

THE BEACON

of Christ Church, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19106

Planning ahead . . .

NOVEMBER 2008

- 1 All Saints' Day
One-Day Life at Christ Church Class 8:30A.M.
- 2 Spiritual Meditation 4:30PM
Holy Eucharist /prayers for healing 5:00P.M.
- 4 Election Day
DOCC 6:30PM-8:30PM
- 7 First Friday Concert 8:00PM
- 8 Volunteer Gardeners 10:00AM
- 9 ONE SERVICE at 10A.M.
LGBT Fellowship Bowling 1:00PM
- 11 DOCC 6:30PM-8:30PM
- 15 St. Mary's 350 8:30AM
- 16 Parents' Night Out 5:00PM
- 18 DOCC 6:30PM-8:30PM
- 22 Career Management Series 8:30A.M.
- 23 Theology on Tap 5:00PM
- 25 DOCC 6:30PM-8:30PM
- 26 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00P.M.
- 27 Thanksgiving Day
- 30 Red Cross Blood Drive 8:00A.M. - 1:00P.M.

DECEMBER 2008

- 2 DOCC 6:30PM-8:30PM
- 6 Career Management Series 8:30A.M.
- 7 Advent Lessons & Carols 5:00P.M.
- 9 DOCC 6:30PM - 8:30PM
- 14 Theology on Tap 5:00PM
- 16 DOCC 6:30PM - 8:30PM
- 20 Career Management Series 8:30A.M.
St. Mary's 350 8:30A.M.
- 21 Spiritual Meditation 4:30PM
Holy Eucharist /prayers for healing 5:00PM

2008 - 2009

Baptism Schedule

November 2 at 9am (All Saints' Day Celebration), January 11, April 12 (Easter Sunday)

"CHRIST CHURCH IS ALWAYS THERE"

That's what I say when people talk about why I haven't seen them at church recently. They have a pang of guilt, I think, when I call them on the phone to see how they are doing, or run into them on the street, and I mention that I've missed them. Lots of excuses frequently follow, about trips out of town, soccer games, and just needing a break.

"Christ Church is always there," I say, "whenever you need it to be, for whatever reason. It is always your church."

And then I add what I truly believe, "I care because Christ Church is better when you are there. You are Christ Church."

A parishioner sent this to me from a church in England:

*So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little.
You who have come often, and you who have stayed away.
You who have tried to follow, you who have failed.
You whose love flickers faint, you whose love burns strong.
Come not because I invite you, come because Jesus invites you,
Bids you welcome, calls your name.*

If I am honest, I've failed as a pastor when a parishioner feels guilty about not being in church. I don't want going to church to be an obligation to be managed, but a blessing to be anticipated.

Last week, a former parishioner who moved away called after her father died. She apologized for the request she was going to make, but before she asked, I said, "We can have the funeral here. Christ Church is your church." Surprised, she explained how her father wasn't religious, and there weren't plans for a service anywhere, but she needed, for herself, closure, and the freedom of saying the prayers for the one she loved.

"Christ Church is always here," I said. Her church was full for the funeral. As it always turns out, lots of people needed Christ Church to be there, also. I have never known a human being not to be religious, even if there is no sect, doctrine or tradition that contains them. Christ Church is always there for them, too.

On Sunday, November 9th, we gather for one festive service at 10 AM to remember that in November, 1695, 39 families gathered near the market in nascent Philadelphia and said, "Here we build Christ's Church." On November 9th, 313 years later, we will say, "Thank you God that we are still here, and may we be always, for whomever has much faith, or little, for the frequent and infrequent, for the strong but especially the faint, for the sure and mostly the uncertain."

Christ invites us all.

Tim Safford

STAFF TRANSITION

For these past nine years, Wayne West—our Director of Finance and Property for Christ Church and the Preservation Trust—has been instrumental in our every success. In his quiet, diligent and behind-the-scenes manner, he has managed income and expenditures of more than \$1 million annually. He has helped grow our stewardship program and double the number of pledges. He has exercised careful stewardship over our buildings and grounds. His most important contribution has been to open again Neighborhood House to our community, and the fruit of that effort is obvious today. In 1999, a handful of community nonprofits and neighborhood groups used our buildings, and in 2008 more than 150 groups will use our buildings, generating more than \$40,000 of revenue for our coffers.

