



# MANNA



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

February 2008

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Dear Parish family and friends,

Here at the first of the year we continue to revel in the joy of our Lord's epiphany to the three kings and by extension to all the world. January is traditionally a time to let go of things past and to commit ourselves to personal goals. As church men and women, we are to gaze upon the star of Bethlehem and during Lent to allow its light to shine into our soul there cleansing us and purifying us to begin our Lenten pilgrimage to the greatest joy we can know, the incomparable joy of Easter. He is risen!

Note that Ash Wednesday is very early this year, February 6th. Of course that means that our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is Tuesday, February 5th. The Lenten worship schedule is included in the Manna. Palm Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and Easter, March 24<sup>th</sup> are, of course, early this year as well.

We will have weekly Wednesday Eucharist Services at 7:00 a.m. It is a traditional Lenten discipline, attending special worship services. It is also a great way to begin your day whether headed for work, study, school or play. You are cordially invited.

I wonder.....will Spring come early this year, too? Hope so.

In Christ,  
Fr. Steve

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## **Multiphasic Blood Screening - Mark Your Calendar !**

**Barb Barkley**

On **Saturday, March 1, 2008**, Christ Episcopal Church will again have a Multiphasic Screening at Fairmont General Hospital. This screening will be performed from 6:00 am to 10:00 am. In past years, this has been a very successful program for us. Last year we made \$900. **Volunteers (as well as participants) are needed** to make this a success. The screening cost is minimal - please watch the *Times West Virginian* for a discount coupon.

If you are able to volunteer on behalf of CEC during the screening, please give me a call. Also, please spread the word to friends and relatives to participate in this screening.

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## **Christian Education Lent Project**

**Chris Metheny**

Throughout Lent, the youth will be collecting personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, soaps, wipes, diapers, combs, brushes, make-up, etc for donation to Scott's Place. The size of these items can be full size or travel/trial size. We will collect these items in the Narthex and the Christian Education Classrooms above the parish hall from Shrove Tuesday through Easter Sunday. Thank you for your support with this and other projects for Christian Education.



Below lists the Budget and Actual results for **December 2007** for our loose plate and pledges.

	Budget	Actual	Over / (Under)
January 1 thru December 31, 2007:			
Loose Plate Collections	11,500	11,680	180
Pledge Collections	95,554	84,948	(10,606)
Boxed Lunch & Ebay Sales	4,000	926	(3,074)
Expenses	157,782	150,382	(7,400)

	Budget	Actual	Over / (Under)
December 2007 Only:			
Loose Plate Collections	958	1,529	571
Pledge Collections	7,963	7,197	(766)
Boxed Lunch & Ebay Sales	333	0	(333)
Expenses	13,148	10,730	(2,418)

The final figures for the 2007 budget showed uncollected pledges of \$10,600 plus lower boxed lunch earnings of \$3,000. Fortunately, our expenses were also somewhat lower for the year (approximately \$3,100). At the end of 2007, we had unpaid bills of approximately \$4,285.

**LOCK-DOWN Juniors!**

**Chris Metheny**

Spring is quickly coming, and the Juniors are preparing for their confirmation this Summer. As part of their reward points system, we are planning our annual Lock-Down Day to be held March 8<sup>th</sup> with a "FIESTA" theme day complete with themed food and games.



The Juniors spend the day in the parish hall and gym with group lessons, free time with gym and crafts, music, games, networking, food, and fun. We are anticipating a maximum of 18 junior youth (ages 11-14) to join us, as each junior is asked to invite 2 friends for the day.

We will be accepting any assistance for food, games, prizes, and time from anyone who would like to join this ministry. Please contact Chris Metheny for more information.

**Proud Grandparents !!**

**Dick and Susie Hawkins** became grandparents (two times !!!) for the first time on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Gwen and Dan Shaffrey** are the proud parents of a girl AND a boy (Lillian Margaret and Benjamin Robert). Lilly and Ben, as well as Gwen and Dan, are doing well. Our congratulations and best wishes to all.



## Coffee Hour

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A special thanks to Dana Riedeman, Ann Heim (Co-Directresses) and members of the Alter Guild for hosting the "Epiphany Coffee Hour" on January 6th. All the refreshments and this opportunity for fellowship were enjoyed.

## Remembering

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### Those who died in 2007:

Betty Barbee	J. June Gooding
Eleanor Magnuson Glaser	Clifford Starr
Ann Waddell Thomas	Robert Wesley Talkington
Evelyn Shingleton	Larry Edison Dotson

May their souls and those of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.

### Those who were baptized in 2007:

Bryce Ira Nicholas  
Brynne Allison Shamblin  
Ava Rose Tibbetts (Hannah)

We pledge to you our prayers: may you continue to grow in Christ, be strengthened by his Holy Spirit, join in our worship of the God and Father of Jesus Christ, and may you take your rightful place in ministry with us. Amen.

### The rest of us:

May God continue to draw us closer to Himself in Jesus Christ, strengthening us to be good stewards of all our blessings as we reach out to others who do not know Him, that your Spirit might bring them to the knowledge and love of Him. Amen.

### Attendance Statistics:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Attending (All Services)	3900	4136	3334	2891
Average Sunday Attendance	72	70	65	56
Christmas	126	130	116	99
Easter	148	179	120	111

### Pledge Statistics

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Actual Pledge Amounts Received (\$)	95,577	114,224	111,663	84,948



2007 was an eventful year in the life of Christ Church Fairmont. Your vestry worked throughout the year keeping things moving as we planned ahead for some dramatic changes in our Christian life. The amazing bequest from Bill Johnson puts the financial future of our parish on sound footing. With his gift we can make much needed capital improvements to our physical facility, make some gifts of impact within the community, and provide a secure financial base for our future.

Our day-to-day operations, however, continue to struggle. For the year just ended our operational budget was under funded by over \$40,000 and for 2008 our shortfall is estimated just over \$94,000. The bottom line is this... without the Trustees to bail us out, we would be *bankrupt!* Thankfully, we do have our Trustees backing us up, but to become a *healthy, vibrant* parish, we must outgrow this dependency. So, it is our long-range goal to use the gifts we have been graciously given to upgrade our church and cultivate the growth that is so sorely needed!

As we move forward into 2008 we have some awesome responsibilities ahead. We enter the year with more of a "workload" than we have ever faced previously. Sometime this year we will be saying our good-byes to Father Steve and Amy as they move to another ministry within the Episcopal community. Our Search Committee continues to work diligently through the process that will eventually allow us to issue a call for a new Rector. We established a Standing Committee for Christian Outreach that will oversee the distribution of our designated gifts from the Bill Johnson bequest. Additionally, we just recently created a Capital Improvements Committee to undertake the task of resurrecting our physical facility. Being a relatively small congregation we have an awful lot on our plate in the coming year. Needless to say, we need everyone within our parish family to participate at a higher level this year to start our process of re-growth!

At the annual meeting on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, we elected four new members to the Vestry for the next three years: Toni Balenger, Neal Hamilton, Sally Tennant and Carla Wood. Rick Heim will serve as the newest Trustee, replacing Neal Hamilton. Barb Barkley and Louise Starr will once again represent Christ Church at the annual Diocesan Convention. Thank you to these parishioners for their commitment to serve the church. Other "thanks" go to: Steve Hoylman for his continuing diligence as our Treasurer; Mary Hoylman for editing the *Manna*; Carolyn Kerr for continually expanding and improving the music for our worship; and Bessie McCardle for her service as our church Secretary. Also, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the service of our out-going Vestry members: Mike Hall, Louise Lawson, Christine Metheny, Jenny Reese as well as Neal Hamilton for his long service as a Trustee.

We have an outstanding opportunity ahead of us to grow and flourish as a community of faith. Please join us on the journey!

**Shrove Tuesday**

The ECM will again be hosting their annual *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper* on, Tuesday, **February 5<sup>th</sup>**.

This pre-Lenten celebration is held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets were distributed to parishioners for sale during our January 27<sup>th</sup> service, however they can also be purchased at the door: Adults \$6.00 and Children (under 12) \$4.00.



We will appreciate everyone's help on this endeavor. This church/community event launches us into the Lenten season and raises the bulk of the money that goes for our outreach ministry at the *Soup Opera*.



17-year-old Brian Moore had only a short time to write something for a class. The subject was what Heaven was like. 'I wowed 'em,' he later told his father, Bruce. 'It's a killer. It's the bomb. It's the best thing I ever wrote..' It also was the last.

Brian Moore died May 27, 1997, the day after Memorial Day. He was driving home from a friend's house when his car went off Bulen-Pierce Road in Pickaway County and struck a utility pole. He emerged from the wreck unharmed but stepped on a downed power line and was electrocuted.

The Moores framed a copy of Brian's essay and hung it among the family portraits in the living room. 'I think God used him to make a point. I think we were meant to find it and make something out of it,' Mrs. Moore said of the essay. She and her husband want to share their son's vision of life after death. 'I'm happy for Brian. I know he's in heaven. I know I'll see him.'

### *Brian's Essay: The Room...*

In that place between wakefulness and dreams, I found myself in the room.. There were no distinguishing features except for the one wall covered with small index card files. They were like the ones in libraries that list titles by author or subject in alphabetical order. But these files, which stretched from floor to ceiling and seemingly endless in either direction, had very different headings. As I drew near the wall of files, the first to catch my attention was one that read 'Girls I have liked.' I opened it and began flipping through the cards. I quickly shut it, shocked to realize that I recognized the names written on each one. And then without being told, I knew exactly where I was.

This lifeless room with its small files was a crude catalog system for my life. Here were written the actions of my every moment, big and small, in a detail my memory couldn't match. A sense of wonder and curiosity, coupled with horror, stirred within me as I began randomly opening files and exploring their content. Some brought joy and sweet memories; others a sense of shame and regret so intense that I would look over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching.

A file named 'Friends' was next to one marked 'Friends I have betrayed.' The titles ranged from the mundane to the outright weird 'Books I Have Read', 'Lies I Have Told', 'Comfort I have Given', 'Jokes I Have Laughed at'. Some were almost hilarious in their exactness: 'Things I've yelled at my brothers', 'Others I couldn't laugh at', 'Things I Have Done in My Anger', 'Things I Have Muttered Under My Breath at My Parents'. I never ceased to be surprised by the contents.

Often there were many more cards than I expected. Sometimes less than I hoped. I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the life I had lived. Could it be possible that I had the time in my years to fill each of these thousands or even millions of cards? But each card confirmed this truth. Each was written in my own handwriting. Each signed with my signature.

When I pulled out the file marked 'TV Shows I have watched', I realized the files grew to contain their contents. The cards were packed tightly, and yet after two or three yards, I hadn't found the end of the file. I shut it, shamed, not so much by the quality of shows but more by the vast time I knew that file represented.

When I came to a file marked 'Lustful Thoughts,' I felt a chill run through my body. I pulled the file out only an inch, not willing to test its size and drew out a card. I shuddered at its detailed content.



## TEENAGER'S VIEW OF HEAVEN -- Brian's Essay: The Room

(Continued from Page 5)

I felt sick to think that such a moment had been recorded. An almost animal rage broke on me. One thought dominated my mind: No one must ever see these cards! No one must ever see this room! I have to destroy them! In insane frenzy I yanked the file out. Its size didn't matter now. I had to empty it and burn the cards. But as I took it at one end and began pounding it on the floor, I could not dislodge a single card. I became desperate and pulled out a card, only to find it as strong as steel when I tried to tear it.

Defeated and utterly helpless, I returned the file to its slot. Leaning my forehead against the wall, I let out a long, self-pitying sigh.

And then I saw it.. The title bore 'People I Have Shared the Gospel With.' The handle was brighter than those around it, newer, almost unused. I pulled on its handle and a small box not more than three inches long fell into my hands. I could count the cards it contained on one hand.

And then the tears came. I began to weep. Sobs so deep that they hurt. They started in my stomach and shook through me. I fell on my knees and cried. I cried out of shame, from the overwhelming shame of it all. The rows of file shelves swirled in my tear-filled eyes. No one must ever, ever know of this room. I must lock it up and hide the key. But then as I pushed away the tears, I saw Him.

No, please, not Him. Not here. Oh, anyone but Jesus. I watched helplessly as He began to open the files and read the cards. I couldn't bear to watch His response. And in the moments I could bring myself to look at His face, I saw a sorrow deeper than my own.

He seemed to intuitively go to the worst boxes. Why did He have to read every one? Finally He turned and looked at me from across the room. He looked at me with pity in His eyes. But this was a pity that didn't anger me. I dropped my head, covered my face with my hands and began to cry again.. He walked over and put His arm around me. He could have said so many things. But He didn't say a word. He just cried with me.

Then He got up and walked back to the wall of files! . Starting at one end of the room, He took out a file and, one by one, began to sign His name over mine on each card. 'No!' I shouted rushing to Him. All I could find to say was 'No, no,' as I pulled the card from Him. His name shouldn't be on these cards. But there it was, written in red so rich, so dark, so alive. The name of Jesus covered mine. It was written with His blood. He gently took the card back. He smiled a sad smile and began to sign the cards. I don't think I'll ever understand how He did it so quickly, but the next instant it seemed I heard Him close the last file and walk back to my side.

He placed His hand on my shoulder and said, 'It is finished'. I stood up, and He led me out of the room. There was no lock on its door. There were still cards to be written.

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'. -Phil. 4:13 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

Be at peace with yourself ..... Be kind to all you encounter..... Life is too short to have regrets.

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## **Addition of BEGINNER Yoga Classes**

**Sally Tennant**

Starting in February, a Beginner's class will be added as a trial period. The "beginner's class" is a gentle course focusing on stretching and breathing with some strengthening. I will still be holding the Level II classes as before.

The Yoga class schedule for the month of February is as follows.

**Level II Classes** -- Tuesday & Thursday Classes 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm & Saturday classes 9:00 am to 10:00 am:

Classes are:           Tuesdays:       February 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
                          Thursdays:     February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
                          Saturdays:     February 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Price:                   Community Members \$50 per month or \$7/drop-in  
                          Church Members \$40 per month or \$6/drop-in

**Beginners Classes** -- Thursday Classes 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm & Saturday classes 10:15 am to 11:15 am:

Classes are:           Thursdays:     February 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
                          Saturdays:     February 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Price:                   Community Members \$30 per month or \$7/drop-in  
                          Church Members \$25 per month or \$6/drop-in

Place:                   Christ Episcopal Church, 824 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont, WV

Contact Information:   Certified Instructor Sally Tennant, cell (304) 694-0107 home (304) 287-2515  
                          Email: [sjotennant@aol.com](mailto:sjotennant@aol.com)



Come join the fun!

## **Manna Articles / Requests**

**Mary Hoylman**

Any church committees or local organizations that want to "get the word out" to approximately 100 households, should be sending their articles/advertisements for publication in the Manna. Your article does not have to be typed or in a format ready for publication. This will be done for you!

**In your are on a Church Committee, please assign one person on the committee to submit updates to our congregation through the Manna on a monthly basis.**

Manna information is requested by the 22nd of the month to meet the deadline of the next month's issue. Articles can be sent to Mary Hoylman via email at [mhoylman@indres.com](mailto:mhoylman@indres.com); fax at 367-9737; phone at 363-4100 (daytime) or 367-0240 (evenings) --- or articles can be dropped off at the Church Office to my attention.



**Log Sheet for Record of 2008 Pledged Amount and Actual Contributions**

For parishioners that have pledged for 2008, we thank you and appreciate your financial support as well as your non-monetary contributions. For persons that did not feel they could pledge for the year, we are happy that you are a part of Christ Episcopal Church and know that you will add to our "loose collection" category.

2008 Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

	Contribution (\$)	Check #		Contribution (\$)	Check #
01/06/08			07/06/08		
01/13/08			07/13/08		
01/20/08			07/20/08		
01/27/08			07/27/08		
02/03/08			08/03/08		
02/10/08			08/10/08		
02/17/08			08/17/08		
02/24/08			08/24/08		
03/02/08			08/31/08		
03/09/08			09/07/08		
03/16/08			09/14/08		
03/23/08			09/21/08		
03/30/08			09/28/08		
<b>1st Quarter:</b>			<b>3rd Quarter</b>		
04/06/08			10/05/08		
04/13/08			10/12/08		
04/20/08			10/19/08		
04/27/08			10/26/08		
05/04/08			11/02/08		
05/11/08			11/09/08		
05/18/08			11/16/08		
05/25/08			11/23/08		
06/01/08			11/30/08		
06/08/08			12/07/08		
06/15/08			12/14/08		
06/22/08			12/21/08		
06/29/08			12/28/08		
<b>2nd Quarter:</b>			<b>Grand Total:</b>		

"Clip and Save For Your Record-Keeping and your Tax File"

Reminder: Internal Revenue Service has revised its procedure relative to "cash giving". Cash gifts will no longer be tax deductible unless they are backed up by a receipt or a statement of giving.

In order for the Church to properly record your giving, please place any cash gifts in an envelope clearly marked with your name on the outside of the envelope and preferably the amount of the gift. This will allow us to record your gift and provide a year-end "giving report" which will allow you to deduct your cash donations from your income taxes.



## February Calendar

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Sunday, February 3rd	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Last Sunday After Epiphany) Children's Mass & Gym Time
Tuesday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Shrove Pancake Supper
Wed., February 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 a.m., Noon, & 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
Sunday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (First Sunday of Lent) 10:30 a.m. Pre-school & Elementary Classes & 11:45 a.m. Juniors Confirmation Class
Monday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting
Wed., February 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Saturday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Volunteer at Soup Opera (Volunteers Needed)
Sunday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Second Sunday of Lent) 10:30 a.m. Pre-school & Elementary Classes & 11:45 a.m. Juniors Confirmation Class
Wed., February 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday, February 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Third Sunday of Lent) 10:30 a.m. Pre-school & Elementary Classes & 11:45 a.m. Juniors Confirmation Class
Wed., February 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Saturday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Multiphasic Blood Screening @ FGH (Sponsored by CEC)
Sunday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Fourth Sunday of Lent) - Children's Mass & Gym Time

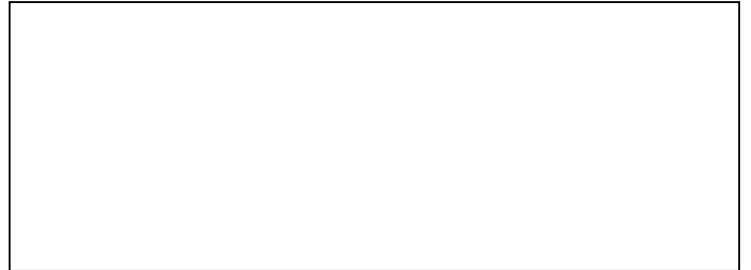
Date	Service	Chalice	Lectors	Acolytes	Altar	Ushers *	Counters
2/3/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	T. Steed J. Miller	B. Metheny E. Lopez	E. Lopez M. Marsh N. Lopez	Team 1 White	Youth Ushers	K. Brown A. Heim
2/6/08	See Ash Wednesday Schedule Above						
2/10/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	B. Hamilton D. Hamilton	D. Burnell J. Burford	M. Boyles C. Boyles M. Jacquez	Team 2 Purple	G. Boyles D. Hawkins	A. Heim T. Balenger
2/17/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	N. Hamilton B. Logue	B. Hamilton D. Hamilton	T. Hamilton B. Metheny N. Lopez	Team 3 Purple	L. Leon J. Burford	J. Wallace N. Hamilton
2/24/08	10:30 am Morning Prayer	N/A	N/A	M. Marsh A. Wadsworth	Team 4 Purple	G. Boyles K. Brown	M. Lawson S. Tennant
3/2/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	K. Hamilton L. Lawson	C. Boyles N. Lopez	J. Wood C. Boyles M. Jacquez	Team 1 Purple	Youth Ushers	C. Wood K. Hamilton

Please tear off back page of Manna to keep the calendar handy.



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*Come Worship With Us!*



*The task ahead of us is never as  
great as the Power behind us.*

