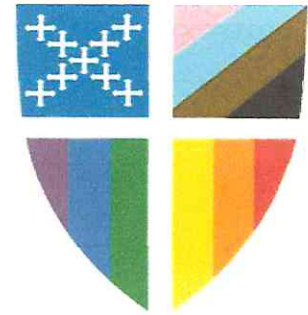


# *The Bellringer*

*Christ Episcopal Church  
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81  
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081  
(860) 267-0287*



*January 2025*

**A welcoming community committed to worship, mission and Christian formation in today's world**



Advent and Christmas Eve blessings to you all! I hope that you are looking forward to the holidays, seeing family and friends, exchanging gifts, and enjoying the good foods that come with the Yuletide.

If Christmas is a difficult time for you because of deaths of loved ones or disappointments and hurts you've experienced, know that you are not alone. If the last thing you want to do is put up a tree and sing carols, that is okay. God is with us 24/7 to comfort us and to listen. So am I as your priest. Please know that we can talk anytime by sending me an email to set aside the time you need. Each of us is seeking peace in our souls. Being together helps.

With Christmas almost here, can the Feast of the Epiphany be far behind? Epiphany is the celebration of the coming of the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem. Bearing their gifts and following a star may seem like a fairytale, yet we do this every Sunday when we attend church, enter into prayer, offer our gifts, and partake in the Body and Blood of Christ. The adoration of the Magi opened the way of Christ to all people, including each of us. So on January 5<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the Epiphany with a little bit of pageantry and song.

**To that end, I set you a challenge. During the 12 days of Christmas (December 25-January 5) write down the blessings you have received in 2024 and your hopes for 2025. If you have children you can make this a family list, or individualize it. Bring your list to church on January 5<sup>th</sup> and we'll spend some time sharing our lists during the service. If you need a form for your lists, you'll find them on the back table of the church.**

With blessings for the season, prayers for safe travel if you are going away, and the love of Jesus—may you find it and may you be found by it,

*Diana* †

# MISSIONS

Once again, you came through for our Covenant to Care Children at Christmas! Thanks to you, Christmas became a more wonderful time for 8 young children under our DCF Social Worker Kelsey Brewer's care. Thanks also for some generous monetary gifts. Because of them, we were able to provide each adult with a \$50 Walmart gift card. According to Kelsey, these families are very grateful for our support and generosity. They are trying to give their children as normal a life as possible during some very trying times and our gifts help to give these kids a very Merry Christmas.

Missions will take a rest now until Lent, which begins on March 5. At that time, we will be having our Annual Vitamin Drive for our children in Haiti. As we all know, things are quite dire there right now between illness, social unrest, and natural disasters so our help is now needed more than ever.

The Missions Team thanks you for your amazing support this past year and wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*Merry Christmas*  
*And happy new year*







# Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

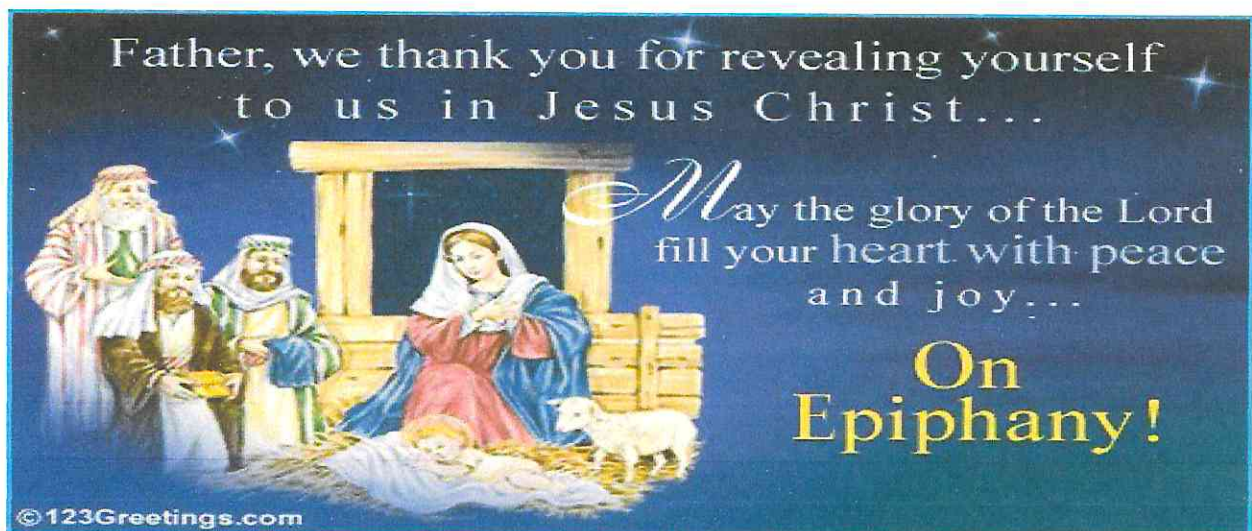
*Growing in Faith Together*

On Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, a joyous occasion marking the revelation of Christ to the world and the visit of the Magi, or Three Kings, who brought gifts to honor the newborn King. This special day reminds us of God's light shining for all people and invites us to reflect on the gifts we offer in return.

Our church school children will play a wonderful part in this celebration. Dressed as Kings and perhaps a Queen, with a camel or two, they will process into church after the Peace, carrying symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts, traditionally offered to Jesus, represent His kingship, divinity, and sacrifice. At coffee hour we will have a King's cake containing a hidden tiny "baby" representing the Christ Child. It's great fun to see who will find it in their piece of King's cake. As I recall, Gavin found the "baby" in his piece of cake two or was it three years in a row!

We encourage everyone to share in the spirit of joy that Epiphany brings. May the Magi's journey inspire us to share the light of Christ with others in our lives and to give thanks for the glimmers of that sacred light throughout the world.

Faithfully, Rev. Joanne 







## **CHRIST CALLING US TOGETHER\* ANNUAL MEETING**

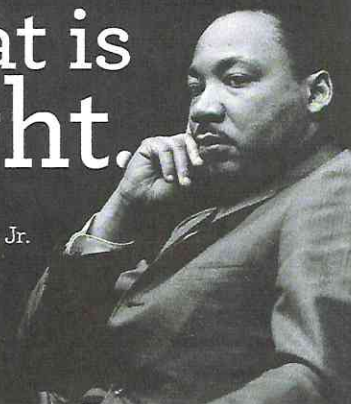
The Parish Annual Meeting of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service. Come join us for the election of new officers and Vestry and to go over a review of the past year. This is your opportunity to see your church in action and to participate in moving forward for the coming year. All reports for the annual report are due into Joal no later than Thursday, January 23, 2025.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING JR.  
DAY**



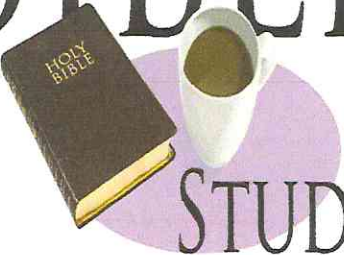
The time is  
always right  
to do  
what is  
right.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."**  
Letter from Birmingham, Alabama jail, April 16, 1963.

**"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."**  
Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Oslo, Norway, 1964

Come Join Our  
**BIBLE**  
  
**STUDY**

Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm join us for bible study. This will be led by Rev. Bobette.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bobette at [bobette@kahn.com](mailto:bobette@kahn.com). She will send you instructions on the readings and the zoom information.

**There will be no Bible study on Wednesday, January 1st.**



All reports for the annual report are due into Joal no later than Thursday, January 23, 2025 so she'll have sufficient time to compile the annual report and send it out to everyone prior to the meeting.



## THE TREASURER'S REPORT



### As of November 2024

Pledges for November were \$5,802.00, under budget by \$1,429.75. Year to date pledges stand at \$90,831.34 over budget by \$11,282.09.

November income was \$12,443.50 over budget by \$2,122.59. Year to date income is \$128,760.90 over budget by \$18,140.89.

