

the chronicle

December
2009

News from Christ Church

Lincoln, RI



TOP: The Right Reverend John Zawo, Bishop of Ezo (Sudan) was our guest preacher on Advent Sunday, November 29.

MIDDLE: Our church is looking better than ever, thanks to ongoing work funded by the Renaissance Campaign. The painting and woodwork on the south side has been completed.

BOTTOM: People greet our clergy and our guest preacher on a Sunday morning.

All photos by Matt Bowen.



Advent is upon us. This season is radically different from what we are used to. Most of the time, we get what we want immediately. Our nation is drowning in credit card debt, largely because we are not a patient people.

All that changes in Advent. There are no shortcuts. There's no way to speed it up. God will do what God will do, but in God's time. Of course, this does not mean we just sit around waiting. It's much more difficult than that.

Advent calls upon us to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus Christ – not only in our celebrations of Christmas, but when he comes in glory. We don't know when the latter will happen, but the scriptures tell us that when Christ comes again, there will be a time of peace, justice, hope, and righteousness in all the lands.

We are called to build God's kingdom. I do not think that God will swoop in and just fix all that ails our world. No, I believe God expects that we will use the gifts that we have been given to help build up the kingdom of God. Advent becomes, in this view, a season of preparation and building, not merely a season of waiting. How do we do this work?

At home, we must make time for Jesus Christ. We can hardly expect to welcome him, if we cannot make time for him. Perhaps in Advent your family will say some prayers together as you light an Advent wreath with your evening meal.

In our world, we must help to establish the reign of God's peace, justice, hope, and righteousness. I invite you to join in our outreach efforts at church. Help feed the hungry. Help build a house. Help clothe those in need. Perhaps you'll write to a legislator about a political issue that is important to you.

At church, this holy season calls us to be mindful of our peculiar place in the world. We are saved by the Incarnate One, just as we await his coming again. It is an already-not-yet paradox. Join fully in our celebrations of Holy Eucharist. Give thanks to God for all of our blessings, even as we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come."

Whatever we do, we must resist the message of our culture, which is just the opposite of the Good News of Christmas. Culture says to buy more stuff and to max out our credit cards if needed. Advent says we have all we need. Advent says there is more than enough hope in our time.

Peace, Scott Gunn +

Celebrate Christmas!

Join us for our celebrations of the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Christmas Eve services are at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. On Christmas Day we will gather at 10:30 a.m. All services include festive Christmas music, the Christmas story told in scripture, a sermon, and Holy Eucharist.

News from around the parish

Champlin Foundation grant

Christ Church has received a grant from the Champlin Foundation for \$48,760 to fund work on the church tower. This generous grant will help us complete the necessary restoration work on our beautiful and historic church. In order to use this grant, we will need about \$50,000 of additional contributions. This means that we need your support for the Renaissance Campaign. Only about 70 families have pledged their support. If you are one of the 200 families who have been waiting, we hope you will see that work is being done and you will decide to add your support. No gift is too large! Contact Denyce Johnson (401-723-9969) or the Parish Office to learn more or to make your pledge. ■

Stewardship news

Thank you for your generous response. To date, we have received commitments from 134 families, totalling about \$208,000. On average, people have increased their pledge about 15%. If you have not yet made your commitment, please contact Sue & Dennis LaFreniere (401-333-4364) or the Parish Office right away. ■

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The Rev'd Scott A. Gunn, *Rector*
The Rev'd Melody Wilson Shobe, *Associate Rector*
Laura Brion, *Director of Music*
Linda Gorman, *Parish Administrator*
Dianne Papineau, *Parish Assistant*
Gary Rounds, *Sexton*

The Chronicle is published monthly (except for a combined July/August issue). To submit material for publication, email office@christchurchlincoln.org by the 15th of the month prior to publication. All materials must be received by email (no attachments, please).

Ministry opportunities

If you would like to be involved in ministries at Christ Church, we are always ready to welcome new people. All of our ministry leaders would be pleased to tell you more about their work, so that you can discern if some ministry might be right for you. ■

Annual Meeting

The 175th Annual Meeting of Christ Church will be held Sunday, January 24 at noon. Please plan to attend this meeting, which offers a chance to learn more about how our parish is doing. Reports are due from ministry leaders by January 10. We will be seeking nominations for several positions, including three vestry positions, three delegates to Diocesan Convention, and three delegates to our Deanery meetings. Nominations should be submitted to Joel Gardner by January 10. ■

Parish Register

Baptism – Baptized on November 1. Braeden John Dwyer, son of Ryan and Kristen Dwyer; Joseph Lewis Pretty, son of Lewis and Corrie Pretty; Evan Michael Pretty, son of Lewis and Corrie Pretty; Tyler James Smart, son of Michael and Gretchen Smart

The next Baptism is scheduled for January 10, 2010. If you would like to speak about Holy Baptism for yourself or you child, please contact Scott or Melody. ■

Epiphany!

Wednesday, January 6

6 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

7 p.m. – Epiphany Extravaganza!

Come celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. Our service of Holy Eucharist includes our annual pageant, the Epiphany Proclamation, and the Blessing of Chalk.

