

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

**T**his coming Sunday we will hear John the Baptist encourage his listeners to “bear fruit worthy of repentance.” That word “repentance” has often been associated with the notion, alive among many Protestants, that human beings are by nature sinful and unclean. So: “Repent of your sins; otherwise you’ll perish.” Well, fear as motivator for change can work, though it’s usually associated with an ethic rooted in rewards and punishments - what we tend to see among children in the third grade.

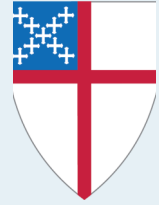
The word “repent” comes from the Greek *metanoia* and that Greek word suggests something a little different than being sorrowful for one’s sins. *Meta*: change, and *noia*: one’s mind. Thus to repent can mean: *change your mind; go in a new direction; seek transformation*. There is little appeal to rewards for good behavior and punishment for bad behavior.

Rather, this understanding of repentance suggests that one can move in a new direction, one that might be more life-giving. It might mean doing the adult thing of changing one’s mind after a careful review of where or who one is and desiring something better.

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MOVING  
*forward*

## Christ Church Parish



Friday, December 2, 2022

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### Upcoming Events

- **Advent II, December 4**  
Adult Formation  
Christ Church Underground  
Wellspring Ensemble
- Secular Bookclub, December 9
- **Advent III, December 11**
- Third Friday Concert,  
December 16
- 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**

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:

Lois Garriott; Edith Abicht; Lani Frisch; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick, Lea Worth; 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:** Those killed in Charlottesville, Moscow, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Chesapeake, Virginia.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Alban's, Edmonds • Redeemer, Kenmore

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle east

## 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](http://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

The Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, taught that Advent is not about waiting for the birth of Jesus. That happened close to 2,000 years ago. "What is uncertain" Merton wrote, "is not the 'coming' of Christ but our own reception of him, our own response to him, our own readiness and capacity to 'go forth to meet him.'" To encounter the adult Christ in Advent and Christmas is to meet the One who just might ask: "Do you need to go in a new direction to live more fully and freely as one of my followers in the world?"

### Save the Date: December 11

On Sunday, December 11, there will be one Sunday Eucharist at 10:30 AM. The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton will preside and preach, and she will confirm Ann Welton and David Pierce as they enter fully into Episcopal faith and life. In 2013, Mother Melissa was elected bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster, the cathedral located in Vancouver, BC. She is now resident again in Seattle and was just approved as our Provisional Bishop, beginning in late December. Prior to her election she was rector at St. Paul's Seattle and was instrumental in welcoming Fr. Torvend as a priest of our diocese. There will be a lovely reception after the liturgy in Wells Hall. And what a great time to celebrate Ann and David with good greetings and cards!

### 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.



The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton presides and preaches on Sunday, December 11.

# Adult Formation

**Saturday, December 3,  
Advent Quiet Morning,  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon**

**The Rev. Jen Rude**

**Nature as Advent Mentor**

With a spirit of curiosity, openness and learning from ancient wisdom, we'll engage some of the elements of *biomimicry* as spiritual practices for more deeply reflecting on and entering into the season of Advent and its themes of waiting, watchfulness, preparation, and hope.



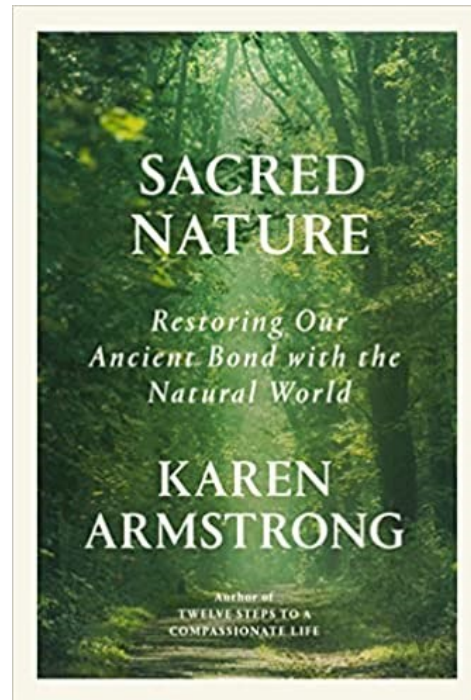
**Sunday, December 4  
Meeting an Adult Christ at Christmas  
12 Noon in the Parish Library**