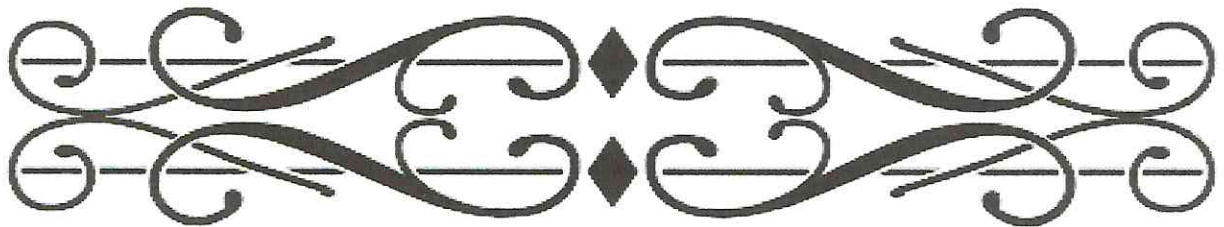
November expenses were \$7,788.24 under budget by \$1,412.66. Year to date expenses are \$119,952.17 over budget by \$7,022.27.

*Barry Edmonds*, Treasurer





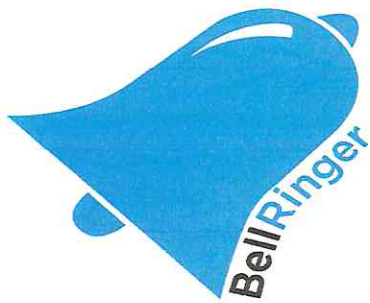
<b>Courtney HYTE</b>	<b>01/04</b>	<b>Paul Strickett</b>	<b>01/19</b>
<b>Luke Noll</b>	<b>01/04</b>	<b>Bud Briere</b>	<b>01/22</b>
<b>Dottie Seitzer</b>	<b>01/10</b>	<b>Dawn Gingras</b>	<b>01/25</b>
<b>Rick Wanat</b>	<b>01/13</b>	<b>Nancy Briere</b>	<b>01/26</b>
<b>Patti Stannard</b>	<b>01/15</b>	<b>Jeffrey Pugatch</b>	<b>01/26</b>
<b>Mckayla Wanat</b>	<b>01/18</b>	<b>Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard</b>	<b>01/28</b>
<b>Emily Williamson</b>	<b>01/19</b>		



**CHANGE OF OR ADDITION TO  
OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

If you have recently or are planning on changing your email address or would like your email address added to our email list, please inform the Bellringer so that you can continue or begin to enjoy the news from your church. Send all changes to:

[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)



**DEADLINE**

**The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the February 2025 issue of the Bellringer is January 15, 2025.**

**Send all submissions to:**

[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)

# Let's Name Our Church Bell



**The practice of naming church bells dates back to at least the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when Pope John XIII dedicated a bell to St. John the Baptist. The tradition of naming bells is likely due to the belief that each bell has a unique "voice".**

**Inscriptions:** Bells are often inscribed with the name of the donor or the saint to whom the bell is dedicated. Inscriptions can also be used to memorialize the bell's origin, add decoration, or state the bell's purpose.

**Blessings:** Bells are blessed with a solemn ceremony that often includes anointing with oils. The ceremony is so similar to the rites of Christian initiation that some people refer to it as the "baptism of the bell".

**Connections:** Bells are sometimes named after specific connections. For example, the largest bell in St. John Cantius Church in Chicago is named St. Anne because it's named after the church in Krakow where St. John Cantius served and is buried.

