

# THE CORNERSTONE

## JANUARY 2012

PARISH NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DANVILLE, PA

TELEPHONE: 570-275-3903

EMAIL: [CMECDANVILLE@VERIZON.NET](mailto:CMECDANVILLE@VERIZON.NET)

WEBSITE: [WWW.CHRISTMEMORIALEPISCOPAL.ORG](http://WWW.CHRISTMEMORIALEPISCOPAL.ORG)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The new year is a time when we often set goals for ourselves. We call them New Year's resolutions and we are determined that "this year I'm going to stick to it". But we seldom do.

Mostly, I think, it's because we set unrealistic goals; goals that are such radical changes and so demanding that we doom ourselves to failure before we even get started. How many times have you resolved to exercise every day or lose 20 pounds or stop smoking or eat right or save x number of dollars every month? Sometimes we actually manage to make a major change in the way we live but more often our resolutions start out big and quickly fade away amidst the demands of our lives and in the face of patterns that have been in place for years or even decades. And we feel guilty; we feel that we've failed.

I know myself pretty well and I know that New Year's resolutions are a disaster waiting to happen for me. I haven't made a New Year's resolution in years and I'm not going to start now but I am going to try to be more aware this year. I'm going to try to be more aware of my friends and their needs—I'm going to try to do a little better at keeping in touch. I'm going to try to be more aware of the beauty in each day rather than focusing on the problems and annoyances. I'm going to try to remember that I don't think fast on my feet; that I need time to think about things before I make a decision—and I'm going to try not to let myself be pressured into making quick decisions.

If I can work on those three things I think it will make a big difference in my life—in how I relate to the people around me. I hope that I have bitten off a reasonable mouthful in trying to be more aware and in reminding myself of what I already know but often fail to remember.

I hope that you will be gentle with yourself in your New Year's resolutions, that you will choose attainable goals that will make your life better as you work on achieving them.

God's blessing in the New Year.

Peace,  
Mtr. Nancy+

## **HOSPITALS RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY**

Hospitals are not allowed to give out information about you without your consent. Please do not assume that the hospital, be it Geisinger or some other hospital, will notify the church when you are admitted just because you indicate that you are an Episcopalian. They won't. You must request that they notify us. Better yet, don't leave it to chance—let us know before you are admitted or in the case of an emergency, ask a friend or relative to let us know. Hospital personnel are busy and, sadly, contacting your church may not be at the top of their to-do list even when you ask them to call.

## **WINTER REMINDER**

I know that we probably don't need to say this but...use your judgment. If you feel iffy about driving then stay home. We don't want anybody having an accident on their way to church!

If Danville public schools are closed due to inclement weather then church events will be cancelled as well. If the schools have a late start then any activities that begin before the school start time will be cancelled.

Sunday services will not be cancelled due to weather but no one should drive on treacherous roads so, once again, use your judgment.

If in doubt, phone the church for more information.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The annual parish meeting is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 service. On that day there will be no 8:00 service so that everyone can participate in the annual meeting. There will be substantial snacks but no meal at the meeting this year.

## **TAKING DOWN THE GREENS**

It's sad but it has to be done. Our building looks beautiful and festive all decorated for Christmas but all good things must come to an end. We will be taking down the greens following the 10:00 service on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to stay and help with this task so that we can get it done quickly and efficiently.

## **THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

Epiphany, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men to see Jesus, is always on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 days after Christmas. This year we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday morning, January 8<sup>th</sup> rather than on the preceding Friday evening so that everyone has the opportunity to share in the celebration.

Again this year we will have the blessing of the chalk and there will be a supply for you to take home so that you can chalk your doors. Instruction sheets will be handed out with the chalk.

Be there or be square!

## **SERVICE BOOKLETS**

Please let us know how you like using the service booklets. We've included the service music for the 10:00 service in the booklet for the season of Epiphany so that everyone can easily sing along without having to scramble to find the right page in the hymnal. Let us know if this is something you find helpful—or not.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING EUCHARIST**

The Wednesday evening Eucharist is something we all know about but seldom think about. Every Wednesday we gather to celebrate the Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.. It lasts about 35 minutes and is a quiet service with the congregation seated in the choir stalls. We often

explore the life of one of the saints being commemorated during the week. You might want to make this service a part of your spiritual discipline for 2012. Or, if you are unwell and can't come to church on Sunday morning, why not come on Wednesday?

### **MODEL TRAIN PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE**

I hope you had the opportunity to visit the model train room on December 24<sup>th</sup> for the open house. The room was beautifully decorated thanks to everyone who contributed ornaments, garland, lights and other beautiful Christmas decorations. There were lots of cookies given by parish members and the atmosphere was festive. Lots of people came and went during the extended hours and a good time was had by all. I'm sure that Bob Bomboy was completely exhausted but pleased by the turnout when all was said and done!

### **FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK**

If there's one thing we know how to do it's cook! Don't forget that January has 5 Sundays so we will have our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck on January 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service on that Sunday at 10:00 a.m.. You'll find a sign-up sheet in the Community Room a couple of weeks before the event.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

You will find a new altar flower poster in the Community Room for 2012. The cost for has gone up \$1.00 per week. If you would like to give the altar flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for something please print the information clearly on the poster so that it can be included in the bulletin for the week. Checks should be made payable to CMEC with "flowers" in the memo line.

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are available at the back of the nave. They are in alphabetical order so it should be easy to find your box. Please remember to pick them up in the next few weeks.

