

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

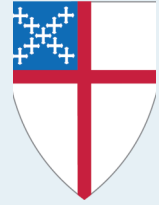
It would be an understatement to say that our provisional bishop was “impressed” with the flow of last Sunday’s liturgy, with Ann and David - our two candidates for confirmation, with the beauty of the music, the attention to detail, the worship program, the good spirit among the liturgical ministers, the seasonal adornment of the church, and the incredible energy among all those who gathered for the reception in Wells Hall. No doubt, she might be ribbed for her comment that “Christ Church is the most beautiful worship space in the diocese” but - hey! - we’re grateful for the compliment! What I was glad to hear was this: her good word about Christ Church and our amazing potential as we move forward into the new year, the selection of a rector, the growth of the parish, and the flourishing of many ministries. “So many things are going so well!” she said.

But none of this is possible without the good work of so many volunteers who give their time and labor to our common life - and much of that behind the scenes: from preparing worship programs to adding greenery to our majestic Advent wreath to preparing a beautiful setting in

Continued on page 3.

MOVING
forward

Christ Church Parish



Friday, December 16, 2022

Inside this issue

Prayer List.....	2
Worship	3
Formation.....	4
Service.....	5
Community.....	6-19
Worship Schedule.....	20

Upcoming Events

- NW Repertory Christmas Concert, December 17
- **Advent IV, December 18**
Newcomers' Coffee
NW Repertory Christmas Concert
- Longest Night Service, December 21
- **Christmas Eve Liturgies December 24**
4:00pm Holy Eucharist
9:00pm Carols and Anthems
9:30pm Festive Holy Eucharist
- **Christmas Day Holy Eucharist December 25, 10:30am**
- **Holy Name of Jesus January 1**
- **The Baptism of Our Lord January 8**
Adult Formation: Monastic Ecological Wisdom
- Secular Book Club, January 13
- Adult Formation: Exploring Common Life, January 15
Monthly Book Club

We strongly encourage masking during worship, mindful that we worship among people who need added protection. Masking not only protects us but also our neighbors.

Need Help??

To add to our prayer list, email the [Parish Administrator](#). If submitting a name other than your own, please ask permission from that person first. Names remain on the list for **four weeks**, unless renewed by the one who submitted them.

In a pastoral emergency, please contact [Fr. Torvend](#).

Parish Help Team: Errands run, groceries, meals provided, medication pickup, vaccination transportation, etc., contact [Deacon Gen Grewell](#) or call her cellphone at 360.280.5593. You may speak with a deacon on Sunday at the **10:30am Holy Eucharist**.

Christ Church Prayer List

Our baptismal commitment calls us to pray for the world and the needs of our community, including those who are experiencing any sort of trouble, illness, or grief.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Members and Friends of our Community:

Dick Gregory; Bill Giddings; Lois Garriott; Edith Abicht; Lani Frisch; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick; Ginny Peterson; Elin Gratton; Leslie Brooks; Morrie Stafford, and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Therese Day.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Luke's, Seattle • St. Stephen's, Seattle

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of Korea

Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma Weekly Newsletter

The Rev. Samuel Torvend, Priest for Worship, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care

Deborah Hope Breneman, Editor/Design and Layout

The Weekly is a publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma.

Please visit our website at Christchurchtacoma.org to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

Christ Church Calendar

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the [Parish Administrator](#).

Articles must be submitted by Wednesdays to be included in the Friday edition, and may be edited.

We never share your information outside the church family.

Land Acknowledgement We gather at 310 North K Street. Let us give thanks to the Creator for the Puyallup and Nisqually people on whose ancestral land this church and many of our homes stand. Their descendants live among us still. For their wise stewardship of the creation, we offer our gratitude. May we never forget that their land was taken by force and broken treaty.

[Episcopal News Service](#) • [Episcopal Church on Facebook](#) • [Diocese of Olympia Bishop Rickel's Blog](#)



Fr. Samuel Torvend
Continued from page 1

Wells Hall amid our unusual heating system to choir rehearsals to washing dishes and cleaning up after coffee hour. Many thanks are due to many whose commitment to our common life is tangible. Thank you and thank you again.

Worship 101

Why do we keep silence and stillness?

Keeping silence is not an American strong suit. We're surrounded by noise 24/7/365 - or at least we *can* be surrounded by much noise. But when we enter the worship space, we encounter *together* the presence of the loving, liberating, and life-giving God who communicates with us through words, gestures, color, movement, and sacraments. Keeping silence and stillness honors our neighbors' desire to pray or meditate *before* the liturgy begins. Idle chatter makes that difficult. As we listen attentively to the proclamation of the biblical readings, we need to time to let the significance of the words find a home within us. In that short period of silence between the invitation to pray and the actual prayer, one can breathe out and become attentive to what will be prayed in a moment. When we pray together, there are moments of silence that invite us to add our own petitions to the Prayers. After we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we keep silence in order to offer a prayer of thanksgiving. Sometimes people

want nothing to do with silence: perhaps that is so because the questions or suppressed concerns of the heart will bubble up and ask for attention. Indeed, it is no small thing to keep silence and stillness: it is a significant *spiritual practice* that asks us to *let go* of distractions and listen, actually listen, and be attentive to what we are doing or receiving.