Stay for a grand party with Epiphany games and more, for the whole family!

Calendar of events

December

4&5 – Friday & Saturday. This weekend is our **175th Anniversary Bazaar**. On Friday evening, come to a Chicken Dinner (vegetarian option available) with all the trimmings. There are two seatings for dinner; one at 5 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. Then come back Saturday to tour our booths, full of crafts, goodies, and baskets for purchase. Join us for a weekend of food, fellowship, and fun!

Also on Saturday, we are sending a team to work on the **Habitat for Humanity** house here in Lincoln. Contact Jane Worton (jswtwelve@msn.com) to sign up to help with this important outreach!

6 – Sunday. Join us today for our annual **Jesse Tree celebration**, when we decorate a tree with symbols of the Advent season during our 10:30 service.

11 – Friday. Come to the Great Hall to experience our monthly **Harvest Café**; doors open at 7 p.m. and music begins at 7:30. Enjoy uplifting music and prayer, share in some refreshments, and meet some new friends.

24 – Thursday. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with two festive **Christmas Eve** services, at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. At 5 p.m. we'll begin with a Procession and we'll bless our creche. Our 10 p.m. service includes the Solemn Proclamation of Christmas and the use of incense. Both services include joyous music of Christmas.

25 – Friday. If you prefer to celebrate on **Christmas morning**, join us at 10:30 a.m. for our Christmas Day service.

27 – Sunday. Christmas doesn't end on December 25, it begins on December 25 and lasts for the next twelve days! Today is the First Sunday of Christmas. At 9:15 today, we **make gingerbread houses** to take to our shut-in parishioners. This is a great family activity. We supply the materials; you supply creativ-

ity and construction skills. (We will accept voluntary contributions for the cost of materials.) Then we ask for volunteers to deliver these houses to some of our shut-in parishioners. All ages are welcome; there are no classes today.

Then, at 10:30, we'll sing traditional Christmas favorites at our annual **Lessons and Carols service**.

In the afternoon, the Rector offers an annual tradition: a **Christmas Open House** from 3 to 5 p.m. Come celebrate the Christmas season with cider and Christmas goodies, and enjoy the hospitality of Scott and Sherilyn in their home at 540 Prospect Street, Seekonk, MA. Contact the Parish Office if you'd like directions.

January

2 – Saturday. It's our Saturday to serve at the local **Habitat for Humanity** house. Bring your hammer, gloves, and any skills you may have to help build a house for a needy family. Contact Jane Worton (jswtwelve@msn.com) to sign up.

3 – Sunday. Celebrate the New Year with your church family at our **New Year's Breakfast**. Last year we all shared our favorite cereals; come find out what yummy breakfast foods this year will hold. Breakfast is at 9:15, so there are no classes this Sunday.

6 – Wednesday. Today is the **Feast of the Epiphany**. We will celebrate at 6 p.m. with a Holy Eucharist including our children's pageant and the tradition of the Blessing of the Chalk. The service will be followed with an Epiphany party in the Great Hall. This is a celebration not to be missed!

10 – Sunday. We'll offer **Holy Baptism** today. If you or your child are interested in baptism, contact a priest well before today.

24 – Sunday. Our **Annual Meeting** begins today at noon. Come and hear how we're doing. See the "behind the scenes" action of the parish. Elect new leaders. Don't miss this interesting event!

Coming up – details inside!

Christmas services

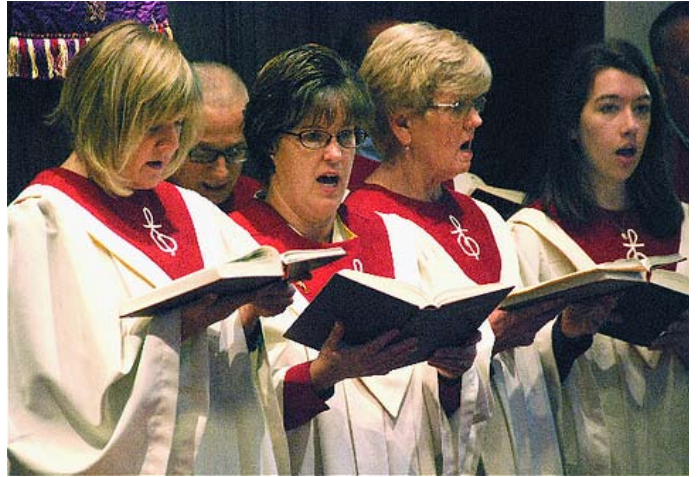
Invite a friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker to join you for our Christmas services. Let's not keep the greatest news ever told to ourselves! Service times are inside. *December 24 & 25*

Open House

Come to the Rector's home for Christmas festivities, including cider & cookies. All are welcome. *December 27*

Harvest Cafe

Come enjoy the music ministry of Ray Tierney and enjoy some coffee & fellowship. *December 11*



Our choirs and musicians will be getting a work-out this time of year. Come enjoy the music of our many ensembles at our Christmas services. *Photo: Matt Bowen. There are many more photos to view online at <http://www.flickr.com/christchurchlincoln>*