



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

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Stewardship: our faithful response to God's Generosity

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Stewardship. God has given us memory, reason, and skill for the common good. If we would be faithful stewards of these gifts, skills, and resources we will mirror the incredible generosity of our God toward us as we engage the world around us.

In the book of Deuteronomy God states an expectation for the people of God, "If there is among you any in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord God is

giving you, . . . open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need whatever it may be." This expectation assumes awareness not only of our own needs, but also to the needs of others who, by God's design, belong to us.

God has given us a world and a land in which to live. He has given us abundant resources not for our possession (because they all belong to God and are on loan to us), but in order that through our stewardship, "the rich may not have too much and the poor may have enough," as St. Paul says. If we embrace the premise, that "we have Christ and possess nothing," then it becomes easier to release resources for God's purposes.

God gave freely to us. The skills, gifts and the position we hold in life have been granted us by the same self-giving God who loves to lavish good gifts on his children. In Philippians, Paul says, "my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory." The Psalmist says, "he (God) owns the cattle on a thousand hills, the wealth in every mine." With such resources in God's control, it is not surprising that generations of Christians have found that they can not out give God.

In Scripture, generosity is not limited to the distribution of our wealth but also encompasses our engagement

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
in-person and via Zoom

See note below for the **All Saints Service, November 5.**

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. See note below.

(Zoom connection information at the end of newsletter.)

Events

Christmas Fair, Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

with the creation and our fellow creatures. Does creation exist for my benefit alone or has God created it to be enjoyed by all his children in every generation? If the latter, this shapes how Christians must respond to our "fragile earth our island home."

We who love God are coming to understand that our true wealth is found in our relationship to God, a relationship that never perishes or rusts or becomes obsolete. Paul says, "O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his ways! . . . For from him and through him and in him are all things." Paul's great treasure was in knowing Christ. He spends all his resources (not merely the material resources of which he has little, but all

his skill wisdom and energy) to know God and to make God known. We receive the same invitation, to spend our lives for God and God's people.

Our Generosity of life is demonstrated through lives of gratefulness and joy in God's faithfulness. Paul in Philippians gives us some instruction on this matter. "Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say rejoice." In this, Paul invites us to see God's hand at work in our lives from the very beginning.

As generous servants of Christ we learn to "Have this mind in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who though in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be held on to, but emptied himself taking upon himself the form of a servant." Paul understood that satisfying and lasting joy was found in setting aside all rights, prerogatives, and entitlements in order that he might be free to love the world to Christ.

God's generosity extends to God's creatures everywhere. In Christ we are learning this same openness and grace. As we affirm in our Baptismal Covenant we will "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves." We will strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. We will live Paul's advice, "Whatsoever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing to God, and commendable, think on these things." This discipline of generosity lived in faithful stewardship to God will transform the world around us one person at a time.

May the generosity which has defined Christ's church in generations past deepen in us. May we be more intentional in the ways that we mirror Christ's generosity.



All Saints Service - November 5

The Worship Committee has decided to try to make this year's All Saints Service a little special. We are asking everyone who wants to (and we hope that will be everyone) to bring a picture to Church of a person who was an inspiration in their life. In place of the Homily, each person will bring their picture and place it on a table in the Sanctuary, light a candle, and share with the rest of us why that person is their "saint."

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - November 21

George Coulombe, Senior Warden

This is the time of year, as we approach Thanksgiving Day, that we take the time to think about all the things that God has blessed us with both

individually with families and friends, and with our parish family. And what better way to express our thanks than to attend the annual East Haven Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. This year C&E will be hosting the service which also includes Old Stone Church and St. Pio's. It would be a great expression of our faith and service to Jesus to have a big representation of our parish - either in person or on Zoom. The service will be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. Since we are hosting, and host parishes provide a reception after the service, I'm sure Carol and her hospitality group would appreciate any help you can provide. If you would like to attend the service but do not drive at night, please contact the office or any Vestry person.

Why is Pledging Important?

Interview with Treasurer Susan Shultz

Where does our money come from?

Most of our income comes from pledges. In 2022 pledges were 61% of our budget. The rest of our income comes from building rentals, the Thrift Store, Special Gifts and events (like the Christmas Fair). The stewardship letter will have some pie charts to give you a more detailed view.