Given the sentimentality that easily obscures the deeper meaning of the Christmas Mystery, we'll spend time as *thoughtful adults* considering what the distinguished biblical scholar, Raymond Brown, refers to as the adult Jesus we encounter at Christmas. Get ready for a few surprises!

**Monthly Reading Group**

**Sunday, December 4 at 6:30pm**

Meet at the home of Deb Hammond to discuss *Sacred Nature: Restoring our Ancient Bond with the Natural World* by Karen Armstrong. Newcomers are welcome! Questions? Contact Don Johnson.



**Looking Ahead to January 2023  
Anglican Spirituality in the Pacific  
Northwest**





# A Season of Light

## **Sunday, November 27**

Advent Lessons and Carols at 4:30 pm in the church

## **Saturday, December 3**

Advent Quiet Morning with the Rev. Jen Rude  
Nature as Advent Mentor, 10 am-12 noon in the church

## **Sunday, December 11**

Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am in the church  
Bishop Melissa Skelton, preacher

## **Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

Holy Eucharist at 4:00 pm  
Carols and anthems with the choir at 9:00 pm  
Festive Holy Eucharist at 9:30 pm

## **Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day**

Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am in the church

## **Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus**

Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am in the church  
The Rev. Catharine Reid, preacher

*For the full schedule of Sunday services go to:*  
***[christchurchtacoma.org](http://christchurchtacoma.org)***

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

Christ Church Parish | 310 North K St | Tacoma, WA 98403  
[info@christchurchtacoma.org](mailto:info@christchurchtacoma.org) | 253.383.1569

## The Little Pantry

Interesting: The Spanish phrase for Thanksgiving is “Acción de Gracias,” —the “Action of Thanks.” Well, not too much different from “Thanks Giving,”—the giving of thanks. The Spanish phrase contributes the idea of Action. Doing something about it. It is so human to be thankful for what we have, isn’t it? But isn’t it also human to give thanks that we are not alone and dependent on others and care about others?

There’s the Little Pantry for you. A place to act out caring about others. How thankful we are for what we have and for what we can share. Happy Action of Thanks to you.



## Hot Chili for the Veterans’ Village



Christ Church members provided another meal for the Veterans’ Village at 84<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Street on Monday November 28. This was the fourth month in a row Christ Church has had the opportunity to bring the evening dinner to the 35 residents of the village. The November meal’s menu was chili, cornbread, apples and oranges, and home baked chocolate chip cookies, grated cheese, sour cream, chopped green onions, and hot sauce were also provided to top the chili as desired.

As the saying goes “it takes a village” to get things done, putting on these dinners involves quite a few members of our parish to address planning and coordination,

Linda Johnson amidst cookies and cornbread



# Service

provisioning, cooking and baking, delivery, and serving. For the November meal much thanks goes to **Donna and Hector Arellano, Deb Nastaj, Dee and King Schoenfeld, Brianne Knudsen, Sandy and Ronn Johanson, and Linda and Len Johnson.**

If you would like to be involved in providing meals for the Veterans' Village, please watch for announcements regarding future dates we are scheduled or simply mention your interest to **Deacon Donna** or **Len Johnson** of the Community Service Ministry team (CSLT).

~CSLT



Ronn Johanson, ready to serve



The Chili is ready to go!



FOR BELOVEDS SEARCHING TO CONNECT IN  
A TIME WHERE TURMOIL MIGHT GRIP THE SOUL

# GUIDING *Light*

DECEMBER 3RD | 7:00 PM

PHINNEY RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
7500 GREENWOOD AVE N, SEATTLE, WA 98103  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
SHORECREST HIGH SCHOOL AND RESONATE

DECEMBER 4TH | 4:00 PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
310 N K ST, TACOMA, WA 98403  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
AUBURN RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

TICKETS \$20 ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR  
STUDENTS ALWAYS FREE

greater seattle  
**CHORAL**  
consortium



 **WELLSPRING  
ENSEMBLE**  
SEATTLE, WA | EST. 2014



# Community

## Jewelry Ministry

I would like you to tell you something about my history of making jewelry and the inspiration of becoming an Anchorite, because they tend to go hand in hand. I started making jewelry, self-taught, when I was 14. I would go to my favorite stores to look at their jewelry to see how things were actually made. Granted I had no idea why I was doing this but I believe God led me on this journey step by step.

From the beginning, each piece of jewelry was unique and created for a specific individual. The first piece of jewelry I made was a Christmas present for my Mother. It was a constructed art piece that was made solely with copper wire and one huge seed, which she hung in her bathroom: this told me how much she loved it because she herself was an artist. I learned that focusing on the person who would receive the work of art was important.

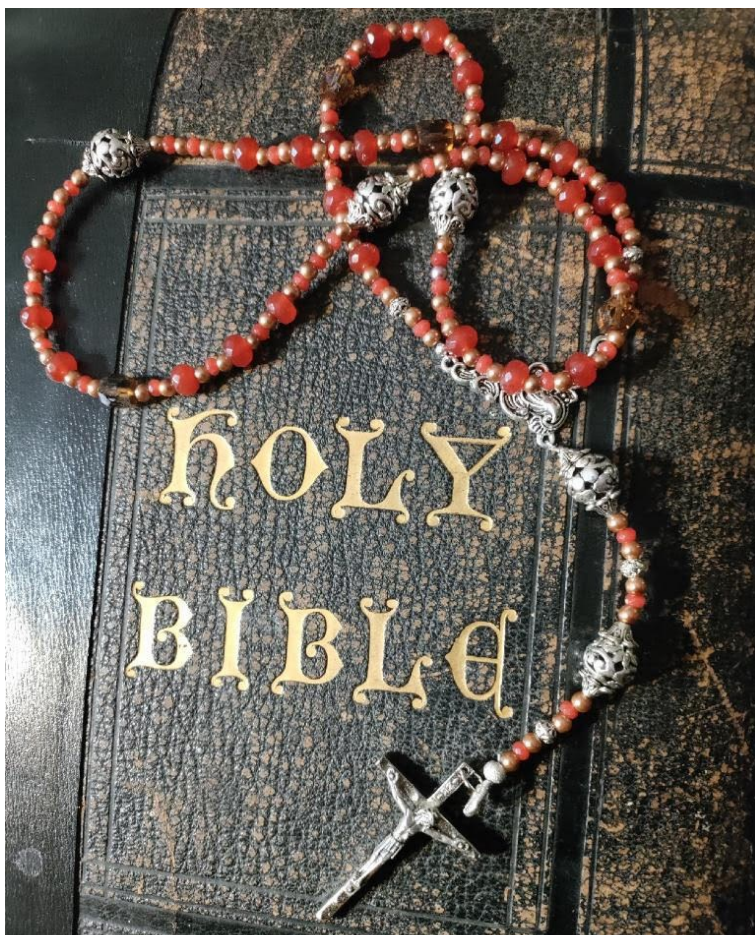
The powerful spiritual experience I received when I became a Christian at age 13 inflamed a yearning for a life of prayer, communion with God, and service to God's people. The jewelry ministry is a calling to create beautiful things, made with prayer. I learn about people in the church who carry heavy responsibilities or are experiencing struggles or celebrations. I may ask them about their favorite colors or types of jewelry. While making the jewelry, I ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit and for healing, strength, and courage for the recipient. Each piece becomes a gift of love.

As an urban anchorite, I spend most of my time at home, praying for people in the parish, in the diocese, and in the world. At

the same time, my being mostly home-bound allows me to focus on creating jewelry: bracelets that can guide one's prayer, rosaries for those who find this form of prayer helpful, necklaces, too.

I feel I have been called to expand this ministry. Working with others to pray and make jewelry together would be wonderful. Hearing from others about people experiencing difficulties or celebrations would allow us to make more gifts of love. You can send me an email: [dianetyler.5570@gmail.com](mailto:dianetyler.5570@gmail.com). Thank you.

~Anchorite Leslie Brooks



Jewelry by Anchorite Leslie Brooks

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](http://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**



## 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.

MOVING  
*forward*  
CHRIST CHURCH TACOMA

**Number of Pledges:** 69  
**Total Amount:** 309,290

# It Came to Pass

Each week we are including another installment 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](#).

## CHAPTER IX

### *O go your way into His gates with Thanksgiving. Psalm 100*

On the evening of July 15, 1926, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Lutrich II found seats in the front of the newly named Christ Church. This was the first business meeting of the consolidated parishes of Trinity and St. Luke’s churches. The Rev. Sydney James, new rector of Christ Church, opened the meeting with a prayer, which his charges were to learn was a favorite with their leader, and one he used to open all vestry meetings:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy Name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Much important business was considered at this meeting, including the building program for a new parish house. By-laws and governing rules for the corporation of Christ Church were read and discussed. The matter of the location for the new church was presented and it was decided to retain the present Trinity church. It was also planned to keep St.

Luke’s open as a mission, holding one service on Sunday afternoon, but that the regular services of Christ Church would begin in old Trinity Church on September 11, 1926.

On that crisp fall morning almost a thousand persons crowded into and about the church for the 11 a.m. service. The altar was resplendent with tawny chrysanthemums, and well polished candelabra. Music was provided by a full vested choir with Mary Ella Cook at the organ. Mary Ella was an excellent church organist and choir director, but along with this work she was secretary for the rector. This morning she appeared diminutive beside the great Rust memorial organ.

Quiet settled over the congregation as its



Rev. Sydney James, new Christ Church Rector, 1926

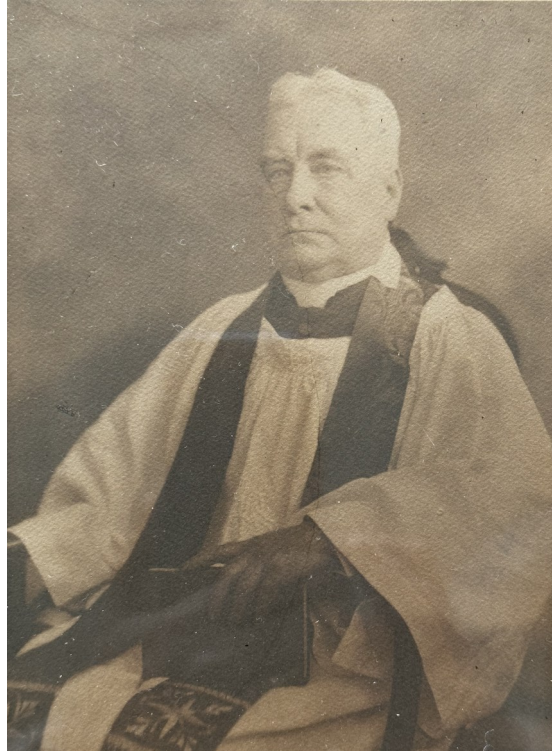


new rector began his sermon on “Purity of Heart.” He said, “The pure in heart shall see God because, in the nature of things, the pure in heart are the only ones who can see God. Only he who sees God really sees God’s world and God’s creation.”