Wednesday, December 21 **Having a Blue Christmas?**

As promoted by the media and some church people, the "holidays" are supposed to be a time of "good cheer" and "warm family gatherings." But that message can ring hollow for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, a friend, a job, or for those who are just plain lonely or anxious. On **Wednesday December 21 at 7:00 PM** - the longest night of the year - join Fr. Torvend in **Trinity Chapel** for a *Longest Night Service* that focuses on the comfort God offers God's people in the midst of grief, loneliness, or struggle.

Advent and Christmastide Schedule

Sunday, December 18: Advent IV

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the church

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4 PM Holy Eucharist in the church

9 PM Carols and anthems with the choir

9:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the church

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:30 Holy Eucharist in the church

Adult Formation

Advent and Christmastide Schedule Continued

Sunday, January 1: The Holy Name of Jesus
10:30 Holy Eucharist in the church
The Rev. Catharine Reid, presiding and preaching

Sunday, January 8: The Baptism of Our Lord
8:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the church

Christmas Eve and Day

We expect to have visitors among us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM and on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM. Might you keep your eye out for visitors who might be unfamiliar with our form of worship and gently offer to point them to the Book of Common Prayer or Hymnal 1982? A nod of the head or introducing oneself at the end of the Eucharist are simple but meaningful ways to welcome people to Christ Church. Indeed, newcomers report that one of the reasons they return to Christ Church is the gentle welcome they receive from regular worshippers.

Sunday, December 18 Newcomers' Coffee in the Parish Library

If you are a newcomer or are returning to Christ Church after a pandemic absence, join Fr. Torvend and senior warden, Christi McCaren, in the library (between the church and Wells Hall). Get a cup of coffee or tea and then come to the comfort of the library. We're eager to get to know you and share what's coming up at Christ Church.

Sunday, January 8

Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Resource for Contemporary Christians

Join Fr. Torvend after the 10:30 Eucharist in the Parish Library for a discussion of his new book on how monastic practices can help modern Christians live in harmony with their local ecology and other creatures. Get a cup of coffee or tea in Wells Hall and then come to the library for what will be a good time!

Sunday, January 15

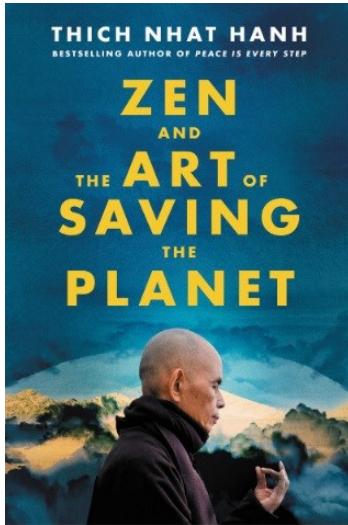
Exploring our Common Life and Prayer at Christ Church

Might you be wondering what informs and guides our distinctive, inclusive, questioning, and socially-committed form of life? Do you wonder why we worship in the way we do? Do you have thoughts about affiliating with Christ Church and the Episcopal form of Christian faith and life? If so, join Fr. Torvend in the Parish Library right after the 10:30 Eucharist.

Mondays, January 16 and 23 Anglican Spirituality in the Pacific Northwest

In Fall 2022, we explored the influence of regional culture on church life in the Pacific Northwest. Indeed, portions of those presentations have informed our soon-to-be-released Parish Profile. Now we look to core values in Anglican spirituality and how those values and practices might speak to the spiritual hungers of our regional culture. We'll gather on Zoom at 7 PM. For those interested in participating in what will be an enlightening discussion of our distinctive spirituality, send an [email to Fr. Torvend](#) no later than **Wednesday, January 10**. In the subject heading of your email, type **Anglican PNW**. You will then receive the essay and Zoom link.

Adult Formation



Monthly Reading Group

Sunday, January 15 at 6:30pm

Meet at the home of **Sandy and Ronn Johanson** to discuss *Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet* by Thich Nhat Hanh. Newcomers are welcome! Questions? [Contact Don Johnson](#).

Service

Little Pantry

A Sunday of Abundance!

The December 11 Sunday service was certainly abundant; with an insightful sermon by Bishop Skelton, inspirational music by our organist Paul and the choir, the welcoming of Ann and David, and largely filled pews. In addition, through the generosity of those in attendance we received 3 baskets full of items for the Little Free Pantry. Once again, a sign of the abundant heart you all have for our neighbors that our little pantry serves. Please keep these donations coming. Thanks! ~CSLT



MOVING
forward
CHRIST CHURCH TACOMA

Number of Pledges: 73
Total Amount: \$330,890

DECK THE HALL

Wells Hall. that is...

We need your help.

We have exhausted our capital funds with our new Wells Hall HVAC system. At the same time, we are beginning to see increased reservations of our space. At best, Wells Hall is “shabby.” We believe we would get more rentals if the space was more appealing. We are planning a parish-wide work party in January to clean up the space, but more is needed to put our best foot forward.

We desperately need capital donations to accomplish the following work outlined in the table on the next page. Any and every donation, regardless of amount, will help us *move forward* with refurbishing Wells Hall.

As an added feature, with your donation, your name will be entered into a lottery for a small “Mending” cross made by Jean Tudor. These small crosses are replicas of the Mending Cross hanging in the narthex. It seems appropriate at this moment in our communal life that we offer these crosses as “gifts.” They serve as a reminder of our shared journey through the last several turbulent years. Jesus has walked beside us every step of the way and we are wiser and stronger as we reemerge and live into God’s Plan for Christ Church Parish.

See a picture and artist’s description on the next page.



Wells Hall Capital Campaign

Donations totaling \$30,000 allows us to:

Refurbish both Bathrooms on main floor
Purchase new Stage Curtains & Rigging
Purchase additional Cutlery, Dinnerware (to rent out)

Donations totaling \$52,000 allows us to:

Complete all of the above, plus
Paint First and Second Floors
Refurbish 2nd Floor Bathrooms (1 near Fireplace Room and 2 Children's Bathrooms)

Donations totaling \$85,000 and greater allows us to:

Complete all of the above, plus
Update Kitchen (floor, countertops, cabinets)
Refurbish Green Room or Recarpet Fireplace Room

The Mending Cross

A healing cross, made during a time of brokenness and suffering in the world.

How to make a cross which would remind us there is beauty in lives but still acknowledges the problems with which people struggle: homelessness, hunger, poverty, immigration, mental health, homeless immigrants, myriad prejudices, violence, terrorism, and our too often attitude of apathy about it all.

How to convey this with copper, fused vitreous enamel, silver wire, broken glass, nuts and bolts, plexiglass?

Lots of broken glass shards available. Color is important—use colors which can seem subdued, but have richness also: turquoise, blue, gray, black. A circle of shattered glass centrally placed. Harsh edges and bends of cloisonne wire repeating the cracks and sharp edges of the broken glass. Line drawings of the broken glass enameled on the arms of the cross. Covered by a layer of transparent turquoise vitreous enamel covering the breaks and smoothing the fissures. And we move forward again. ~Jean Tudor



Community

Giving Tree • For the past several years, we have had a “Giving Tree” for one of our Parish Families in need. Because of the age of the children, we felt it would be better to provide the father with a gift certificate to a local department store for each of the kids and himself. If you would like to support this family, please consider a donation to the Rector’s Discretionary Fund noting “Christmas Family.”

Christmas Flowers • If you would like to make a donation toward the special flowers that enrich our Christmas liturgical environment, please fill out this form and put it with your check (for any amount) in the collection plate on Sunday, or mail to the office at 310 North K Street, Tacoma 98403, by **Tuesday, December 20**. Please note “Christmas Flowers” on your check. **Thanksgivings and Memorials received by noon Tuesday, December 20 will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.**

End-of-Year Donations • **Tuesday, December 27**, is the final day to turn in any donations that you wish to be credited to the 2022 year.



NORTHWEST REPERTORY SINGERS

KYLE HAUGEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MARJORIE SKREEN, ACCOMPANIST

Illuminations: Holiday Music from the Americas

SATURDAY

December 17 / 7:30 PM

SUNDAY

December 18 / 3:00 PM

Ticket Information

TICKET SALES WWW.NWRS.ORG

\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION

\$18 SENIOR/STUDENT WITH I.D.

UNDER 13 FREE

Event Location

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH / 310 NORTH K STREET, TACOMA, WA 98403

The background of the entire poster is a close-up photograph of several lit candles. The flames are bright yellow and orange, contrasting with the deep blue background. The focus is on a single candle in the foreground, with others blurred in the background.

Christmas at Christ Church Parish

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm Holy Eucharist

9:00pm Carols and Anthems

9:30pm Festive Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30am Holy Eucharist

A Season of Light at Christ Church Parish
A welcoming parish in the Stadium District

310 North K St | Tacoma, WA 98403
info@christchurchtacoma.org | 253.383.1569

christchurchtacoma.org

It Came to Pass

Following are the final chapters of the history of Christ Church Parish written for our 75th Anniversary in 1964: "It Came to Pass," by Jessie Drummond Bronson. To access previous chapters, please see the *Weeklys* starting October 28, or click [here](#). We hope you have enjoyed reading this book, which will soon be on our website.

CHAPTER XIII

The Lord has so done His marvelous works, that they ought to be had in remembrance – Psalm 111

Memorials are at times for the living. What satisfaction it was that Bishop Lemuel Wells knew of his memorial, Wells Hall, and that Canon Arthur Bell can still administer the Sacrament at St. Luke's Memorial Church. What priceless reward it was for Lydia Dickman, who before her death knew that the garden she had planned about the grounds of Christ Church was coming into full bloom for the glory of God, and for the pleasure of parishioners. It is a memorial to Lydia.

Mrs. Harvey Austin (Marie), and intimate friend of Lydia, says, "It is impossible to know the extent of her work for Christ Church as she did much of it anonymously." She was chairman of the Garden Committee of the Choir guild and was assisted by Mrs. James Rawlings (Jennie) and Mrs. E. E. Johnson (Gladys) who were also responsible for much of the landscaping and for the contributions of parishioners to build the brick wall around the garden enclosures. At the end of the wall nearest the church steps is a memorial plaque inscribed with the name of Eliza-

beth Gaylord, given in remembrance by her sister, Mary Rathfun, and active member of the Vesper Guild. Further along are flag pole holders, given in memory of Peter Finnigan, father of Dayton, Maurice, and Albert Finnigan.

One enters the church grounds after passing a privet hedge bounded by a rock base which holds clumps of white candy tuft and rock flowers. Red brick, moss-touched paths lead to azalea plantings, bursting rhododendrons, flowering pink dogwood and Japanese cherry trees. Below these are planters filled with seasonal blooms. All this radiance of nature has been made possible through gifts of parishioners as memorials to some dear one. Yonder, in the shadow of the north corner of Wells Hall overlooking a bed of rose petunias stands a shrine to Francis of Assisi, a memorial to Harold Schneider, given by his wife, Josephine. One can rest for a moment on a bench given by the Vesper Guild in memory of Dorothy McEwan. It stands near a center planter box, the gift of Stewart L., Anne, Robert, and Hunter Simpson. Six stone benches throughout the grounds are memorials to Eva Anderson, Anna Schwarze, Elizabeth Eyerman, Francis Lowes, Horton Dennis, Tracy Worley.

A path leads to Trinity Chapel in Trinity House. Truly one can know the peace of God within this place which is used daily for smaller services. It was not completed until recently. The expense of its completion has been met, in great part, through memorial funds. A new cross, altar, candle holders, and vases were executed by George Roskos, an eminent sculptor. He is a professor at Pacific

It Came to Pass

Lutheran University in Tacoma. His work has beautiful depth and holds great interest. The above mentioned articles are formed by a media of welded steel and brass inserted into panels of walnut stained oak. The new altar was made possible through the bequest of Mrs. Abeel, mother of Mrs. T. H. Monroe (Mildred), and the candle holders are a memorial to Frances and Gerald Pirret. The cross is a memorial to General William F. Daugherty.

However, the excellent artistry of Mr. Roskos' work is displayed particularly in the doors of the chapel. They are a memorial given by Alberta McLaughlin for her mother, Christine McLaughlin. Formerly, the doors were of solid core which prevented any light entering the small chapel. Mr. Roskos has explained the technique he used to remedy this. He says:

"First a design is drawn on the solid core doors, the openings are then cut. Secondly, stained glass panes are cut to fit the door openings. Thirdly, smaller pieces of stained glass are cut and placed on top of the larger panes and put in a ceramic kiln which is fired to a temperature of 1450° F. This temperature partially melts the glass and it fuses. Lastly, the glass is fitted into the door openings."

The effect is a gratifying, soft amber light that blends with the interior furnishings – the hand carved altar rail, a memorial to Lucile Burritt Anderson, given by her family, the Prayer desk in memory of Selwyn Doherty, the numerous memorial chairs with plaque designation on each. The chairs stand

behind attractive kneelers made in gross point by members of the Guild of St. Claire. The designs on each cushion, representing some symbol of the church, were made by Mrs. Roy Reynolds. In addition, a new lighting arrangement replaces the former chandelier and a more adequate heating system is included in the changes of Trinity Chapel.

The architect for the renovation was Mr. James Harris, and the contractor was Mr. Robert Sproul, both of Christ Church. Following the 11 a.m. service on July 19, 1964, the Right Reverend Ivol Ira Curtis, D.D., Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Olympia, blessed the new appointments of Trinity Chapel.

From here a covered walk leads to the office of the rector and the clerical rooms. In one of these is a steel safe. On the door of this a plaque which states, "Given by Doris Eugenie Kunz in memory of my husband, Dr. G. R. Kunz." Across the hallway and facing the garden is the James Library, named for the first rector of Christ Church. In this comfortable livingroom are more memorials: a pair of table lamps, prayer pictures given in memory of Margaret McKay, a library table in memory of Arvid Peterson, a tile top coffee table made and given by Mrs. Ray Ridge.

Proceed further down the covered walk to the south end of Trinity House where it joins Wells Hall and enter a modern kitchen, sparkling with efficiency. This renovation of the old kitchen was made possible through the bequest of Elizabeth Redway. Her friends feel sure that this achievement would please

It Came to Pass

Beth. She was a teacher of Home Economics in Annie Wright Seminary and the Tacoma Public Schools for many years. The new kitchen is a boon to Christ Church and to those who manage the large church dinners, breakfasts and luncheons which take place during the year. Gratitude goes forth to Beth Redway, a fine Churchwoman, who was the daughter of a greatly loved parishioner, Carrie David Redway. She passed away in 1946. Elizabeth died in November, 1963.

Now, ascend the stairs to the second floor of Wells Hall and enter the Primary Sunday School department. Here in the northeast corner of the building is the St. Nicholas Chapel, designed by the Reverend Wilbur Woodhams and made possible through the bequests left by Amy West and Bessie Reed, the latter a missionary to Japan. Both women died in 1954. The Chapel is designed for small children. The reredos which formerly was behind the altar in Christ Church rises above the small altar. Low benches are used and a tiny organ furnishes accompaniment for young voices. The paneling of these walls was originally brought from England for the Chester Thorne estate on American Lake. The cross was given by Miss Hannah Lyons. Indeed, it is soul warming to attend a service in St. Nicholas Chapel.

The spirit of reverence for the past increases when Christ Church is entered and more consecrated memorials appear. Memories build crossways to the past over which loving thoughts carry us to dear ones who seem not too far distant. Before us stands

a hand carved altar, a memorial to the everlasting Christian service of Lavinia Nash Norton de Wolfe. Its beauty is enhanced this Trinity season of 1964 by the super frontal of green brocade with symbols embroidered in gold, red and green metallic threads through which are interspersed colorful beads. Appreciation is expressed to many women, including Mrs. Estelle Ridge and Mary Crosby Thompson, who accomplished this special embroidery upon all seasonal frontals. The top of the altar is covered by a so-called "duster." Underneath this is a Fair linen runner on which are embroidered five crosses. This exquisite piece is not uncovered except during the Eucharist.

The upkeep of the vestments and vessels of the altar is done by the meticulous women of the Altar Guild. Mrs. T. H. Monroe (Mildred), who for several years was the chairman of the altar linen, is responsible for much of the precise workmanship on the choice articles. She studied the intricate stitchery at the Church Diocesan Workshop in Seattle. Some of the other rare pieces, such as the beautiful Chalice pall, which is used only on special occasions, were generously provided for by Mrs. Charles B. Welch.

The white and gold cross above the altar is a memorial to Mary Jane Martin, and to the south of the altar rail is a wall sanctuary tablet inscribed, "In loving memory of the life work of Nellie Trenwick Gilpin." We pause at the plaque beside the remaining pipes of the Howard Rust Memorial organ near the pulpit given by M. A. Dailey, and

It Came to Pass

we walk over to the lectern, "In memory of the Reverend H. Clapham." In the chancel on the Epistle side is a prayer desk in memory of Nellie Pratt, teacher in Trinity Church school for 15 years. Here the gold framed painting of the Madonna Della Sedia, a memorial to Charles Hyde hangs above the baptismal font. The font itself is in memory of Emma Babcock and the ewer is a memorial to Edmund Hilton. A new American flag calls one's attention. It is a memorial to Albert Brewitt. Hymnals are given by members of the Edward L. Hagen family in his memory, and the prayer books are a memorial to Frances Clarke.

Quietly we leave through the south entrance to the church and descend to the Columbarium. Here are the mortal remains of those who sleep in God.

It is impossible to name all the concrete, lasting memorials which are found in most units of Christ Church. There is, however, a red leather, gold embossed Book of Remembrance, available upon request from the church office, which lists all the memorials with their pertinent data. This book itself is a memorial made by the Women's Guild to the memory of Mabel Kennedy Jones, who left a bequest of money to this guild. Part of the money was used to purchase the book. The unusually attractive manuscript lettering done by hand throughout the pages was accomplished by Michael Rivisto and associates.

Not alone do such memorials show love for the departed. Each Sunday someone is honored by the flower arrangement upon the

altar or by the burning of the Sanctuary light. This has been done through the years. Easter remembrances are among the most impressive. Noted in a bulletin of April 20, 1952, memorial lilies were given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Braman, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Washburn, Mrs. George Abeel, Mrs. T. H. Monroe, Mrs. Roger Peck. The daffodils on the Chancel that day were given by George W. Lawler for his parents.

As these parishioners have done, so had Mr. Johnnie Lutrich II given floral memorials to his mother, father, and beloved wife, Jane. And the author again reminds the reader that Johnnie Lutrich II and his family stand for all the dedicated past, present and future parishioners of Christ Church.

As this chapter on Memorials closes, words from an old hymn come to mind:

Holy offering, rich and rare
Offerings of praise and prayer,
On His altar laid, we leave them:
Christ present them! God receive them.

CHAPTER XIV

*My talk hath been of Thy truth,
and of Thy salvation – Psalm 41*

Pride in achievement fills the hearts of their families and the parishioners of their church when the names of the priests and postulants from Christ Church parish are presented. These names are: The Reverend Charles T. Mentzer, ordained 1935; the Reverend William E. Tudor, ordained 1960; the Rever-

It Came to Pass

end John J. Miller, ordained 1961; the Reverend Charles D. Ridge, ordained 1962; the Reverend Gerald W. Mason, ordained 1964; James T. Elliott, Senior at Church Divinity School of the Pacific; Daniel A. Buchanan, Junior at General Theological Seminary. Their progress is of constant interest to their church friends, and it is with deep sorrow that, during this writing, word has been received of the death of the Reverend Charles P. Mentzer. He died on August 18, 1964, in Seattle, Washington, where he had been rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Another source of pride to worshippers at Christ Church is their rector, the Reverend Arnold A. Fenton, who was instituted as such by the Right Reverend William Fisher Lewis, Bishop of Olympia, on August 20, 1961. Arnold Fenton may have inherited his complete understanding of church matters, since he is the grandson of an Episcopal rector and son of another. He was born in Westfield, New Jersey, and reared in Connecticut. He received his theological training at the General Theological Seminary, in New York, and after being ordained by Bishop Lawrence of Western Massachusetts in December, 1951, he was curate at Christ Church, Springfield, Massachusetts, from 1951 – 1952. After this he became a Navy Chaplain and served in the North Pacific. Following this service in 1955 he became rector of St. Stephen's Church in Longview, Washington.

When Mr. Woodhams resigned, the Reverend Mr. Fenton became rector of Christ

Church. With him came an enterprising, capable, and friendly young assistant, Larry Westlund, who had served with Mr. Fenton in Longview. Much regret was felt by the parishioners when they learned that "Larry" was leaving Christ Church to become Vicar of St. Mary of the Snows, Eagle River, Wisconsin, on July 5, 1964. With Mr. Fenton also came Mrs. Nancy P. Hilton as parish secretary. She has proved to be as efficient and gracious as her predecessors in that office.

It is literally true that the work done by the Reverend Larry A. Westlund was enough for two men, and on July 15, 1964, they came to Christ Church. They are the Reverend Gerry Snapp, whose duties will include the chaplaincy to Episcopal students at the University of Puget Sound, serving as director of youth, and being in charge of the church school. In addition he will perform the usual functions of a parish curate. The second talented young man chosen is Reverend Maurice J. Hauge, an outstanding graduate of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary of Evanston, Illinois. These newcomers will share all responsibilities of the church which are not strictly within the confines of the rector's province. It has been one of Mr. Fenton's working principles that he share his duties with his assistants.

During his rectorate the church attendance has grown steadily, particularly notable being the presence of young married people, and parents at the Family service each Sunday while Sunday School for their children is in session. Since his arrival, he has held, or arranged for three or more Sunday services

It Came to Pass

during the whole year. As he says, "Everyone needs a vacation...but not from God."

Since 1962 he has been carrying out two important diocesan positions: 1 – as a member of the Standing Council which works directly with the Bishop, and 2 – as a member of the Diocesan Council. Besides these duties and his regular work of meeting the demands of parish activities, Mr. Fenton is Chaplain of Faith Home where he counsels and conducts classes in religion for expectant, unmarried mothers.

Mr. Fenton is recognized by his parishioners as a practical administrator, an outcropping, perhaps of his New England cautious upbringing. Guided by the experience and knowledge in money matters of a retired banker, Mr. J. E. (Jack) Pinkham, treasurer for Christ Church, expenses have been kept within the budget and the outstanding debt greatly reduced.

But with Arnold Fenton's practicality there is spirituality – with his youthfulness there is maternity of thought- with his exuberance there is caution – in his judgment there is understanding.

He and his wife, the former Helen Mantas, also of Connecticut, and their children, Arnold, 8; Christopher, 6, and Kimberly, 3, have made a deep, friendly impression in the hearts of their acquaintances in Tacoma.

The date is June 7, 1964. Almost three years have passed since the Reverend Arnold Fen-

ton became rector of Christ Church. Johnnie Lutrich III taps gently on his father's bedroom door and enters to find our Johnnie Lutrich II, now 82 years old, reaching for his glasses on the bedstand, as his son says,

"Feel like going to church this morning, Dad? You were pretty tired yesterday."

"Of course, I'm going," the old gentleman answered, adding, "When do I ever miss Communion Sunday? Besides, isn't this the Sunday that the 1964 Annie Wright Seminary graduates come? Your Emmy will be among them. Sure, I'm going to church. Tell young Johnnie IV to wash behind his ears, then, you lay out my striped tie, and see that Kay wears her new silk dress and pink hat. The Lutriches must look their best today."

Surely, the family did look its best when Mr. Howard Braman ushered 15-year-old Johnnie IV, holding his grandfather's arm to the pew behind those reserved for the Annie Wright Seminary maids and their chaperones. Kay and her husband, Johnnie III, followed.

The church filled quickly while Father Richard Tumilty played Bach softly. Two by two the students filed down the aisle and Kay Lutrich, herself a Seminary graduate under Miss Sallie Wilson, admired the poise, grooming, and gentle demeanor of this modern group of girls. Her seventeen-year-old Emmy, not a boarder, but with the graduates today because she was one of them, passed by. She smiled at her grandfather but her mother cringed slightly, for, although Emmy was slender, her skirt was tight, short and her pony tail with derby type hat

It Came to Pass

perched atop was the “latest.” At the same time, Kay consoled herself because Emmy’s hair-do wasn’t as “way out” as the beehive and bubble hair styles some of the other girls effected. Grandpa Johnnie II had been eyeing the lovely, young maidens, too. He sensed Kay’s reactions and whispered:

“Pretty young things can wear all styles, and one might as well be dead as out of date. And, at that, none of their fol-de-rols is as funny as a bustle.”

The mother agreed, and as the organ music continued she watched the girls. She sensed that these graduates, as well as those of former years, had absorbed through their life at this fine institution some of the transmitted spirit of past headmistresses: the sincerity of Miss Adelaide Preston, the understanding of lovely Sallie Wilson, the wisdom of erudite Elizabeth Fitch, the steadfastness of Ruth Jenkins, and the gentleness of each.

Kay saw the present headmaster, Mr. George Taylor, with his wife in the pew across the aisle, smiling approval at the graduates. She wondered if the past year had been hard for him, following in the steps of Miss Ruth Jenkins.

The departure of this revered teacher and civic leader was a loss to Tacoma. She had come to the Seminary as its headmistress in 1941. The finances of the school were at a low ebb. There was serious talk of selling the building on North Tacoma Avenue and moving the Seminary to Haddaway Hall, the large residence of the late Mr. And Mrs. W. P. Weyerhaeuser. This caused indignant commotion in

Tacoma. In a resolution presented by F. A. Latcham of Christ Church on April 4, 1941, the change was opposed strongly and at the same meeting Bishop H. Arthur Huston stated to the trustees, “We are trustees, not merely of a school or building, but of a solemn trust and tradition.”

The Seminary was saved through an extensive financial campaign. During this time Miss Jenkins’ good management and wise judgment helped greatly, as they did during her entire years of service at the Seminary. She was admired for her emphasis upon the scholastic work of her students. Scholarships were encouraged and the curriculum stressed the preparation for college entrance into schools. Miss Jenkins was granted an honorary doctorate from the University of Puget Sound in 1952. She was also given the Bishop’s Cross in 1955 for, as Bishop Lewis stated, “her contribution shows most competent and devoted service to the cause of quality education and to her church...” She left in January, 1963, at a time when the Seminary occupied a strong position in the ranks of independent schools throughout the nation to become headmistress of the Bishop’s School in Ja Jolla, California.

The rousing notes of the processional hymn called Kay Lutrich from her recollections, and she rose with the others to sing, “Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over. Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee.” Reverently they bowed as the crucifer walked by. The choir followed and led the way for Curate Larry Westlund, who preceded the tall, slender, blackhaired rector, garbed in white alb,

It Came to Pass

and embroidered green brocade chasuble, proper for Trinity Sunday.

At length the sacred preliminary words of the Eucharist were offered, the Collect, Epistle and Gospel read, and the Nicene Creed recited before Arnold Fenton stepped to the pulpit and became an understanding friend of the graduates. He greeted them and expressed sincere wishes for their happy futures and their continuance in the Lord's work. Their interest heightened when the young rector emphasized the great responsibility which befell upon him before he gave them and others the Holy Communion. His words were eloquent:

"To the celebrant of the Eucharist at Christ Church there comes a special privilege. He, alone, at the time of his communion is permitted to be part of an awesome and moving symbol. At the moment of receiving from the chalice, there is reflected in the wine-made-Blood the Cross on the altar. Thus, he is never permitted to forget the cost of that Communion which he makes. His mind and heart are stabbed by the awareness that there are no cheap nor easy communions, for the promise of Presence made at the Last Supper could not be fulfilled until its price had been paid on the Cross of Calvary."

Johnnie Lutrich II leaned heavily against his son as they returned from the altar rail. He prayed words of thankfulness, then sat back to watch other communicants approach the altar assisted by ushers, Percy Stevens, Crompton Ogden, Arnold Olson, and long active head usher, Stewart Simpson.

So many of Johnnie's and his beloved wife, Jane's older friends had gone on, but younger ones were among those who took Communion today. They loved my Jane, the old man thought – Ethel Morris, Louie Stickney, Carrie Braman, Mildred Monroe, Adeline Henry, Phoebe Parker, Jennie Rawlings, Maxine Brindley, Elsie Ogden. So many more, and finally, Anne Simpson joining Stewart, as it had been for years to receive with her husband.

"A God-given privilege – this blessed Sacrament," Johnnie II whispered to his grandson seated next to him.

CHAPTER XV

For He will give His angels charge over thee – Psalm 91

Kay Lutrich, who regarded Johnnie Lutrich II more as a father than her father-in-law, held his arm tenderly when she guided him from the church after the service. She was concerned because he tired easily and she watched over him even though, at his last medical check-up a month ago, the doctor had used the medical cliché, "If I am as hale as he is when I am his age, I'll be thankful."

The old man walked slowly and was smiling – such friendliness, true interest, real fellowship were extended him by many parishioners. Then, as he reached the last step, a little girl took his hand. Apparently, she and her mother were newcomers to Christ Church, and the tot said, "I wish I had a Grandpa like you."

It Came to Pass

“My dear, you have. I’ll be your Grandpa,” Johnnie II assured her. She blew him a kiss and disappeared. His grandson helped him into the back seat of the family car, then sat beside him as Kay and her Johnnie III settled in the front seat. She asked:

“Dad, how about a jaunt to Pt. Defiance Park before we go home?”

“Fine, Kay. Nothing I would enjoy more. I want to smell the good breeze from the Sound, to watch the boats bounding along, to see little boys throwing stones into the water, to look at my trees, ferns, fireweed, and huckleberry bushes – all mine because they are a part of the Northwest, and I am, too. Wish Emmy could have come with us, but, of course, she wants to be with the Annie Wright graduates today.”

Johnnie III drove along the waterfront, passed the Tacoma Smelter, and into the Park while his father turned to the boy beside him and said:

“Johnnie IV, I hope Pt. Defiance Park will give you the same happiness that it has given me. And, my boy, you will keep on with your church work, won’t you? Christ Church depends on its young members, but, Johnnie,” the grandfather whispered this, “I also hope you become a great baseball pitcher.”

After an hour’s ride they returned to the Lutrich home. Kay realized that “Dad” was exhausted and she insisted that he put on

his robe, take off his shoes and lie down until dinner was on the table. Gratefully, he heeded her words and in minutes he was asleep.

A while later, Johnnie III went to his father’s room to summon him to dinner but Johnnie Lutrich II was now sleeping in his Heavenly Father’s arms.

The funeral for Johnnie Lutrich was impressively simple. Christ Church was crowded with friends. Tears filled the eyes of many as the plain casket, covered with a cross-centered pall was brought down the aisle. The Reverend Arnold Fenton conducted the dignified Episcopal Office for the Burial of the Dead.

All knew that the Christian spirit of this man would never die. He had bequeathed its power to them who would carry on the work of Christ.

The committal took place in Old Tacoma Cemetery. During it, all joined in the Lord’s Prayer, and, one imagines that the Lord, who had suffered little children to come unto Him, was pleased that His child of 1964 had come to his Heavenly Father’s Home – that same child, who in 1889 had said:

“Our Father, whart in Heaven
Hallow is His name.”

THE END

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma
The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022:

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Daily Office at Christ Church

◇ Monday 9:00am*

[Morning Prayer](#)

◇ Tuesday 7:30am*

[Lectio Divina](#)

◇ Thursday 7:30am*

[Morning Prayer](#)

◇ Saturday 9:00am

[Morning Prayer](#)

*zoom link available at
christchurchtacoma.org/calendar

Visit Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar for weekday Morning Prayer, Lectio Divina, and Conversation & Compline Service Schedule

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