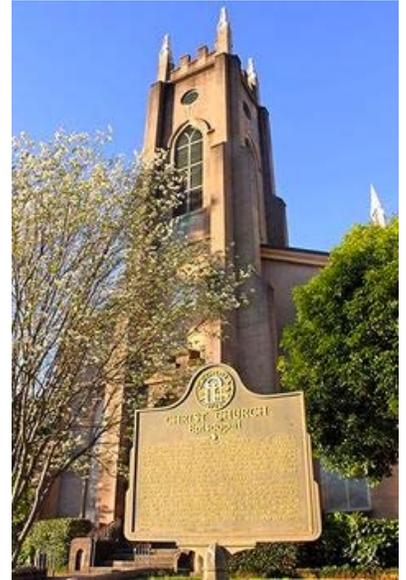


January 2017

The Chimes

*"What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give Him—give my heart."*

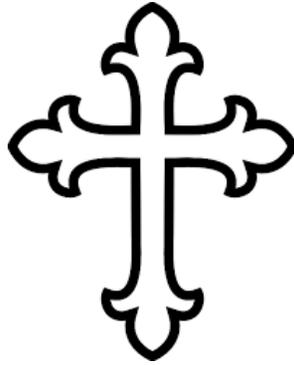


I have always loved this last verse of the Christmas hymn, "In the Bleak Midwinter". It reminds us that the only appropriate response to the gift of our Incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ, is an outpouring of gratitude that comes from the depth of our being. To be able to gaze on the face of God incarnate brought kings to their knees in worship of Him. For our God to love us so much that He would choose to become one of us to restore our relationship with Him is a gift beyond anything we can give in return. Truly it calls forth the gift of our heart.

But what does that mean? How does that impact the way I live, the way I operate in the day to day, the way I think for that matter? Jesus told us that giving God our hearts is to honor Him in all that we are and all that we do, and to obey His commandments. When asked which is the greatest of the commandments He summed them up into: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ([Matthew 22:37](#)) When we are living out of this total commitment to the Lord- when we have given Him our hearts—it impacts everything.

We just finished studying the book of Esther in our "Gift of Gab" Bible Study group. It is a story of dramatic reversals for those who are walking with the Lord. Ironically God's name is never mentioned in the entire book but His presence and His hand at work are unmistakable. We marveled at the way a very young woman, Esther, could act with such wisdom and composure to be the instrument of such a dramatic reversal in history. She did so after having spent three days in prayer and fasting—seeking the Lord's wisdom, guidance, and intervention. She committed her way to the Lord. She couldn't have imagined the outcome but she navigated the process with an uncanny peace and composure as she trusted that the outcome was in the Lord's hands. In our discussion, we shared personal experiences of this happening in our own lives—times when the Lord had carried us through unimaginable difficulties and hardship with an uncanny peace. When we entrust our hearts to the Lord, He fills us with that peace as He fills us with His presence. We have that inner knowing that He is truly with us. Scripture tells us this in [Philippians 4:6-7](#): "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As much as I know this, I find I need regular reminding. Hearing the testimony of others who have walked it in their lives and experienced the truth of those words is a reminder to me to remain steadfast in trusting the Lord. If we don't keep our focus on the Lord it's easy to find we have unwittingly taken back that gift of our heart. Scripture tells us to "Guard your heart with all vigilance for from it flow the springs of life." ([Proverbs 4:23](#)) It isn't a one-time gift. It is a daily practice of trusting the Lord. A daily building of faith. As we give the Lord our heart we find that we are really the ones receiving the far greater gift of His grace not only filling us with that peace that passes understanding but also working dramatic reversals in us and for us for our good and for the glory of God. What a gift it is to walk with the Lord!

