



MANNA



Christ Episcopal Church, 824 Fairmont Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554

December 2008

Church Phone: 304.366.3471
E-mail: christchfmt@wvdsi.net
Website: www.fairmontepiscopal.com

Rector's Cell Phone: 304.617.9589
Rector's E-mail: christchfmt.rector@gmail.com

Worship Services: Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. A nursery is provided.

*Our mission is to...
know God, love God, and serve others.*

Rector's Message

Siobhán Patterson

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Thank you all so much for your warm welcome to Christ Church and Fairmont. Your hospitality has really helped me to feel right "at home" in a church and town that are new to me. Again, I am so happy to be here with all of you, and I am excited about the work that God has for us to do together.

As I am getting settled into life and work here, I've started to become very aware that I am feeling a lot of anticipation and expectation each and every day. Feelings of anticipation and expectation are common for clergy starting new positions and for congregations welcoming new clergy -- because the beginning of a new phase of ministry is indeed an exciting thing, full of anticipation and expectation!

I can't help but notice how wonderfully "timed" our new beginning is. As we feel the anticipation and expectation that come with the beginning of a new ministry, we are entering the season of Advent, the season of our church year that is all about anticipation and expectation. The word advent means coming, and it's the time of year we prepare in hopeful anticipation and expectation for the celebration of the coming, the birth of Christ.

I imagine that in the time leading up to Jesus' birth in the manger, the first Advent, that Mary was the one who felt the strongest sense of anticipation and expectation. Mary, a young, unwed, virgin did a brave, scary, and incomprehensible thing. She said yes to God's will for her to give



birth to the Savior of the world. We can only imagine the kind of anticipation and expectation Mary must have felt in her preparation for Jesus' birth. But we get to share in that gift and that responsibility in our lives as Christians because God reveals Godself through people as we see countless times throughout the Holy Scriptures.

This Advent, as we prepare for Christmas in hopeful anticipation and expectation, I invite you to open your mind and your heart like Mary and allow Christ to be born through your life (metaphorically speaking of course! ☺) in the ways that God invites you to.

Christ's Peace,
Siobhán+

Senior Warden Report

Kyle Hamilton

Vestry's first monthly meeting with our new Rector turned out to be a very productive one. Establishing our guidelines upfront and laying out our mutual expectations was a main focus of this first meeting. Simply stated, Rev. Patterson's expectations of us are:

- Engage in a shared ministry - each of us to do our part as a member of our parish family
- Define our 'mission' – focus on the community outside our parish

Vestry's expectations of our Rector are:

- Visit every member of our parish (This can best be accomplished through small group settings.)
- Always have open, two-way communications (no secrets!)
- Openly recruit and challenge individual parishioners to join in parish work
- Re-activate small group Bible studies
- Work to insure that the worship service flows 'flawlessly'
- Follow through once something gets started

A 'transition team' was also established to help Siobhán during her first months of ministry here. Members of that team are Dana Riedeman, Toni Balenger, Louise Lawson and Chris Metheny. Their main responsibility will be to meet with Siobhan monthly, help organize the small group functions, and assist in introducing her into the community.

Please mark your calendars now for a two special Sundays coming up –
Sunday, December 21st – Christmas Cantata by the Choir
Sunday, January 18th, 2009 – Annual Meeting

ECM Report

Kyle Hamilton

The ECM sponsored lunch at the Soup Opera on November 15. Dot and Bruce Hamilton, Kyle Hamilton, Mike Lawson, and Steve Riedeman served 78 meals. We will serve meals again on December 20. Please mark that date and make an effort to join us in this worthwhile outreach ministry.



The new roof has been installed on the church. The next project will probably be to have the drainage problem on the Fairmont Avenue side of the Parish Hall addressed.

Stewardship Reminder:

Pledge Cards for 2009 are now available. If you have not received your pledge card, please contact Mike Lawson or Carla Wood.

Vestry Contact Information

If you have any issues you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact one of the vestry members.

| <i>Vestry Member</i> | <i>Phone Number</i> | <i>Email Address</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Kent Brown</i> | <i>366-9445</i> | <i>wkbrown@access.k12.wv.us</i> |
| <i>Toni Balenger</i> | <i>363-7825</i> | <i>nonatoniwv@yahoo.com</i> |
| <i>Kyle Hamilton</i> | <i>366-5148</i> | <i>kyle@wilsonfordlm.com</i> |
| <i>Ann Heim</i> | <i>366-5580</i> | <i>ann@trailer-city.com</i> |
| <i>Neal Hamilton</i> | <i>366-2000</i> | <i>neal@access.mountain.net</i> |
| <i>Mike Lawson</i> | <i>366-0759</i> | <i>mike.lawson@novelis.com</i> |
| <i>Sally Tennant</i> | <i>287-2515</i> | <i>sjotennant@aol.com</i> |
| <i>Carla Wood</i> | <i>363-7938</i> | <i>carla414@msn.com</i> |
| <i>Jeff Wallace</i> | <i>594-1436</i> | <i>jeffmwallace@yahoo.com</i> |