HEY KIDS!!!!!! Draw you favorite Winter Scene in this space!!!!!!

## VESTRY MINUTES OR DECEMBER 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:03 by Mtr. Nancy.

Present: Mtr. Nancy, A. Bower, D. Peterson, M. Eby, P. Stauffer, V. Koons, K. Altenbach, D. Shipe

Absent: J. Billman, S. Lentz, B. Peterson

- I. Compline (opening)
- II. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 2011 meeting, motion by D Peterson to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by M. Eby, motion carried unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report by A. Bower. There will be an increase in cost for the vases of altar flowers of \$1.00 per week. QuickBooks Update was auto-debited and the cost went from \$300 to \$395. Motion by D. Peterson to approve Treasurer's Report, seconded by K. Altenbach, motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Bylaw Committee Update—due to last minute conflicts the group was not able to meet as planned. Will reschedule for sometime in the new year.
  - b. Where do we stand...discussion tabled for now.
  - c. Other old business—none.
- V. Reports
  - d. Rector's report—by Mtr. Nancy. The Sunday School teachers will be starting with the new curriculum next Sunday. St. Nick's visit was well received. Adult study group will start up again in the new year.
  - e. Senior Warden's Report—K. Altenbach. Noted that attendance has been trending up recently at the 10:00 services.
  - f. Junior Warden's report—by D. Peterson. Current snow removal contractor is Chuck Stine who charges approx. \$30-35 per visit. Recommends that we stay with him. Suggests that when new funds come in next year we have an architecture firm come in to review our structure and give us some options. Ehrlich Pest Control came in for an inspection and confirmed that we have no termites.
  - g. Finance Committee—by K. Altenbach. Will present later during 2012 budget discussion.
  - h. Cemetery Committee—by P. Stauffer. Nothing to report.
  - i. Advertising Committee—by V. Koons. Gave our webmaster, Andy Bishop, some information to put on our website, will check it out and see how it looks.
- VI. New Business
  - J. Correspondence—by Mtr. Nancy. The Thomas Beaver Library in Danville is facing budget cuts and is asking for contributions. May revisit donating to them sometime in the new year.
  - K. Pledges—by Mtr. Nancy. Forms were mailed out, some have been returned.
  - L. Action Items
    1. 2012 Budget Approval—by K. Altenbach. Finance Committee met and printed out a budget recommendation for next year. Correction noted to Line Item for "Sexton's Supplies"—should read \$200 not \$2,000. "Copier Toner" is showing \$0 since it is covered under copier annual fee. Will look into changing phone and internet provider in the new year to help reduce cost. As noted earlier, QuickBooks Update will be changed from \$300 to \$395. Interest earnings from endowments will be put towards Outreach Commitments. Outreach Commitments was increased to \$50,000. Long discussion took place about ways to manage the generous gifts which the church has received. Various points of view were presented, some

suggesting increases to Outreach Commitments and others preferring a more cautious approach. With the remaining area of contention being the Outreach Commitment amount, and no further progress being made on the issue the Vestry was ready to move to a vote. Motion was made by D. Peterson to approve the 2012 Budget with the noted penciled in changes above. Seconded by V. Koons. Yes votes–4, No votes–2. Motion carried.

2. Staff Raises–by K. Altenbach. Already in budget.
3. Staff Bonuses–by K. Altenbach. Already in budget.
4. Annual Meeting–by Mtr. Nancy. Will be held January 15, 2012.

M. New Business Discussions–Vestry members needed for 2012 Class. D. Peterson is coming to the end of his term and will run for another 3 year term next year. J. Billman and M. Eby are both at the end of their terms and will not be running for the next term. S. Nunan has expressed an interest in being a candidate for Vestry next year. Need to have one more candidate for next year to have a full class for 2012.

VII. Confirmed next meeting date of January 12, 2012 at 6pm. Motion to adjourn by D. Peterson, seconded by P. Stauffer, motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Compline (Closing)

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

#### **SCHEDULE FOR CHALICE BEARERS, LECTORS AND ACOLYTES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
January 1	8:00 10:00	Deb S. Helen L.	Deb S. Robin K.	Deb S.
January 8	8:00 10:00	Ken A. Ken A.	Ken A. Helen L.	Ken A. Kathy S.
January 15 Annual Meeting	10:00	Jane G.	Janet S.	Mike & Helena E.
January 22	8:00 10:00	Jane G. Helen L.	Bob B. Deb B.	Becky S.
January 29 Pot Luck Sunday	10:00	Deb S.	Jane G.	Deb S.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Name of Jesus 8:00 AM Holy Eucharistic 10:00AM Choral Holy Eucharist	2 Rector's Day Off  7:00 PM Frosty Valley Dulcimers	3 10:00AM-12Noon "Bible Buds "	4 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist  7:00PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 10:00 - 12Noon Train Program
8 Epiphany 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Choral Eucharist	9 Rector's Day Off	10 10:00 - 12 Noon "Bible Buds"	11 5:30PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00AM Bible Study	13	14 10:00 - 12 Noon Train Program
15 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 AM Holy Choral Eucharist	16 Rector's Day Off	17 10:00AM - 12 Noon "Bible Buds"	18 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00AM Bible Study	20	21 10:00-12Noon Train Program
22 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 8:00AM Holy Eucharist 10:00AM Holy Choral Eucharist	23 Rector's Day Off	24 10:00 AM-12Noon "Bible Buds"	25 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00AM Bible Study	27	28 10:00 AM - 12 Noon Train Program
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