**The bell at Christ Church has never been given a name. We would like to rectify that and are proposing a contest to name our bell.**

**Please submit your choice to name our bell to the editor of the Bellringer at:**

**[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com), by February 28, 2025**

**You can also give a brief explanation on why you think your nomination should be selected. The nominations, along with your explanation will then be listed in the March edition of the Bellringer with a ballot so you can vote on your favorite nomination. The nomination receiving the most votes will then be selected as the winner and announced at church and in our April Bellringer.**

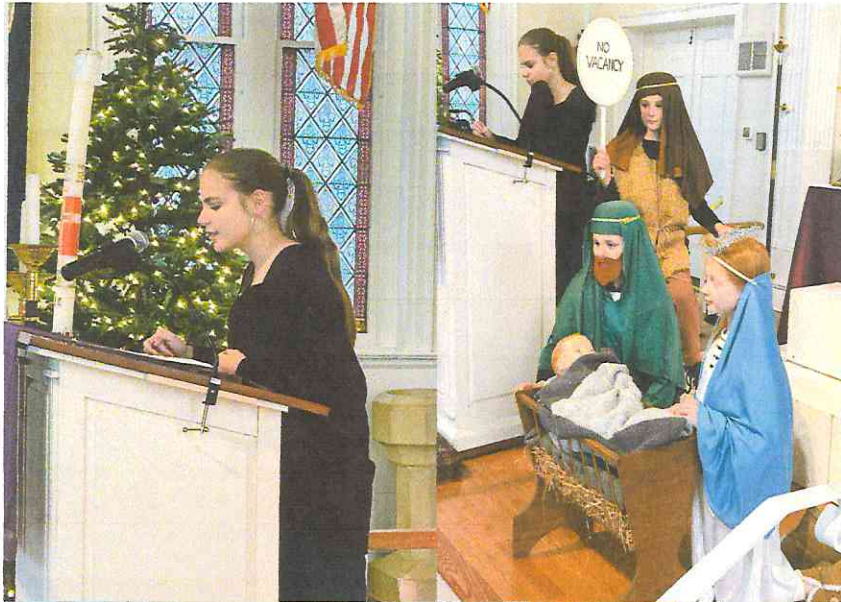
# SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY



# The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

# PHOTOS

# SILENT NIGHT

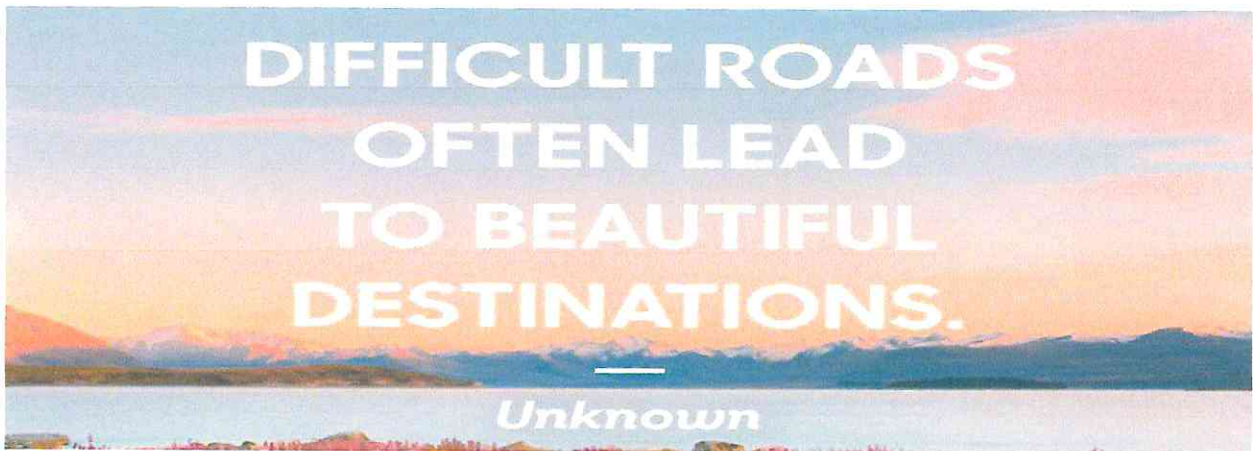






We are in need of volunteers to host our coffee hour after church services on Sundays. Never hosted before? Don't worry you can pair up with an experienced individual who will walk you through setting up, making the coffee and all the other procedures to be followed. It's not difficult and can be lots of fun.

Won't you consider hosting this worthwhile calling? If so, contact Bud Briere at [abriere@aol.com](mailto:abriere@aol.com) or 860-267-4328 and he will let you know what slots are available. Thank you for volunteering.