Christian Education Schedule for December:

- December 7 Children's Mass - All children are invited to participate in various functions during the service (Greeters, Ushers, Readers, etc.)
Junior Youth following the service
- December 14 Sunday School Classes 10:30 for Preschoolers, Elementary Ages
Junior Youth following the service
- December 21 Sunday School Classes 10:30 for Preschoolers, Elementary Ages
Junior Youth following the service
- December 28 Sunday School Classes 10:30 for Preschoolers, Elementary Ages
Junior Youth following the service

Small Group Hosts/Hostesses Needed

The Vestry is looking for parishioners to host small group get-togethers during the early part of 2009 to facilitate the process of "getting to know" our new Rector, Siobhán Patterson. These get-togethers can be in homes, at restaurants, at the church, or anywhere the host/hostess would like. If you would be willing to help by hosting a small group, please contact one of the members of the transition group formed



by the vestry to provide support for Siobhán during her first year. Those members are Kyle Hamilton, Toni Balenger, Louise Lawson, Christ Metheny, and Dana Riedeman.

Christian Education Collecting for Kids!

Toys: Christian Ed will again be collecting toys to give to local shelters this Christmas. We will have a few boxes located in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall on Sundays for parishioners to add to the collection. Last year we took several car loads of toys to Scott's Place. We would like to deliver these around 12/14.

And, we are also collecting...

Coats, Hats, Gloves, and Scarves: Christian Ed will be collecting kids coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for local distribution as well. This is the first time we will have participated in this much needed ministry. We will have drop boxes in the parish hall and narthex for these contributions as well.

Your love and support is greatly appreciated!

Merry Christmas in Christ's Love



Parish Wide Dinner and Caroling

December 14th 5:00 p.m.



Pork Barbeque and Drinks Provided

Bring a Side, Salad, or Dessert

After dinner, at 6:00 p.m., we will congregate on the front lot and take a walking tour around a few of the close blocks singing Christmas Carols. We will then go back to the parish hall for clean-up and hot chocolate. Singers, Instruments, and other joyful noises of all ages are welcome!



Christmas Mini-Bazaar

Louise Starr

The annual Christmas Mini-Bazaar will be held after the church service on December 7. There will be strawberry jam for sale and a Bake Sale of holiday goodies. There will be a holiday coffee hour to enjoy before the hustle and bustle starts. Please mark December 7 on your calendar and come and enjoy!

Important Dates to Remember

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Sunday, December 7</i> | <i>Second Sunday in Advent 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Siobhán Patterson (Children's Mass) Holiday Mini-Bazaar and Coffee Hour</i> |
| <i>Sunday, December 14</i> | <i>Third Sunday in Advent 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Siobhán Patterson 5:00 p.m. Parish Dinner followed by caroling at 6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday, December 15</i> | <i>6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting</i> |
| <i>Saturday, December 20</i> | <i>10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Soup Opera (Need Volunteers)</i> |
| <i>Sunday, December 21</i> | <i>10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Siobhán Patterson Christmas Cantata Greening of the Church following the service</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, December 24</i> | <i>6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service - Rev. Siobhán Patterson 10:30 p.m. Christ Eve Midnight Mass celebrate by Rev. Siobhán Patterson</i> |
| <i>Sunday, December 28</i> | <i>10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Siobhán Patterson</i> |





O come, O come, Emmanuel!



Yoga Community Outreach

Place: **Christ Episcopal Church**
824 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont, West Virginia

Price: **Donation Based**

Pay what you can.

With Certified Instructor Sally Tennant

| December Calendar | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-------------------|-------------------|----|------------|
| s | M | Tu | W | th | f | sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 6-7 | 4 6-7 | 5 | 6 9-10 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 6-7 | 11 6-7 | 12 | 13 9-10 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 6-7 | 18 6-7 | 19 | 20 9-10 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 No Class | 25 No Class | 26 | 27 9-10 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 No Class | 1 No Class | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | |



All Levels 4 Classes Total

Level II Class 3 Classes Total

Gentle Class 3 Classes Total

Contact Sally at 287-2515 or sjotennant@aol.com for more information.

