

*Christ Episcopal Church...  
Making a Difference*

# The Mustard Seed

December 2018

Christ Episcopal Church  
PO Box 488  
534 Plantation Rd.  
Lancaster, SC 29721

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**803-286-5224**

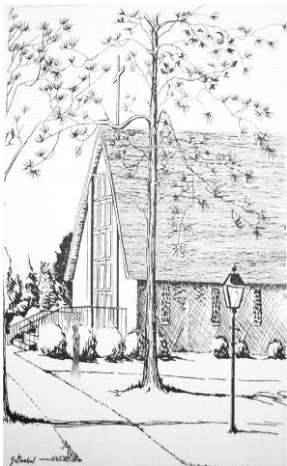
**Episcopal@  
comporium.net**

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**The Reverend  
Gordon Hamilton  
803-246-9027 cell  
ghamilton@  
comporium.net**

**www.christchurch  
lancaster.com**

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***Christ Church –  
where we gather to  
worship, pray, sing,  
and share so  
together we may  
serve our  
community and the  
world.***



## Thanksgiving to Christmas

“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our Lord and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NRSV)**

The above passage of Scripture is included in the Readings for the First Sunday of Advent, Year C. In these few verses, St. Paul is telling the members of the Church in Thessalonica how thankful he is to God for them. In the midst of our various Thanksgiving celebrations, do we in turn also thank God for Christ Church, Lancaster and each other? It is not that we are a better or a more faithful congregation than the others; nonetheless, there is much to be said and to be thankful for in God's Holy people here at Christ Church.

In addition, Paul not only asks the Lord that they increase and abound in love, not just for each other, but for all. The Church is not just for those of us who attend, or belong to a given congregation. Rather, in large part we exist for those who have yet to join. In giving thanks we need to remember all we see regularly, those whom we no longer see routinely, and all those yet to become part of our family. Truly, there is much for which we should be thankful to God.

Paul goes on to ask God, on behalf of the Thessalonians, to “restore whatever is lacking in [their] faith” and to “strengthen [their] hearts.” Paul asks all this so that they, and we, may be blameless before God “at the coming of our Lord Jesus.” Advent is that time of preparation, a time to prepare our hearts, or more appropriately “strengthen” them.

In short, we begin by being thankful, and we prepare by being hopeful; all of this so that at the birth of our Lord, we may be truly joyful.

Peace,  
Gordon+

### December Anniversaries

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Bart & Caroline Oliver  
 December 23<sup>rd</sup> – George & Joan Crawford  
 December 29<sup>th</sup> – Eddie & Kathy Hoke



### December Birthdays

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lynn Blackmon  
 December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tucker Griffin  
 December 4<sup>th</sup> – Elizabeth Streeter  
 December 6<sup>th</sup> – Caroline Oliver  
 December 10<sup>th</sup> – Karla Holmes  
 December 16<sup>th</sup> – Sue Sowell  
 December 16<sup>th</sup> – Joan Bixby  
 December 18<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Gibson  
 December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Donna Carter  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> – Gregg Shipston  
 December 26<sup>th</sup> – Carol Lynn Hamilton  
 December 27<sup>th</sup> – Taylor Stephens



**Wednesday Evening  
 Services will be held  
 December 5<sup>th</sup> and  
 December 19<sup>th</sup>  
 at 6:00 pm.**

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday in 2019, please contact the church office.



December 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 HOPE Sunday  Pot luck meal  ECW after 10:30 Service	3	4	5 Choir Practice 7:00 pm  Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 pm	6	7	8
9 HOPE Sunday  Annual Meeting during the 10:30 Service	10	11	12 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	13	14	15
16 HOPE Sunday  Vestry Meeting following 10:30 Service	17	18	19 Choir Practice 7:00 pm  Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 pm	20	21	22 Caroling 6:00 pm
23 HOPE Sunday	24 Christmas Eve Service 10:15 pm  Office Closed	25  Office Closed	26  Office Closed	27	28	29
30 HOPE Sunday	31	Sundays: 8:00 am H.E. Rite I 10:30 am H.E. Rite II 9:15 am Adult Study 11:45 am Pastries in the Parlor				

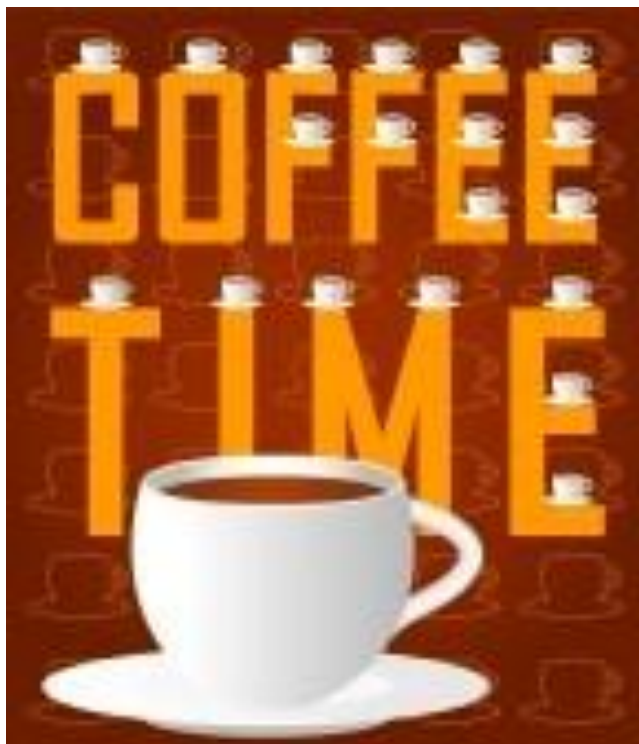
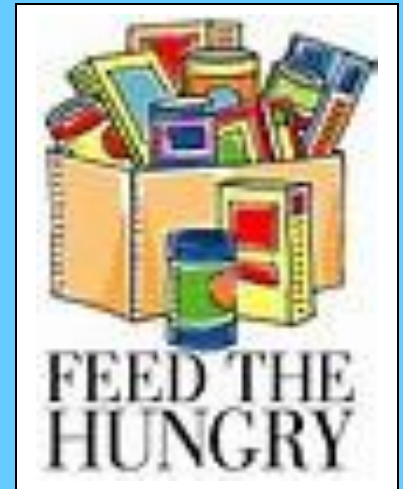
***DECEMBER/JANUARY PARTICIPANTS***

DATE	CELEBRANT/ OFFICIANT	PARISH MUSICIAN	E M RITE II	ACOLYTE	USHERS	TELLERS	ALTAR GUILD	LECTOR
Sunday, December 02, 2018	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Linda Baker	Mary Bemis	Mike Sistare & Earle Holmes	William Bixby & Miller Deaton	Bart & Caroline Oliver	Kathy Sistare
Sunday, December 09, 2018	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Chris Smith	Mary Bemis	Jake Wilson & TBA	Diane Dworak & Katherine Foo	Bart & Caroline Oliver	Mary Bemis
Sunday, December 16, 2018	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Robert Horton	Mary Bemis	Mike Sistare & Earle Holmes	Wayne Johnson & Mike Sistare	Bart & Caroline Oliver	JoAnn Riemann
Sunday, December 23, 2018	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Linda Baker	Mary Bemis	Jake Wilson & TBA	Lisa Stamper & William Bixby	Bart & Caroline Oliver	Robert Horton
Sunday, December 30, 2018	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Chris Smith	Mary Bemis	Mike Sistare & Earle Holmes	Miller Deaton & Diane Dworak	Bart & Caroline Oliver	Kathy Sistare
Sunday, January 06, 2019	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Robert Horton	Mary Bemis	Mike Sistare & Earle Holmes	Miller Deaton & Katherine Foo	Miller & Tric Deaton	JoAnn Riemann
Sunday, January 13, 2019	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Linda Baker	Mary Bemis	Jake Wilson & TBA	Robert Horton & Ernest Jenkins	Miller & Tric Deaton	Robert Horton
Sunday, January 20, 2019	Gordon Hamilton /Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Chris Smith	Mary Bemis	Mike Sistare & Earle Holmes	Caroline Oliver & Lisa Stamper	Miller & Tric Deaton	Kathy Sistare
Sunday, January 27, 2019	Gordon Hamilton/ Rocky Dworak	Dana Lee Walters, Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	Robert Horton	Mary Bemis	Jake Wilson & TBA	Miller Deaton & Katherine Foo	Miller & Tric Deaton	Mary Bemis

The office will be closed  
Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
and will re-open Thursday,  
December 27<sup>th</sup>.

## HOPE Sunday – EVERY SUNDAY

Each Sunday will be designated as HOPE Sunday at Christ Church. Please consider contributing to this wonderful organization. They are especially in need of the following items: **canned chicken, peanut butter, jelly, juice, canned fruit, grits, instant potatoes, soup, stuffing mix, canned pasta, sugar free juice, sugar free jelly, and oatmeal.**



As the New Year starts, we again are asking for persons to sign up for refreshments for coffee hour. You are asked to bring treats, sweet or savory, and a cold beverage. You will also be responsible for clean up after coffee hour. It gives us all a chance to host our fellow parishioners. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Coffee has been provided by the church, but anyone who wishes to donate ground coffee at any time may do so.

To start the year off right, we will be trying our best to go green. As of January 1st we are asking each of you to bring your own, easy to identify coffee mug. They will be stored in the credenza in the parlor. It will be there for you to use each Sunday; after use, please wash and return it to the shelf. There will be several cups available for visitors. It is our small way of helping the pollution of Gods earth, which he has entrusted us with.

## Budget Box for December

**Please take a moment to complete your commitment card for 2019 and turn it in to the office or Chris Smith.**

### Christ Episcopal Church Commitment Card for 2019

Everything on earth is a gift from God, including our time, our talents, and our treasures. You are invited and encouraged to prayerfully consider a pledge offering. A pledge offering is what we give back to God that which is his to show our gratitude for all the blessings of our lives. With this in mind, please prayerfully participate in faithful giving. God's blessings are abundant.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **In gratitude for the blessings of life, my (our) pledge will be:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year  
\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) Pledge to give what we can

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Support Christ Episcopal Church  
when you shop at Amazon.com and  
use this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0722281>

Welcome to AmazonSmile!