Where does our money go?

The largest expenses we have are personnel (our Music Minister, Parish Administrator and Clergy - regular or supply). Most of the other significant

expenses are related to the building - insurance, utilities, groundskeeping, and repairs. Finally, we have our 10% tithe to the CT Diocese.

Why is pledging important?

Pledging is important because it is how we set a budget for the next year. Knowing how much we might expect in pledge income allows us to better determine what we need to do with other fundraising to meet our expenses. And it tells us how many expenses we can support. Also knowing when pledge income will come in (i.e. monthly/weekly/quarterly), helps us track throughout the year to avoid any end of year surprises and adjust resources if we need to. Note that specific pledge information is treated as sensitive and is only visible to the Treasurer and Senior Warden. For everyone else, pledge income is anonymous and reported as a lump figure.

How do I pledge?

All parishioners will be mailed a Stewardship letter with an enclosed pledge card. Or you can pick one up at church in the Narthex (back of the church). Pray about your church family support. Then fill out the card. Note that the card contains volunteer opportunities for your time and talent as well. Bring your completed pledge card to church and put it in the plate on Sunday Nov 19. Or you can put it in the plate on any previous Sunday.

Around the Church

Blessing of the Animals with Rev. Evelyn Wheeler, October 1



Our first entry into East Haven's annual Scarecrow Stroll - The Holy Ghost!



What if I can't meet my pledge?

We appreciate all that you do to support our parish family and understand that nothing in life is certain. Circumstances do change and we must adapt. We do not want any financial support to be a burden or hardship. Ideally if you are having difficulty with your pledge, you would let the Treasurer (Susan) know, just so we can be aware of it for budget reasons.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need more people to help as Acolytes and on the Altar Guild. Where can you show God's love in the parish?

October Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, November 19th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - The Worship Committee met and is planning the following special services as changes from our standard Morning Prayer.

- Nov 5: All Saints - no homily, parish will share their saints
- Nov 12: Prayer and Praise
- Dec 31: Lessons and Carols
- Jan 28: Bishop Laura, receiving of Melanie and Paul

Building & Grounds -

Re-landscaping of the grounds is in progress. A memorial yellow rose bush has been planted in memory of Judy Clearwater. Anyone wanting to

contribute a memorial donation please see Astrid Swanson or Barbara Parsons.

We are investigating reports of the men's urinals not working properly. One of our rental group members will be cleaning and waxing the floor between the Sanctuary and the Upper Hall in November. He will also do the Upper Hall before the Christmas Fair.

Treasurer - The CD has been re-invested for another three months. We received the Auditor's report for 2022 and there were no new or significant comments or recommendations.

Stewardship - Stewardship Sunday will be November 19. Audrey will put Stewardship information in the November newsletter. The wardens will send out a joint Stewardship letter to the parish. Susan will play a Stewardship sermon on November 12.

Vestry Nominations - Next month's meeting will include creation of the Nominating Committee. Astrid will cycle off Vestry after having completed a three-year term. Diane's one-year term is expiring. The Worship Committee Chair is open.

Annual Meeting - The Bishop's visit will take place on January 28, 2024 so the Annual Meeting will be pushed to February 4, 2024 to avoid a conflict.

Christmas Fair Carol Link-Ude

Work on the Christmas fair is progressing.

Donations still needed: -
Scratch lottery tickets for Lottery Tree (unscratched) -
Gift Certificates/Cards for Raffle tree. Ask at your favorite store, hairdresser, restaurant, etc. Give these to Ken or Kathy Dougherty. See Carol if you need a donation letter. Due by Nov 26
- Raffle basket items Due by Nov 26
- Craft items for handicraft tables - Baked goods for bakery table (Pies, Cakes, Cookies, etc.) Due by Dec 1
We could also use a few more people to work tables on the day of the fair. Set-up for the fair will be on Dec 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We ask everyone available to try to come help. There are signs to make and hang, baked goods to be packaged, etc. Everything must be completed by end of day on Friday.
Lastly, sign up for poinsettias in the library. Order by Nov 19. Payment can be made at the fair. Any questions please contact a committee member.
Fair Committee: Carol Link - Ude, Barbara Parsons. Audrey Sundwall, Melanie and Paul Miller.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Annual Convention

Highlights from the 239th annual convention, titled "Be of Good Courage", will be included in the December newsletter. Astrid Swanson and Diane Villano (in place of Barbara Coulombe), attended

as our elected voting delegates. Details available at www.episcopalct.org

Autumn Book Study - My Neighbor's Faith Diane Villano

Many thanks to all who attended our autumn book study on *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of interreligious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation*.