Liturgical Assistants Calendar

| Date | Service | Eucharistic Ministers | Lectors | Acolytes | Sacristans | Ushers * | Counters |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11/30/08 <i>Advent I</i> | 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | C. Carlot K. Hamilton | J. Hamilton N. Hamilton | N. Lopez M. Marsh | Team 3 Purple | K. Brown B. Metheny | K. Hamilton K. Brown |
| 12/07/08 <i>Advent II</i> | 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | B. Hamilton D. Hamilton | A. Wadsworth B. Metheny | C. Boyles A. Wadsworth | Team 4 Purple | Youth Ushers | J. Wallace A. Heim |
| 12/14/08 <i>Advent III</i> | 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | L. Lawson J. Miller | B. Hamilton D. Hamilton | J. Wood B. Metheny | Team 1 Purple | J. Burford G. Boyles | T. Balenger S. Tennant |
| 12/21/08 <i>Advent IV</i> | 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Choral Cantata</i> | M. Lopez B. Barkley | D. Burnell C. Boyles | C. Boyles M. Jacquez | Team 2 Purple | Steed/Marsh Family | C. Wood M. Lawson |
| 12/24/08 <i>Christmas Eve</i> | 6:00 pm <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Family Service</i> | B. Hamilton D. Hamilton | M. Lopez B. Metheny | N. Lopez B. Metheny A. Wadsworth | Team 3 White | L. Leon D. Hawkins | J. Wallace A. Heim |
| 12/24/08 <i>Christmas Eve</i> | 10:30 pm <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | K. Hamilton N. Hamilton | K. Hamilton J. Hamilton | TBA | Team 4 White | K. Brown J. Burford | K. Brown K. Hamilton |
| 12/28/09 | 10:30 am <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | C. Carlot M. Lopez | T. Steed J. Burford | J. Wood B. Metheny | Team 1 White | G. Boyles L. Leon | T. Balenger N. Hamilton |
| 1/4/09 | 10:30am <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | L. Lawson J. Miller | N. Lopez M. Marsh | N. Lopez M. Marsh | Team 2 White | Steed/Marsh Family | S. Tennant C. Wood |

If you cannot be at church on one of your appointed days, please make arrangements on your own for a replacement ahead of time.

Anyone still willing to volunteer for any of the above positions, please contact Bessie at the church office.

Anyone that will not be available to serve on a Sunday for the upcoming month is asked to contact Dana Riedeman or Bessie McCardle.

Remember - we are asking that "families" volunteer to be ushers - can be parents with children, husband and wife only, parent and one child, etc.

HELP NEEDED...

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you will be able to help contribute to my friend Lisa's fund. Over two years ago her son Cooper passed away from SIDS at two months of age. She and her family became very close with the nurses at Ruby, so as a result they started a nursing scholarship in his name. If you would read the info below, it explains the ways you can help. If you would like to send a check directly to



me, my address is 28 Greenview Drive, Fairmont. The check can be made out to Cooper Joseph Towns Memorial Scholarship.

Thanks so much,
Kirstie Wadsworth

How you can help...

“On December 13th, 2008 the city of Fairmont is hosting a festival called "The Feast of Seven Fishes." This wonderful festival celebrates authentic Italian cooking and traditions of family and friends that takes one back to simpler times.

Again this year, I will be participating, along with my dear friend Kirstie, at our booth called *La Stada Dolce* where we will be selling homemade Italian pastries.

Our booth, besides affording me the amazing opportunity to share the holiday spirit with many people, uses its proceeds to serve a much greater cause. 100% of the monies will be going to the "Cooper Joseph Towns Memorial Scholarship for Nursing" that Bryan and I set up at Fairmont State College, which we personally refer to as our “silver lining.”

This scholarship will perpetually educate future nurses so that they can continue to bring change to peoples' lives. To do this, we are raising \$100,000 to which we have already raised \$60,000 due to your support and kind giving. Last year the *La Strada Dolce* Booth raised over \$850.00 for the scholarship.

As you know, this is a cause of the utmost importance to me and my family and I would be truly grateful for your support.

You could help in many ways:

- * Donate baking supplies (i.e. sugar butter, flour, vanilla, egg, nuts etc.)
- * Donate funds to purchase some of the thing we will be buying (i.e. coffee supplies, canolli shells, pastries, baking supplies, etc.)
- * Place advance orders for the pastries.
- * **Donate directly to the “Cooper Joseph Towns Memorial Scholarship”**
- * And very simply come and attend a wonderful day at the Feast and experience the magnificent environment of the festival during the holiday season.

If you would like to participate through donation please contact me at 304-367-0096.”

Lisa Towns

Outreach Committee

Ann Heim

The Outreach Committee continues to meet monthly to review community needs and in-house requests.