-the Rev. Cynthia Knapp



*By the Grace of God
The Right Reverend Robert Wright
Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta
And the People of
Christ Episcopal Church, Macon, Georgia
Invite your Prayers and Presence
At the Installation of*

*Their 28th Rector
The Rev. Cynthia Clark Knapp
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
6:00 p.m.*

Clergy are invited to vest and process in white stoles

Reception Following in the Great Hall

*582 Walnut Street
Macon, Georgia 31201
www.ChristChurchMacon.com*

ALPHA PROGRAM

The Alpha program begins Wednesday, January 25th at 6:00 pm and will be held at the home of Jenny and Hal Greer. Alpha is a course on the Christian faith that covers everything from "Who is Jesus?" and "Why did he have to die?" to "Does God heal today?" and "What about the question of evil?" It's an opportunity to work through questions and either gain a greater understanding or be at peace with embracing the mystery. The format begins with a shared meal followed by a teaching and a discussion time. It covers 14 lessons which can be done in as many weeks or in a shorter time with a Saturday commitment along the way—the schedule will be determined by what works best for the group. There is limited space so if we exceed the limit we will either need to add another location or have people wait for the next time it is offered. This course has been so helpful for so many we can say with confidence we will offer it again. We also encourage people who are part of a couple to sign up together as it tends to strengthen relationships in going deeper spiritually together. Please call the Parish office to sign up for the Alpha Program.



*Please join us for a reception
honoring the ministries of
Dr. Jack and the Reverend Julia Mitchener
on Sunday, January 8th
in the Great Hall
following the 11:00 a.m. service*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Three Kings Celebration

Feast of the Epiphany
January 4, 2016

5:30 p.m. Service in Jones Chapel
6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Great Hall
to include King Cake and activities for all ages



*Please bring a package of diapers in honor of the Christ Child for the Middle Georgia Convocation Diaper Ministry

Feast of St. Nicholas

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 7th. It was a wonderful evening of Godly Play, treats and sweets, music from our Choristers, and a special visit from St. Nicholas himself!



Christmas Pageant

Thank you to Karen Baxley and her volunteers for another wonderful Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve!



EYC NEWS

EYC Prayer Breakfasts resume on January 12 and 13! Thursdays at Chick-Fil-A on Zebulon Road beginning at 6:30 am and Fridays at Jittery Joe's in Mercer Village beginning at 7:00 am.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes resume on Sunday morning, January 15, at 10:00 am. Join us for more exploration on our spiritual journey together.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS with REV. CYNTHIA

January 29 at 10:00. High school students are invited to join our rector for a special class session that meets each month.



NEW BEGINNINGS RETREAT

February 3-5 (Friday-Sunday)

Everyone in grades 6-9 is encouraged to attend New Beginnings at Camp Mikell the first weekend in February. For more information and to register, visit eycdioatl.org. Scholarships available. Ask John Mark for details.

EVENING YOUTH SERVICE

February 12 (Sunday) 5:00 pm

All youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to participate in this special service featuring music from Camp Mikell retreats and more in Jones Chapel. Pizza will be served following worship. All are welcome.

HAPPENING 67 RETREAT

February 24-26 (Friday - Sunday)

All students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to attend Happening 67, a special retreat designed for and led by high school students. For more information and to register, visit eycdioatl.org. Scholarships available. Ask John Mark for details.



MINISTRY OF HEALING

We are beginning a training program for those who feel led to be a part of the ministry of prayer for healing at Christ Church. The first training session will be Thursday, January 26th at 3:00 in the Davis Room in the Harold House next to the church. Please RSVP to the Church office if you would like to participate. (Let us know also if you want to be a part of this but can't make that time.)

OUTREACH MINISTRY

The next Outreach meeting is Monday evening January 16th at 5:30 in the Davis Room of the Harold House. If you would like to be more involved in this important ministry we encourage you to attend!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Choristers & Novice Choir Wednesday rehearsals resume on January 11th beginning with Novice Choir at 5:00 pm followed by Choristers at 5:30 p.m.

Do you sing or play a musical instrument? Contact Jonathan, our Organist/Choirmaster, jonathan@christchurchmacon.com or (478) 745-0427 ext. 137 to find out how you can get involved in our Music Ministry.



PRAYER REQUESTS

For those on our parish prayer list: Andrew, Alice, Bailey, Beverly, Bill, Bill, Bill, Bonnie, Carmen, Carolyn, Charlie, Chuck, Crawford, David, Deitz, Eddie, George, George, Hannah, Helen, Jack, Jeffery, Kelly, Lynn, Malinda, Margaret, Margarete, Mary, Millie, Molly, Nina, Peter, Scott, Sparky, Susan, Alan, Angela, Bailee, Beth, Brady, Bobby, Cole, Colin, Deborah, Ed, Felecia, Gail, Gene, Henry, Jim, Joann, Julie, Justin, Larry, Larry, Lilla, Lucille, Lynn, Maddox, Maggie, Matthew, Richard, Saville, Suzanne, Tommy, and The Talbert Family.

For those serving in the military, especially Allen, Austin, Brian, Caylee, Charlie, George, Regis, and Terry.

For Bishops Rob Wright and Don Wimberly, for our priests Cynthia, Joseph, and Julia, and for our Staff and Vestry.

For all congregations seeking new or renewed direction. For architects and artists, judges and jurists. For all Christians serving in public office.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We Three Kings

Beginning on Sunday, January 8th, John Blanks will be leading an eight-week class entitled "We Three Kings" studying the lives of Saul, David, and Solomon. We will discuss the first three Kings of Israel, Saul, David, and Solomon. We all probably know the major stories of Saul, David, and Solomon, but in this class we will also discuss their relationships with God, both in His favor and out of His favor and what major events occurred during their reigns. The class will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Cloister Room.

BIBLE STUDIES

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Wednesdays @ 7:00 am, Cloister Room

EARLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Wednesdays @ 9:00 am, hosted by The Rev. Cynthia Knapp, January 11th @ the home of Wendy Johnson, 116 Maimont Circle, January 18th & 25th @ The Rectory, 139 Country Club Rd.— Join us as we study the book of Acts. Newcomers are welcome!

WISE WOMEN BIBLE STUDY—Wednesdays @10:45 am in the Davis Room taught by The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp—You are invited to join us as we continue our discussion on The Fruit of the Spirit—we will finish up our study of Faithfulness and Self-control. When we finish The Fruit of the Spirit we will begin a study of one of the gospels.

SHINE BEFORE THE GRIND—This group is taking a break for the month of January. Look for information soon about when we will resume our study! For more information, please email sjcmaddux@gmail.com, elizabeth@elizabethschorr.com, or elizabethmccain@gmail.com.

THE GIFT OF GAB WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Every other Thursday, from 5:30–7:00 pm Thursday, January 5th and Thursday, January 19th at the home of Barbara Jenkins, 2649 Stanislaus Circle—Join us for this bible study that was founded by a group of working women of Christ Church. The study is held every other week and will be hosted by a member of the group each session. Dates and locations have been uploaded to our parish calendar, which can be found on the website, or you may contact the parish office for more information. All women are welcome to attend!

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Daughters of the King will meet on Monday, January 9th at 6 pm. Joan Hatcher will be our host. The focus of our meeting will be: Meditation and Centering through Pottery.



NEWCOMERS GATHERING

The Inreach, Welcoming, and Nurturing Committee is hosting a Reception for all new members and interested visitors on Sunday January 29th at the home of Kitty Walker. Invitations will follow. If you have not received an invitation and would like to be included please contact Ted Robinson at [\(478\) 719-7596](tel:4787197596) or tcr@privateclubassociates.com.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesdays @ 7 pm @ Just Tap'd, 488 First St.

Theology on Tap resumes Tuesday, January 10, at 7 p.m. to discuss "the news of the day" in light of Christian theology and the teachings of Jesus. Please note that this is a "drop-in" discussion group, so join us whenever you can, and feel free to bring friends from beyond the Christ Church community (You must be 21 or older to participate). Questions? Contact the Rev. Joseph Shippen joseph@christchurchmacon.com

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22nd in the Great Hall following the 11:00 am service. Brunch will be served.

Services on January 22nd will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages will be held at 10:00 a.m.

VOTING: All members of the parish, 16 or older, who are communicants in good standing are eligible to vote. At the annual meeting we will be selecting new Vestry members, delegates to Annual Council, and discussing other parish matters of importance. Your attendance is important and appreciated.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS: Additional nominations from the floor must be submitted to the Senior Warden no less than two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting in order to be confirmed. Permission from the person to be nominated must be obtained prior to submission.