The Stewardship committee wants to give thanks to all who participated in our recent Campaign. We asked you to pledge and to increase your past pledges by 5% and you did so much more! For 2024, we had 34 pledges and the amount was \$86, 781. We are so pleased to announce that there are 39 pledges for 2025 - an 11.5% increase in the number and six of those are from new pledging units!! The amount of money in pledges increased even more to \$100,279 - a 15.5% increase!! Thank you so much as this money will show the Diocese that we are a strong, well-supported small parish.

Your Stewardship Committee: Clive Connor, Geri Cecilio and Bobette Reed Kahn

# Calendar of Events

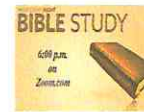
## Sunday, January 5, 2025 – The Second Sunday After Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



## Wednesday, January 8, 2025 – Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



## Saturday, January 11, 2025

11:00 a.m. Baptism of Vienna & Jackson Noll  
Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers



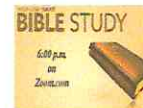
## Sunday, January 12, 2025 – The First Sunday After the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



## Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



## Sunday, January 19, 2025 – The Second Sunday After the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



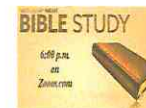
## Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - Vestry Meeting

6:00 p.m. - This will be virtual meeting on Zoom.com



## Wednesday, January 22, 2025 – Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



## Thursday, January 23, 2025

All reports for the Annual Report are due into Joal



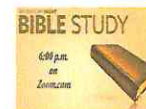
## Sunday, January 26, 2025 – The Third Sunday After the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



## Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn  
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



**The will of God can never lead  
you where the grace of God  
cannot keep you.**



# PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



## **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

## **In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield Ministries for the homeless, for parishes that offer temporary or permanent shelter; For Chapel on the Green, New Haven & Church by the Pond.

## **Parish Prayers are requested for:**

Daniel Hastings, Julie; Shirley Kostelny; Bernadette Moss; Bishop Michael Curry; The St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities; Geoffrey Armitage; The residents and staff of Cobalt Lodge; Jenna Konior; Wayne Curry; Adam Boretz; Carolyn McMahon; Susan Skoglund; Howard Grant; Jesse Strickett; Margaret Strickett; Jim Turner

## **We pray for:**

For all suffering from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases. For the hungry and the homeless. For all who mourn, bearing in mind the continuing deaths by gun violence.

**We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.**

## **And for Ukraine**

Lord, We thank you that in every situation, every dark moment, you are active and working among us. Even when things seem at their bleakest, we trust in your sovereignty and strength. In John's gospel, you said, "in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We embrace the fact that this world and the troubles we face in it have been overcome, and rest in the knowledge that you have the power to move in any and every situation. As we watch war unfold in Ukraine, we ask for your grace and peace to rule in the hearts and minds of all involved. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Please Note: If you know of someone that needs prayers and you would like them added to our prayer list, please contact Joal Lentz in the church office by email at [ccmhadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmhadmin@gmail.com) with your request. Each request will be placed on the prayer list for a period of 30 days. If at the end of 30 days you wish to have the individual remain on the prayer list, you will have to initiate a new request.***



*Christ Episcopal Church  
66 Middle Haddam Road  
PO Box 81  
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081  
860-267-0287  
ccmhadmin@gmail.com*

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFO:**

**Officers:**  
Donna Dube Hryb, Sr. Warden  
Clive Connor, Jr. Warden  
Barry Edmonds, Treasurer  
Bruce A. Dubay, Parish Clerk

**Church Office Hours:**  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Church Website:**  
[christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://christchurchmiddlehaddam.com)

**Church e-mail:**  
[ccmhadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmhadmin@gmail.com)

**Sexton:**  
Brian Donaldson

**Vestry:**  
Patti Stannard  
Jerry Graham  
Linda Napolitano  
Scott Konior

**Organist:**  
Ted Williams, Guest Organist  
**Parish Administrator:**  
Joal Lentz

**Bellringer Editor**  
Bruce A. Dubay

**Bellringer e-mail:**  
[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)