In addition to the original gifts to : United Way, Episcopal Diocese of WV(Bishop's Discretionary fund), Episcopal Relief and development(to an African Village), The American Red Cross(local emergency relief), FINCA International Inc.(for Afghanistan families to start their own businesses), Marion County Soup Opera(food distribution), Union Mission of Fairmont(food only), WV Rescue Ministries. Inc.(computers for teaching low-income), Peterkin Conference Center, and Mylan Puskar Health Right Clinic (Fairmont Branch), the Vestry recently approved a gift of \$10,000 to the Salvation Army to purchase a commercial refrigerator and shelving fo food storage and for energy relief to low income families and the elderly. A contribution of \$500 was also approved to help purchase toothbrushes and toothpaste to be distributed through the Union Mission(as Christmas gifts). Lastly, the committee recommended and the Vestry approved our final gift of \$80,000 to the Mylan Puskar Health Right Clinic. This clinic offers free medical care and medicine to the working poor who do not qualify for any other



services. A plaque will be displayed at this location recognizing William Johnson, whose gift to us allowed us to help establish this much needed facility. We hope to have Laura Jones, Executive Director visit the parish with an update on their progress.

We are also hoping to collect coats to be distributed to those in need throughout our community.

We have been so blessed to be able to share William Johnson's very generous gift to us. Thanks to all who have helped.

Ann Heim, Kyle Hamilton, Steve Hoylman, Louise Lawson, Chris Metheny and Jude Miller

ECW

Barb Barkley

We want to thank everyone that made the reception for Siobhán such a success. A special thanks to Louise Starr and Dana Riedeman for helping with the clean up and Martha Hall for providing the decorations for the main table. Food was provided by Louise Starr, Carla Wood, Amy Blake, Louise Lawson, Martha Hall, Dana Riedeman, Laura Boyles, Dot Hamilton, Ann Heim, and Diane Miller. Again - thanks so much - Janet Jacquez and Barbara Barkley.

Diocesan Convention Report

Barb Barkley

The 131st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia was held October 24-26, 2008 at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown. The title was "Build My Church-Tools of the Trade." Louise (Starr) and I arrived at about 11:00 AM and registered. Open Legislative Session opened at 1:30 and ended at 4:00. This consisted of budget discussions, as well as discussions on Constitutions and Canons, and Resolutions. Eucharist was celebrated at 4:00 followed by dinner at 6:30 with the guest speaker, The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, Dean of the Virginia Theological Seminary. Following the dinner, there were open hearings from 8:30 until 11:00. We went to hear the Bishop discuss his summer at Lambeth. This was extremely informative!!!!

Saturday began at 7:15 with Morning Prayer, followed by breakfast. There were five forums this year and it was very difficult to choose as they all were extremely interesting. I picked "Ministry at Work" with Debbie Short and "Being a Self-Confident Episcopalian" with Rev Markham. These went from 9:00 until 11:45. We only had time for two, so the decision was difficult. Lunch was at noon and convention reconvened at 1:15. At this time we elected individuals for various committees and the trustees. This is rather cut and dry session (much like our own annual meeting - Smile). Next came the five resolutions of which four were passed. I would ask that if anyone were interested, I would be only too glad to let you review them. One thing I did find very interesting - there were nine new priests in the Diocese this year.

At 5:00 was the Taize Service, followed by the Awards and Presentation Banquet. On Sunday, we left after breakfast, as we wanted to get back to Fairmont for Father Steve's last Sunday and reception.

There was also a great vendors' and exhibition area that I really wish we had more time to go through. Because of the time constraints and the location (we had a lot of running to do to go from one thing to the other), it was rather difficult to spend much time there. I personally enjoy convention. Through the years, we have made some good friends and look forward to this time to reconnect. As I mentioned, if there is anything you would like to go over or discuss, please feel free to see me. *Barb Barkley*

Christmas Memorial Flowers:

If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas Memorial Poinsettias, please fill out this form and return it to the collection plate or church office with your check. It can be mailed to the office at Christ Episcopal Church, 824 Fairmont Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554

Your Name (as you want it to appear in the Christmas bulletin) _____



In Memory of _____

And/or

In Thanksgiving for _____



Amount of Donation: _____

Christ Episcopal Church

824 Fairmont Avenue

Fairmont, WV 26554

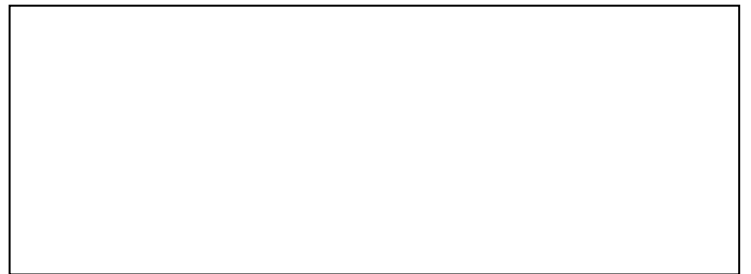
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Website: fairmontepiscopal.com

Rector's Cell Phone: 304.617.9589

Rector's E-mail: christchfmt.rector@gmail.com



*"Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now they gracious kingdom bring."*

...Charles Wesley