So, in gratitude for all he has accomplished and with sadness of losing a great partner in ministry, I have accepted Wayne West's resignation. He and I have come to agree, with the good advice of our Accounting Warden, that the time is right for him to transition to new work, using his abundant gifts for the ministry of finance in a new setting.

Not everyone knows that he is the *Reverend* Wayne West, and he pastored Christ Reformed Episcopal Church in West Philadelphia for 15 years before transitioning to accounting work for churches. He came to Christ Church as a part-time employee in 1990. Having Wayne on our staff has added to our pastoral ministry. For Wayne, it has never been about dollars and cents, but about mission, evangelism, growth and using our gifts to further the Kingdom of God.

On a personal note, Wayne is among the best colleagues I've had in 24 years. I will miss his presence in our office, but give thanks that he will still be part of the Christ Church community.

In our one service on Sunday, November 9 at 10 AM, we will recognize and thank God for Wayne's ministry at Christ Church, and continue to thank him at the reception following.

Tim Safford

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**LET'S GET TOGETHER
TO CELEBRATE OUR MISSION, MINISTRIES AND
313 YEARS OF CHRIST CHURCH
WITH OUR**

TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES

ONE SERVICE

AT 10:00AM

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION IN THE NORTH
GARDEN**

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Nov 2 All Saints' Day Celebration

- 9:00am Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Sermon
10:10am Rector's Forum
Faith and Family Series
Journey to Adulthood – 11 to 17 year olds
Atrium 2 Class – 7 to 10 year olds
11:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
4:30pm Spiritual Meditation in the Great Hall
5:00pm Creative Evening Worship in the Great Hall

Nov 9 Stewardship Sunday

- 10:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
Journey to Adulthood – 11 to 17 year olds
11:30am Parish Celebration
1:00pm LGBT Fellowship at North Bowl

Nov 16 Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
10:10am Rector's Forum
Faith and Family Series
Journey to Adulthood – 11 to 17 year olds
Atrium 2 Class – 7 to 10 year olds
11:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
5:00pm Parents' Night Out

Nov 23 Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
9:30am Children's Music Class – 4 to 6 year olds
10:10am Rector's Forum
Faith and Family Series
Journey to Adulthood – 11 to 17 year olds
Children's Music Class – 7 to 10 year olds
Atrium 2 Class – 7 to 10 year olds
11:00am Morning Prayer and Sermon
5:00pm Theology on Tap

Nov 30 The First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00am to 1:00pm **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** in Neighborhood House
9:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
10:10am Rector's Forum
Journey to Adulthood – 11 to 17 year olds
Atrium 2 Class – 7 to 10 year olds
11:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon

RECTOR'S FORUM IN NOVEMBER – 10:10A.M. Sunday

- November 2 Bible Study
November 9 No Forum - One Service at 10A.M.
November 16 Coping with Stress: Career Management in Uncertain Times
A preview of an upcoming series led by the Rev. Palmer Hartl (*see page 6*)
November 23 Bible Study

November 30 Keeping a Holy Advent

FALL BACK

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour for the end of Daylight Saving Time on **November 2**.

THANKSGIVING EVE EUCHARIST SERVICE

All are welcome to our Service of thanksgiving on Wednesday, **November 26**, 7:00pm in the church.

CREATIVE EVENING WORSHIP IN THE GREAT HALL – ALL ARE WELCOME

November 2 with Sanskrit chant at **4:30**, service of healing and Holy Eucharist **5-6 P.M.** Zoe Mai, practitioner and instructor of Ashtanga yoga and teacher from the American Sanskrit Institute, will lead us in the ancient yoga practice of Sanskrit chant. From that deeper place of prayer, we'll then move into the 5 p.m. Eucharist with prayers for healing. Got a yoga mat? Bring it. No yoga experience at all? Come pull up a chair and get into the chant – this is mainly a practice of sitting, breath and awareness, as we create more space for God's presence in us.

INSIGHTS FROM THE ATRIUM

During prayer time the children were saying what they were thankful for: One child said "I would like to thank Jesus for cookies" and another child added to that by saying "Oh yeah, definitely cookies."