You shop. **Amazon gives.**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

This year the poinsettias for the altar at the Christmas Eve Service have been donated to Christ Church.

In place of asking for donations for the purchase of poinsettias, this year we are asking for donations to fund the SHIFT MINISTRY. These donations can be given in honor or in thanksgiving for those who you wish to remember. These honorariums will be printed in the Christmas Eve Service Bulletin. On the memo line of you check, please write "shift."

Anyone who would wish to bring a poinsettia is welcome to and may place it around the altar.

This is a way to spread the spirit of Christmas to our community in the coming year.



## BSE NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

Good morning!

We are in need of substitute teachers at Brooklyn Springs Elementary School. You do not have to have a college degree in education to be a substitute. You just need to have at least a high school diploma and a desire to work with kids. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a substitute teacher please go to the Lancaster County School District website and complete the online application. Once you have completed the online application in its entirety please email our principal Mrs. Blum at [beth.blum@lcsdmail.net](mailto:beth.blum@lcsdmail.net) to let her know. She will then contact the LCSD HR department to have your name added to our substitute list. Thanks for your support!

Mike Sistare is in search of large grills to borrow to prepare Boston butts this year for the church's annual fundraiser. If you are in a position to loan Mike the use of your grill, please contact Mike or the church office. Thank you for your support !

Boston Butts will be sold the Saturday before Super Bowl Sunday. Details will follow.





**On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will come together after the 10:30 service to celebrate our love and appreciation for Christ Church at a pot luck luncheon. Baked ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

**Our fellowship is an important part of who we are, let us break bread together in thanksgiving !!**



### ANGEL TREE

In the spirit of Christmas, we will once again have our Angel Tree. Please take a tag or two and return UNWRAPPED gifts with the tag attached by Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>.

As the saying goes "Christmas is for kids," so let's make it merry for underprivileged children in our community.

Any questions see Di Dworak.



Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

The Annual Meeting  
will be during the 10:30  
a.m. service.

Please make plans to  
attend.

### A CAROLING WE SHALL GO

In the spirit of Christmas and for a lot of fun, we will be going down the street on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> to Christmas Carol. What a great way to share the joy of the season and also have holiday fellowship with one another. We will meet at the church at 6 pm. Bring family and friends. We will return to the church for hot chocolate and holiday goodies. If you have other holiday events that evening, please come and share this fellowship with us and then go on your way when needed. We look forward to making joyful noise together.



Christmas Eve  
Service  
information:

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Music service  
10:15 p.m. with a  
worship service at  
10:30 p.m.





Many thanks to Caroline Oliver for setting up the beautiful Thanksgiving Altar.



As you can see, the altar is piled high with coats after they were presented at the Annual Coats for Christ on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Many coats were collected. All coats, toboggans, gloves, and sweaters were given to Brooklyn Springs Elementary School to distribute to those who are most vulnerable and unable to purchase a coat for the cold winter months ahead.

I want to thank you for the coats you contributed to the "Coats for Christ" drive at Christ Episcopal Church. Your continued generosity and support are appreciated very much.

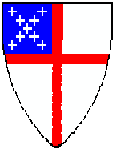
Gordon Hamilton

Thank You!

*Many thanks to all who participated in and volunteered at Belk Charity Day.*

*Also, many thanks to everyone who participated in Undy Sunday.*

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Thanks to Lora Bailey 12-02-2002

COMING SOON TO A PLANET NEAR YOU

## Miscellany

### Adult Sunday School Class

Please make plans to join  
us at 9:15. Coffee is  
being served.

### ECW

The first Sunday of each  
month after the  
10:30 a.m. Service

### Choir Rehearsals

10:00 a.m. each Sunday  
7:00 p.m. each  
Wednesday

### Sunday Service Times

8:00 am Rite I  
10:30 am Rite II  
Education Classes  
9:15 am Adult Classes

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Terry Michaelson\*, Edith Burns, Sloan McLaughlin, Maxcy  
Westmoreland, Lois Scott\*, Brooke Hamilton Zavala, Makenzie  
White, Philip, Miller Deaton\*, Marilyn Morris, Amanda Ford\*,  
Bruce MacDonald, Matt Williamson, Sara Anne Foster\*, Tracey  
Davis, Charles Ballard, Julie Percival, Maureen Blanchard,  
Nicholas, Janet Amsler, Buck Sistare, Sherry Stalvey, Pierre  
Cunningham, Gene Alexander\*, Libby Woodruff, Robert  
Richards\*, Mike Lamberton\*, Susan DeVenny, Becky  
Stevenson, Jon Bryson, Herman Tucker, Dixie Roberts,  
Amanda Aycock, Hayes Robinson, Shirley Bowers, Richard  
Knight, Joan Bixby\*, Geary Yamashita, Donnie Wright

