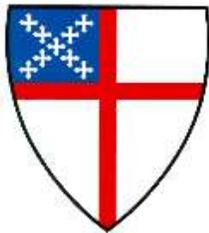
*If you add all the gifts in the "12 Days of Christmas" song, you come up with 364. The total cost of these items in 2006 was \$18,920.59.*

## Christ Episcopal Church. Adrian

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.christchurchadrian.org](http://www.christchurchadrian.org)

## The Bible Challenge

The Episcopal Church takes reading the Bible very seriously.

Approximately 70% of the Book of Common Prayer comes directly from the Bible, and Episcopalians read more Holy Scripture in

Sunday worship than almost any other denomination in Christianity. The Bible Challenge, sponsored by the Center for Biblical Studies, helps individuals and parishes set goals to read the

entire Bible; to receive its comfort, strength, wisdom, and guidance; and to gain a deeper understanding of how God has worked and continues to work.

## Who are we?

As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.

Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions and is celebrated in many languages.

Both men and women, including those who are married, are eligible for ordination as deacons,

priests, and bishops.

Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our church.

Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions and is celebrated in many

## About Our Parish..

Christ Church, Adrian, is one of 79 congregations and 2 campus ministries that are part of the Diocese of Michigan.

We belong to the Lyster

Deanery, one of many parishes founded by William Lyster. Our current location, since 1960, is a beautiful building designed by Alden B. Dow.

Our congregation is diverse, talented, and welcoming. We invite you to join us for worship each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM.

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

720 Riverside  
Adrian, MI 49221