Please send your spring book study suggestions to me.

Scripture Verses about Thanksgiving

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!
1 Chronicles 16:34

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.
Psalms 95:1-2

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God

acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.
Hebrews 12:28

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family,
Alexis, Alfred, Andrew,
Barbuschak Family, Bohdan
and Family in Ukraine,
Brandon, Carol Ude, David &
Irene, David Oliver, Diana,
Diane Link, Dick, Doreen St.
Germaine, Ed, Eileen F.,
Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella,
Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell,
Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos,
Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay
Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. &

Family, Joan Shaffner, Joyce
Aurelius, Kris, Lauren, Leah S.,
Linda P., Lucas Sundwall,
Matt R., Mike, Michael M.,
Minogue Family,
Nicole C., Pat Walters,
Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr.,
Rebecca & unborn baby, Jeff,
Sam W., Stanley Rogalski,
Susan Diaz, Thomas Brown,
Tim, Tim S., Tricia Clearwater,
Turiano Family, Wayne

To submit names for the
Intercessory Prayers list please
call or email the church office.
Names will be kept on the list
for three months unless longer
time is requested.



November 4 - James Reynolds
November 8 - Fred Walters
November 9 - Carol Link-Ude
November 10 - Ray Clearwater
November 15 - Joyce Aurelius
November 24 - Lucas Sundwall



Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT) - Bishops' Statement on the Holy Land

Dear Companions in Christ,

We write to you with sorrow and grief for the lives lost in the current conflict in Israel/Palestine, and we join in deepening our prayers for the people of the Holy Land. From our broken hearts, we offer our prayers to God. We offer to you a prayer from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). ECCT has supported and walked with AFEDJ for many years. We also offer to you the prayer written by Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We invite you to pray with these words as individuals and to share with others as you feel so called.

Many of you may also be looking for life-giving ways to respond with a touch of hope and care. The Alhi Arab hospital in Gaza is in need of funds to support their ministry. This is one way we can provide this touch. We also encourage you to reach out to your friends and neighbors - building bridges, offering kindness, and locally living God's dream for connection in our world.

May God's love and peace fill the hearts and minds of all, bringing an end to the violence and moving us all toward peace.

Yours in Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

From AFEDJ: A LITANY FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

God of peace, we pray for the people of Palestine and Israel in these perilous and dangerous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unflinching love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.

We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	SEP	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$10,900.70	\$3,234.20	\$80,236.31	\$11,480.51
EXPENSES	\$6,565.77	(\$1,272.14)	\$70,757.40	(\$13,696.29)
NET	\$4,334.93	\$4,506.34	\$9,478.91	\$25,176.80

Notes: Income is over budget due to receiving some pledges earlier than we had budgeted. And expenses are under budget due to the timing of some payroll expenses. In reality for September, we were very close to our budget overall. And we continue so far to maintain a surplus with the special gifts we have received and our reduced expenses.

Next Issue The deadline for the December issue is **November 21**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m.

	<u>November 5</u>	<u>November 12</u>	<u>November 19</u>	<u>November 26</u>
Service	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Presider/ Officiant	Gail Beck	Pat Walters	Rev. Emilie Finn	Audrey Sundwall
Crucifer			George Coulombe	
Acolyte			Audrey Sundwall	
Lay Reader	Wendy Bellmore	Judy Herzman	Barbara Parsons	Gail Beck
Usher	Ken & Kathy Dougherty	Audrey Sundwall	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters	George Coulombe
Ass't Counter	Melanie Miller	Fred Bowden	Melanie Miller	Audrey Sundwall

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Open
Senior Warden	George Coulombe
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Gail Beck
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Audrey Sundwall (& Communications)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Diane Villano (& Newsletter)
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C & E, please contact George Coulombe at bgcoulombe@gmail.com.

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

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Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking