



CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

Christ Church of Alleghany County
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The Rev. Lin Walton, Rector
Diocese of Western North Carolina
The Rev. G. Porter Taylor, PHD, Bishop
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Confirmation is for Everyone

by Fr. Lin

Is Confirmation more important than grades in school? Is it more important than career choice? Is it more important than marriage? Yes, it is; at least that's what I'm telling our children when I begin teaching Youth Confirmation Classes this Sunday morning.

There is no greater privilege for a priest than preparing young people for Confirmation, so we better be sure we are *speaking the truth to them in love*. If Baptism is the means by which "God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God," (as the Prayerbook says, pg. 858) then Confirmation is the legal claim to that inheritance.

Baptism without Confirmation is like a library without books; like a boat without a sail; like a body without a soul (thank you Cicero). In other words, infant baptism without mature confirmation is incomplete. "Confirmation is the right in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." For those baptized as infants, Confirmation is the time young people claim Christ for their own – as their own Lord and Savior – confirming and no longer relying on the promises once made for them by their parents and godparents and Christian community. Yet confirmands are still in need of our help.

Each young person preparing for Confirmation this Winter-Spring will be in need of spiritual mentors, and while mentors will have to make a special commitment, I trust that everyone who is asked will accept the honor. But Confirmation is not only for youth; it is also for adults who were baptized as infants or young children but never made a public commitment of their own (while "Reception" is for those who were confirmed in a Christian community other than the Episcopal Church; and "Reaffirmation" is for those who were confirmed in the Episcopal Church but have not been a part of a Christian community for a time). In any case, Confirmation is for everyone at Christ Church. Just as the children of our immediate families never cease to be ours, whether they are 5, 15 or 55; so the children of our church family always remain our spiritual responsibility, wherever God may lead them in life. We always care for them, pray for them and love them as Christ's own.



The Bishop of Western North Carolina, the Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor, will be at Christ Church on Sunday, June 3rd, 2012, and he will ask us all one question:

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons [those standing for Confirmation, Reception into the Church, or Reaffirmation] in their life in Christ? And the community of Christ Church will resoundingly answer with one voice: We will!

MEET NEW MEMBER JEAN CALLISON

Jean was born in Gaffney, SC and was reared in the Episcopal faith. She is a graduate of UNC –Greensboro. After college she spent two years in Montana and returned to this area when she got a call in reference to a teaching job at Glade Valley School. During this time she met Burr and Rod Bost. Eventually she had to move back to Gaffney and take care of her mother as the primary caregiver.

Her professional career continued when she taught school for 25 years at Chatham Hall, a private boarding school in Chatham VA, near Danville. Nine of these years she was Dean of the school.

From a previous marriage, she has two sons, J. D. and Devin. J. D., the oldest son, lives in Maryland and is a helicopter test pilot at Pax River for the US Navy. Devin, the younger son, is a senior at William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. After graduation he plans to pursue a master's degree in Public, Government and Environmental Policy.

After her career at Chatham Hall, Jean moved to Mouth of Wilson and taught at Oak Hill Academy for two years. In August of this year she became the new director of JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians) in Sparta, NC. Jean's hobbies include music and writing. She sings and she plays six different stringed instruments. She enjoys writing and recently has had some of her essays published.

She has returned to the Episcopal Church and recently she saw our CCE sign on Hwy 21 and decided to visit our church. She was happy to find out that her previous friends, Burr and Rod Bost, are members. Jean says that coming to Christ Church feels like coming home. She has transferred her membership from The Church of The Incarnation in Gaffney, SC to Christ Church.

Please welcome her as we are delighted to have her as a member of the Christ Church congregation.

Interviewed by Fred Hardee



"To the Least of Them...."

Each year, the Christ Church family reaches out to those in need in the world, the nation, the state, and especially to those within our own community. We provide Ensure for Hospice patients who could not otherwise afford it; we give monthly donations to the Mobile Pharmacy and the Solid Rock Food Closet; we give the Camp Sunshine, a camp experience for children who have lost a parent, and the Alleghany's 4-H program. These are just a few of the church's Outreach activities. We also help to provide for the children of our county at Christmas who would not otherwise have a visit from "Santa."

This year, there were over 500 children in Alleghany who would have nothing beneath their Christmas trees if not for the love and generosity of the people of the community. Of that number, the people of Christ Church bought toys, shoes, and clothing for 87 of those little ones. Thank you all for your spirit of giving. Blessings and a Merry Christmas.

Submitted by Burr Bost, Outreach Committee

A Message from our Parish Administrator

It's hard to believe a year has passed since I came to meet with Fr. Lin and the rest of the interview team at Christ Church. The adage which says that 'time flies when you're having fun' is certainly true because the year has flown by and I've enjoyed every minute I've spent as Parish Administrator. The work is fun, busy and challenging. There are always friendly faces dropping by the church to chat for a few minutes. It's been a wonderful chance to make new friends and get reacquainted with friends I haven't seen for a few years. This definitely is the best job I've ever had!

Thanks to you all for allowing me to be part of your wonderful church. Special thanks to Bruce Smith for showing me the ropes and always being ready to help. I'm very proud to be here and want to do all I can to help you continue your many successes through your faith and your ministries in the community. I look forward to being here for many years!!

With thanks and best wishes to all,
Carol Perdue, Parish Administrator

2011 Youth Christmas Pageant

Our church pageant took on a new flair this year flinging us and the nativity story into the 21st century! Actors and actresses were photographed in real life settings around Alleghany County. The Halsey's bed and breakfast, Harmony Hill, served as the inn with no room. And the Huysman's farm with its menagerie of animals was the setting for the stable and manger. The pictures were presented via projector and screen during the service on December 18th. Nancy Walton organized, choreographed, and led the project using the technological skills of Ben Huysman and Travis Campbell. Thanks to all the youth and young at heart who helped in this project. Thanks to Nancy Hubbard and Joe Ward for their photography skills. And a special thanks to Nancy for her efforts and leadership.



Mountain Musings

"Be still and know that I Am God..." Psalm 46:10

Romona McNulty

"If you build it, they will come." You probably recognize this tagline from the movie, Field of Dreams. I have always thought of these words as a definition of faith which, to me, seemed a little simpler to grasp than Paul's attempt to define faith in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."(NAS) How often we talk about faith, discuss it, bandy around the word because it really is easier to practice faith, exercise faith than it is to put into words such an intangible concept. Faith can be *seen* only when it is *acted on*.

Try explaining faith to a child. You soon realize you would do better with examples of actions based on faith. Last summer I heard an interesting news item on the local news cast. A man had a dream about a tent or canopy erected in his back yard under which many people were gathered in prayer. When he got up the next morning, the dream would not leave him. He had a "if you build it, they will come" moment and immediately set about putting up a canopy with 5 or six chairs under it. Passersby stopped and idly questioned the reason for the canopy. The man replied that he had no idea; it was just something he needed to do. The first day, he found one person resting in a chair. The next day there were 2, then 3 and the crowd grew daily. The man was most amazed when he discovered they were praying, and some days holding hands in a circle and crying, other days they sang praises to the Lord and others they just laughed. One night, the canopy was blown down and destroyed so the man decided he would not replace it; think of the liability! As they had gathered one by one under the canopy, people began ringing his doorbell and asking when he was putting up a new canopy. So many strangers had stopped to find rest, communion and support in his back yard; he knew that God had directed him to put up that canopy. "If you build it, they will come." So, he replaced it and people came back.

This is a new year and a good time to renew our faith. Listen for that "still, small voice" that may sound like a mere breeze. It will tell you the way.

Mark Your Calendar

January 8th during the fellowship hour the Youth will meet to discuss and plan **2012 Souper Bowl of Caring which is scheduled for Sunday, February 5.**

Last year, the youth prepared and served a variety of delicious homemade soups, subs and sandwiches many of which were made by the youth themselves. A free will offering was taken; \$ 671 was raised for the school feeding program of the Anglican Church of Uganda. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay after church to attend and support our youth in this outreach effort.

New Adult Forum Offering

Developing a 'Yea Tho' Attitude': The Way to Peace

Facilitated by Frances Huber

**This Sunday, Jan 8th through Feb 12th
9:15am-10:10**

Charlie Brown said, "I have decided to dread one day at a time".
St Paul said, "I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances".

Jesus said, "In Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

All of us have different circumstances in our lives, but we all want to experience this peace "that passes all understanding."
We have a choice: be overcome by life or, in Christ, be an over comer.

Come join us as we explore together what a "yea tho" attitude is, why it is important to us and to others, and how we can begin to develop it.

Adult Formation Winter-Spring Schedule

Developing a 'Yea Tho' Attitude': The Way to Peace

Facilitated by Frances Huber

This Sunday, Jan 8th to Feb 12th

The Power of Peace and Reconciliation

Facilitated by the Rev. Martha Honaker

Feb 26th to Mar 25th

The History of the Early Church

Facilitated by Bob Dixon

April 15 to May 6

Celebrations

January Birthdays

Jan 1 Hal Wilson
Jan 2 Maureen Madden
Jan 2 Charles Calhoun
Jan 5 Bob Hale
Jan 5 Jeremy Walton
Jan 10 Bob Dixon
Jan 11 Jack Hanley
Jan 11 Bill Graham
Jan 13 Rod Bost
Jan 20 Anne Rawls
Jan 22 Nancy Walton
Jan 25 Robbie Presnell
Jan 26 Deb Donaldson
Jan 30 Grace Mauney

February Birthdays

Feb 1 Charlotte Perry
Feb 3 Carol Black
Feb 4 Claudia Wehner
Feb 6 Lane Hubbard
Feb 8 Phil Donaldson
Feb 25 Barbara Halsey
Feb 28 Joe Williamson

January Anniversaries

Jan 25 Bob and Roddy Dixon

February Anniversaries

Feb 9 Lane and Nancy Hubbard
Feb 14 Bob and Carol Black
Feb 19 John and Jane Gehring

Final 2011 Stewardship Campaign Report

I'm happy to report to you that we had a very successful stewardship campaign. For the 2012 budget year we received 42 pledges for \$161,772. This is an increase of 5.7% over the amount pledged last year. We anticipate an additional \$10,000 from people who do not pledge, but contribute regularly, \$2,500 in loose plate offering, \$10 in interest income, and \$100 in miscellaneous income. Total expected income for 2012 is \$174,382.

Budgeted expenses for 2012 are \$189,955. This leaves \$15,573 to be drawn out of reserves to fulfill the budget. Thanks to your increase in giving and the vestry's action to reduce spending, the amount to be drawn out of reserves has been cut in half from the original draft budget.

Thanks to you our financial picture is much improved and, I believe, sustainable. We will try to keep you updated as the year progresses as to our status. Stewardship is a vibrant part of our ministry here, not only through your financial gifts, but your care of one another, and your willingness to volunteer to help out when and where needed.

Thanks again for all you do to make Christ Church the kind of place it should be.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Ritchie, Stewardship

Christ Church Vestry Members 2012

The vestry members for 2012 are as follows:

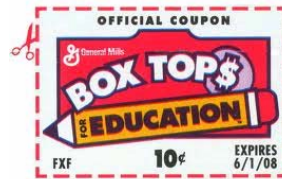
Fred Hardee - Senior Warden
Jess Williams – Junior Warden
Chris Huysman
Nancy Wilson
Joe Ritchie
Louise Law
Lillis Ward
Sheila Jordan-clerk to the vestry
Bruce Smith - treasurer

Box Tops for Education Program



The local elementary schools collect the Boxtop for Education labels off of participating grocery products and the labels can be redeemed for money. Jeremy and Sophie Walton go to Sparta Elementary School and would appreciate your help collecting these labels for their school. Clip the Box Tops label from your groceries and bring them to church for our collection box on the information table downstairs. Each Box Tops label is worth 10¢ —and that adds up fast! There are hundreds of products that carry the label but some examples are: Progresso Soup, General Mills Cereals, Bisquick, Betty Crocker mixes, Hefty, Ziploc, and Kleenex. The label to save looks like this:

Thanks for your help!



Christ Church Carolers 2011

Members of Christ Church spread Christmas spirit at several parishioners' homes and at Allegheny Care Rehabilitation Center on the evening of December 21st. The fun continued at the Waltons' home with more singing, good food, and fellowship.