JUSTICE IN ACTION

GIVING THANKS ONE CAN AT A TIME

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat..."



As we approach the Thanksgiving holidays our hearts and minds often turn toward what we have or do not have in life. Counting our blessings, great and small, appears front and center in our culture. For some, the sense of abundance is clearly present and vast while for others it is not. Due to the struggling economy and increase in fuel and food prices, more people are turning to food cupboards and pantries for help. Food banks across the country are experiencing a serious shortage of food for those in need.

The Christ Church faith community will gather canned goods on two Sundays, **November 16th & 23rd** for *PhilAbundance*, a nonprofit organization fighting hunger and malnutrition in our city and the Delaware Valley. Make plans to share your abundance and gratitude for all the blessings of your life by bringing your gifts of food to church.

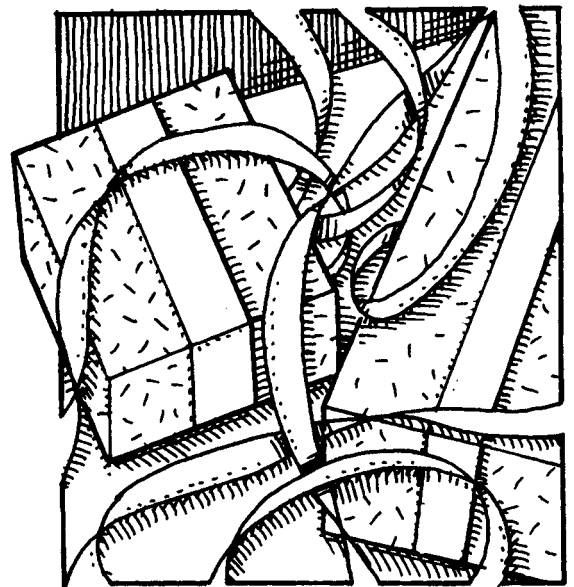
Here's what we need:

Canned Tuna
Canned Beef Stew
Canned Pork & Beans, Green Beans, & Corn
Creamy Peanut Butter – plastic containers only
100% Fruit & Vegetable Juice / shelf stable-cans or plastic bottles only

Canned Pasta, Beef Ravioli
Canned Fruit Cocktail

ADVENT ANGEL TREE COMMUNITY PROJECT

The annual Angel Tree Project provides a direct link from the Christ Church family to people who are caught in the poverty cycle in Philadelphia. This ministry offers individuals and families the opportunity to be a secret angel and participate in meeting the wish or need of a child, family, or adult during the holiday season. **You are invited to select a tag from the Angel Tree in Neighborhood House on Sunday, November 30.** As you make plans to fulfill someone's wish, please remember to pray for both the person to whom your gift will be given and for the work of the programs that are providing the care and support. **Gifts will be gathered in Neighborhood House on Sunday, December 14.** This year the Christ Church community is supporting the following organizations: AchieveAbility, Episcopal Community Services Home Care Program, Bainbridge House Mentoring Program, People's Emergency Center, and the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist Camp Get Along Program.



MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR PROGRAM

The choral season begins with the All Saints' choral mass setting of Mozart's *Requiem* sung by the full Christ Church Choir. The quartet at The Nine is joined each week for the Octet at The Eleven. The weekly octet of professional singers is joined for all special liturgies and holy day celebrations throughout the year by the volunteer choristers, the combined forces of all making up Christ Church Choir. It is through the stewardship of our parish volunteers that we compose the necessary numbers to produce our music, and we welcome new members into this volunteer part of the choral program each year. This season we have changed the routine a little as we will rehearsal all full choir repertoire AFTER all 11 A.M. Services though the year, perhaps making it a little easier for you to consider joining forces with us and contributing in this beautiful way to the ministries of your parish. For more information contact **John Binsfeld** at jbinsfeld@christchurchphila.org.

CHOIR NEWS

Valerie Haber is already reporting a lovely and successful master program in her new digs at University of Kentucky, as we welcome veteran Erin Holland

back to her Philadelphia roots and her returning to the Choir forces this fall. Also, we have Jason Switzer going off to Europe for a month upcoming to sing opera, followed by Siddhartha Misra joining an opera program starting January that will take him from us for a couple months. At the same time, we also welcome both Allejandra Marino and Kevin Ray to our choral family this fall in substitute positions for the octet. Say hello and welcome to all these folks when you get an opportunity as they make our weekly Sabbaths here unique and always beautiful.

HOLIDAY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC

Please consider a special financial gift in memory of loved ones for the instrumental music of our Christmas Season. Part of the tradition of Christ Church has for many decades included a full compliment of brass and percussion for this joy-filled feast and it wouldn't seem like Christ Church to many without it. Nevertheless, the cost of these events is ever increasing like just about everything in our lives. We are trying to give to you everything that can make music a vital part of our ministries. Please help us in any way you can to keep this tradition possible.

THE BRIDGE

JUSTICE WORK WITH THOSE STRUGGLING WITH HOMELESSNESS – ALL WELCOME

We gather once a month to create unique, excellent meals, and eat and enjoy fellowship with the men at Old First Reform Men's Shelter. And there are always a few folks who get together the day before to head to the Italian market to buy the freshest, best ingredients – go local, go green! It's great to help those in need, and great just to enjoy each other. **Shelter dates:** First Reform, corner of 4th and Race Streets, 6 to 8 p.m., Mondays, **Nov. 17** and **Dec. 15**. For more info on how to help shop, cook or serve the food, contact **Anne McAteer** at ackoerner@yahoo.com or **Nick DiPatri** at ndipatri@gmail.com.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Folks in their 20s through early 40s gather at 5:30 for dinner, drinks, music, and some theological conversation, whatever that means. Right now, we're cracking basic questions of faith using the outline in the back of the Prayer Book, then reading *The Irresistible Revolu-*

tion: Living as an Ordinary Radical, by Shane Claiborne. If you don't have a copy of the book yet, let Susan know. Then while we're in the Shane space, the next read for this fall to coincide with the presidential election is his recent *Jesus for President* – a cool book on how our faith interacts with public issues in a way that leaves behind the old divisions and stereotypes of what that used to look like. Shane, a cool guy in his early 30s who actually lives and works here in Philly, founded an alternative religious community called the Simple Way where the members live and work among the poor. The hang-out and the reads are all great ways to go deeper together in the connections with each other and within ourselves. For more info or to RSVP for dinner, email the **Rev. Susan Richardson**, srichardson@christchurchphila.org.

FALL SCHEDULE:

Nov 23 Potluck - drinks provided by the church.

Dec 14 Another dishy meal provided by the church - cuisine TBA. Bring a drink and a colleague or neighbor.

NEW OPPORTUNITY

Coping with Stress: Career Management in Uncertain Times

For three Saturday mornings beginning November 22, **Palmer Hartl** will lead a group interested in exploring ways to cope with the stress of these difficult times, and how one can manage their career through periods of uncertainty. Whether you have lost your position or just worry that you might, these sessions will give us the opportunity to support each other, and to think about the career tracks we are on and what alternatives we may have. Palmer is not only a priest for our church, but has worked for years as an executive coach, and consultant to leaders and managers in for profit and not for profit organizations. Several years ago he taught a course at the University of Pennsylvania on career management and transitions. Please contact **Cecilia** at 215-922-1695, ext 21 or cwagner@christchurchphila.org to sign up. **November 22, December 6 and December 20; 8:30 to 10:00AM** in Neighborhood House.

VESTRY CORNER

As part of a new idea of having members of Christ Church congregation interview Vestry members and write up their responses for the Beacon's reading public, Eugene Frohlich and Nava Hall started the series off by interviewing Joan Bedell, Rector's Warden for Christ Church.

Joan Bedell is in her 4th year on the Vestry, and while she's performed many functions in churches over the years, from church school teaching to altar guild, this is her first time ever serving on a Vestry. To Joan, being on the Vestry is a chance to be involved in the operations of running a church, what she calls the "budget and business of a faith family."

The Christ Church Vestry consists of twelve elected people who are the governing authority of the church. Christ Church tries hard to represent the demographics of the church congregation itself in the make up of the Vestry. All Vestry members bring particular skills to the table, but the most important aspect they bring, according to Joan, is a sense of responsibility for the church and a willingness to use their time and abilities in service of the church. One can imagine that construction managers, architects, and preservationists have been particularly welcome to the Vestry of late with all the renovation and restoration projects afoot. At the same time, Joan stresses, ministries to our parishioners, our families and children, and to the community are fundamental to our work of living into Christ's call to us. We must also lead our congregation's commitment to being good stewards, and we turn to those with organizational, financial and legal expertise to guide us. Joan says, "We are all voices from the pews. Whatever skill is needed is somehow always there." Joan herself brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to the position. As a front line probation officer and eventual department division director until she retired recently, Joan has been trained to envision and maintain the needs of a larger organization while also caring about individual people. As a Third Order Franciscan, Joan offers an added dimension of spiritual leadership and growth.



Interviewing the Rector's Warden provided an excellent opportunity to find out just exactly what a Rector's Warden actually is or does. While not as dramatic a role as the name seems to indicate (no keys are involved), the Rector's Warden is simply, in lay terms, the chair of the board. During the absence of the Rector, as happened during Tim's sabbatical, she takes on a larger role by making herself more available to the clergy, staff and working committees.

Rector's Warden is an important role and has traditionally and often been filled at Christ Church by men of great stature. Continuing the tradition but changing the gender, Joan is the first woman at Christ Church to fill this role. Joan remarks that Christ Church has nurtured and sheltered so many souls during its history, and she feels very grateful to have a place in the long tradition of living the Gospel and caring for our buildings.

Joan is continually amazed by all the different members of the congregation who step forward with their particular interests and talents to further the work God has given us to do. She firmly believes that the leadership the Vestry provides best helps the church if every person who sits in the pews has a sense of responsibility and volunteers to participate in whatever capacity possible as a member of this Christian family, known as Christ Church.

FELLOWSHIP and FAMILY

CHRIST CHURCH GARDENERS

Please join us in the North Garden for our last Fall cleanup on **November 8** at 10:00A.M. Newcomers are always welcome. We hope to see you there. Questions? Contact **George Niedermayer** at niedy711@aol.com.

GAY & LESBIAN FELLOWSHIP

Let's go bowling! Join the LGBT fellowship of Christ Church on Sunday, **November 9** at 1:00pm at North Bowl (909 N. 2nd Street) for an afternoon of fun and frivolity. The Christ Church Holy Rollers will team up to raise funds for *Strikes Against AIDS* with Mazzoni Center. Plenty of food, libations, and bowling along with a great community are priceless! Contact canthony@christchurchphila.org to join in as a member of the team, to come along for the fellowship, or to provide financial support for this great event.

SANDWICHES FOR THE HOMELESS

Come join the crew of sandwich makers who once a month cheerfully make 350 bologna sandwiches for St. Mary's. We gather next on Saturday, **November 15**, 8:30-9:30A.M. Kids love to help, too! Questions? Please contact **Wayne Christman** at waynechristman@comcast.net.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Mexican food, drinks of your choice, Disney Trivial Pursuit - and chair massages by a professional masseuse. What's not to love?! Our next Parents' Night Out is Sunday, **November 16, 5-7:30 p.m.** Kids will be upstairs for pizza and a movie; parents and caregivers will be in the parlor (chair massages in the Carpenter Room), de-stressing before the holidays. Are you a parent of a teen who's off doing other things? - come on down anyway. Bring whatever you'd like to drink (margaritas welcome), and a new family from the neighborhood or school. Childcare and pizza are free; suggested donation of \$15 per adult for dinner and massage - you can't beat it. **RSVP to Cecilia Wagner**, cwagner@christchurchphila.org, by Friday Nov. 14 with the number of adults and kids. Questions? Contact the Rev. Susan Richardson.

WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Russell Lee Hartge, son of **Tobi Walker & Jeff Hartge**
Salinna Mary Lanctot, daughter of **Kathleen & Dexter Lanctot**

CELEBRATE WITH BRIDE & GROOM

Heather Parsons & Ben Wallace-Wells, married
October 4

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW VESTRY

In preparation for our Parish Annual Meeting in 2009, nominations for new Vestry members are now being accepted. If you have a parishioner to nominate, please call the office for a Nomination Form or pick one up in Neighborhood House. Completed forms are due into the church

office by **December 8**.

American Red Cross Blood Drive



Hosted by Christ Church
Sunday, November 30
8:00AM - 1:00PM
Neighborhood House

*Call Julia Bergmann at 856-858-4078
for an appointment.*

Walk-ins welcome!

PARISH BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to our parish family members celebrating birthdays this month:

- November 1, **Kathryn Palski, Parke Rouse**
- November 2, **Emily Donohue, Zachary Falone, Ted Mills**
- November 3, **Ruth Baudo**
- November 5, **Sara Smith**
- November 7, **Anne Argue, Nava Hall**
- November 9, **Sheila Brown, Linda Schrader**
- November 10, **Abigail Knuettel, Jill Palski**
- November 14, **Andrew Rickels, Stiles Seay, Garth Terrelonege**
- November 16, **Rachel Daniels**
- November 17, **Tranda Fishelis, Calvin Main, Joel Ziegler**
- November 19, **Florence Collins, Stephanie Moleski, Thomas Weldon**
- November 20, **Celeste Dean-Campbell**
- November 21, **Kailyn Frohlich, Rie Huebner**
- November 22, **Marcy Hasbrouck, Kay Keagy**
- November 24, **Andrew Palski**
- November 26, **Daniel Grishkin Lanctot**
- November 27, **Suzanne Lowe**
- November 28, **Joan Eldridge**
- November 29, **James Pio**
- November 30, **The Rt. Rev. Charles Bennison, Jennifer Celata, Heather Parsons**

Did we miss your birthday? Please contact **Cecilia** in the church office.

Christ Church: A user's guide

9:00 AM Eucharist and Sermon

Rite II, celebrated with vocal quartet, organ and hymns.

10:10 AM Christian Education

Adult education each Sunday in Neighborhood House. Education for Children and Youth on the second and third floors of Neighborhood House from September to June.

11:00 AM Eucharist and Sermon (*see schedule inside*)

Rite I or II celebrated, with organ and hymns, and vocal leadership from Christ Church Choir

11:00 AM Morning Prayer and Sermon (*see schedule inside*)

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each Sunday.

Wednesdays

12:00 Noon Eucharist

Rite II, briefly and informally celebrated with a short homily. About 20 minutes, this liturgy is a perfect addition to relieve "hectic downtown life syndrome."

Visiting/Getting in touch

The Church, located on 2nd Street just north of Market Street in Old City Philadelphia, is open for visiting, prayer and meditation from 9am to 5pm daily.

Mailing address and church office entrance:

20 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Email: mail@christchurchphila.org

Website: www.christchurchphila.org

Main Phone Number: 215.922.1695

FAX Number: 215.922.3578

Cecilia Wagner - ext. 21 or cwagner@christchurchphila.org

The Rev. Timothy Safford - ext. 22

tsafford@christchurchphila.org

The Rev. Carol Anthony – ext. 23

canthony@christchurchphila.org

The Rev. Susan Richardson – ext. 25

srichardson@christchurchphila.org

The Rev. K. Palmer Hartl – kpheartl@aol.com

Wayne West - ext. 24 or wwest@christchurchphila.org

Jessica Schane - ext. 26 or jschane@christchurchphila.org

John Binsfeld - ext. 27 or jbinsfeld@christchurchphila.org

Chris Alvarez – ext. 28 or calvarez100@hotmail.com

Leza Kramarenko – ext.28 or lezavetak@gmail.com

Don Smith - ext. 29 or dsmith@christchurchphila.org

Neil Ronk - ext. 30 or nronk@christchurchphila.org

Anne McLaughlin-ext. 32 or amclaughlin@christchurchphila.org

John Hopkins - ext. 33 or jhopkins@christchurchphila.org

Jeanne Stuardi - ext. 36 or jstuardi@christchurchphila.org

The Beacon is published monthly for members, friends and supporters of Christ Church, the Rev. Timothy B. Safford, Rector. Deadline for the **December** issue is **November 10**. Please e-mail articles to cwagner@christchurchphila.org

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