The Reverend Sydney James was an impressive Englishman. He was born in Birmingham, England, December 9, 1884. He came to the United States with his mother and two sisters when a young man. In 1907 he received his B.A. degree from the University of Washington, and in 1910, his B.D. degree at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was ordained a priest by Frederic W. Keator, Bishop of Olympia. Mr. James became rector of All Saints’ Church in Seattle and later that year was made a Lieutenant-Chaplain in the corps of the U. S. Navy. Following World War I he came to Tacoma as Dean of St. Luke’s pro-cathedral, where he served until the amalgamation of Trinity and St. Luke’s.

During the sermon Jane Lutrich noticed the rector was standing much lower in the pulpit than other preachers had. Upon leaving the church, she asked her husband about this, and Johnnie II grinned and said, “I forgot to tell you that Mr. James didn’t like the extra step that had been below the pulpit, and he asked that it be removed. He said he didn’t like to tower so far above the congregation.”

At that moment, an elderly churchman spoke to the Lutriches and Jane said, “Good morning, Mr. Bull. I notice you are carrying your old Bible, as usual.”



The Rt. Rev. Frederic W. Keator, Bishop of Olympia

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“Yes, my dear,” Mr. Olaf Bull, a noted violinist, replied. He opened the Bible and showed Jane the inscription:

Undersvik, village of Djupa, Sweden –  
June 23, 1867.

Given to Olaf Bull on the occasion of his  
confirmation by the rector.

You see, Jane,” he remarked, “that was 59 years ago,” and she answered, earnestly, “We are proud of you and we love your music, Mr. Bull.”

\* \* \*

This first Sunday, a prelude to the productive work done during Mr. James’ rectorate, was a strenuous one. At Christ Church there was a service of Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., and Morning Prayer

## It Came to Pass

er at 11 a.m. A Vesper service was held at St. Luke's at 6 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. there was an organ recital by Mary Ella Cook at Christ Church. It was augmented by a chorus of 60 voices, including such well trained singers as Geraldine McClelland and Joan Worley.

The huge project of building a parish house was, also, underway, and this claimed much of Sydney James' time and energy. He turned the first spadeful of earth for the new structure on August 15, 1926. The architect as A. J. Russell and the contractor was J. E. Bonnel, both Episcopalians. The plans called for a basement floor providing a large gymnasium, cloak rooms, retiring room for men, furnace room and sexton's quarters, locker rooms and shower facilities. The first floor would have an assembly room seating 520 persons and a stage equipped for all sorts of entertainment. The assembly room would be used by the Sunday School with movable partitions

available to form separate rooms for different classes. Also, on the first floor would be administrative offices with the rector's office near the K street entrance. A large kitchen and much storage space would be located at the rear. On the second floor was to be built a banquet room seating 40-50 persons which would be connected by a dumb waiter with the kitchen directly below the first floor. The balcony could be partitioned off to form 12 classrooms for advanced students and a large room was arranged for a kindergarten. Near the dining room was a sewing room and library. Mr. Russell and Mr. Bonnell approximated the cost between \$65,000 and \$70,000.

It seems most important at this point to mention those efficient members of the vestry and church council, who gave freely of their time, experience, finances, labor, and encouragement to complete this magnificent achievement:

The building committee was composed of



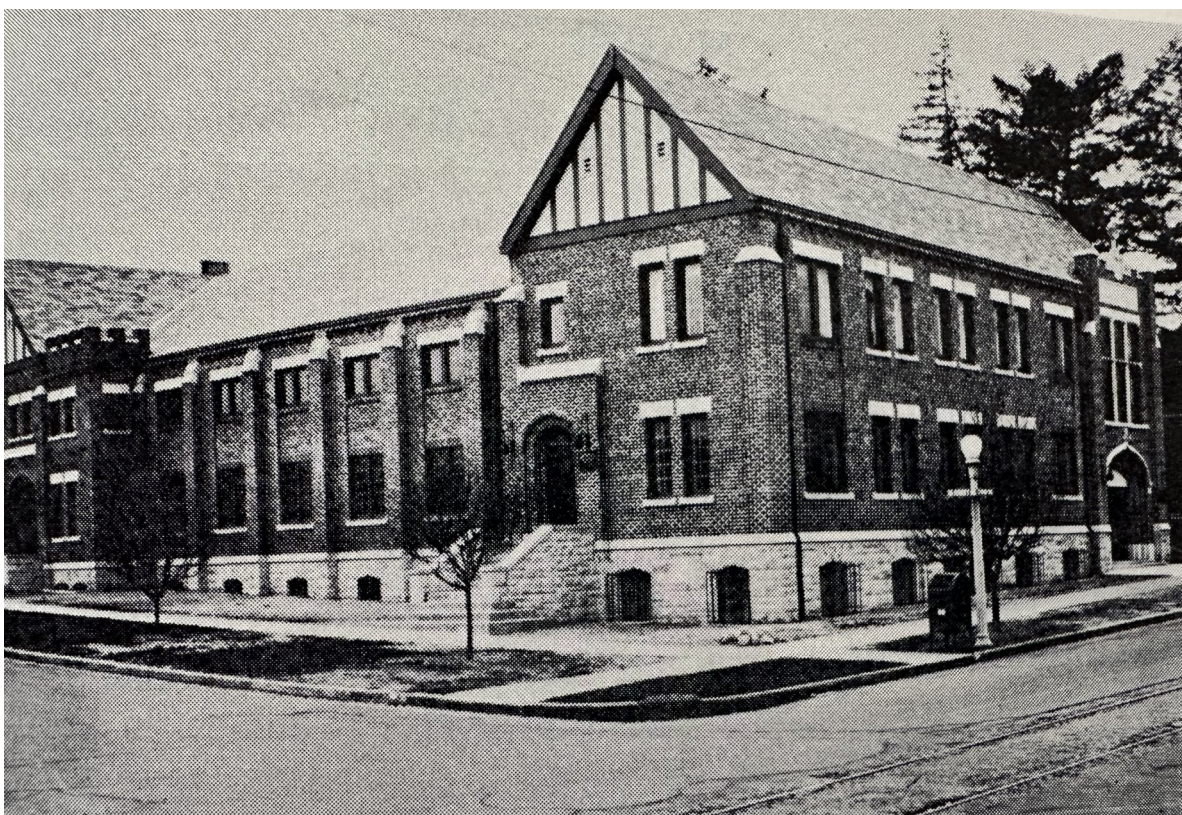


## It Came to Pass

George W. Osgood, chairman; W. Yale Henry, and Charles B. Welch. The vestry and church council included J. G. Newbegin, Captain D. J. Kinzie, George W. Osgood, clerk; Frank S. Roberts, treasurer; George W. Rounds, W. Yale Henry, Charles B. Welch, Judge E. J. Hackett, Lea Bronson, E.P. Snyder, W.E. Turrell, L. A. Nicholson, Roy J. Sharp, George W. Lawler, Paul T. Prentice, J. S. Whitehouse, Frank McCandless, George Gilpin, Almon Fry, George Caesar, Glen Darling, A. D. Willoughby, Lambert Davis, Earnest Greenwood, W. E. Bronson, Alexander Babbit, Ralph Metcalf, Frank S. Baker, and J. M. Keen.

sive Gothic entrance on the north corner above which is cut-stone inscription "WELLS HALL," in honor of Bishop Lemuel Wells. He wrote the vestry thanking them for this "honor conferred upon me in calling the parish house 'Wells Hall' and electing me Rector Emeritus of the new parish."

On the following September 15, 1927, the completion of this imposing building was celebrated with a dinner in its Assembly Hall with Bishop Wells as guest of honor. Also honored were Bishop Huston and Mr. James with his recent bride, the former Eleanor Betts. The affair is memorable, also,



Wells Hall , 1926

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On April 6, 1927, the exterior work on the parish house was finished. It featured a mas-

for the artistic floral decorations, elaborate menu and cordial hospitality, the results of

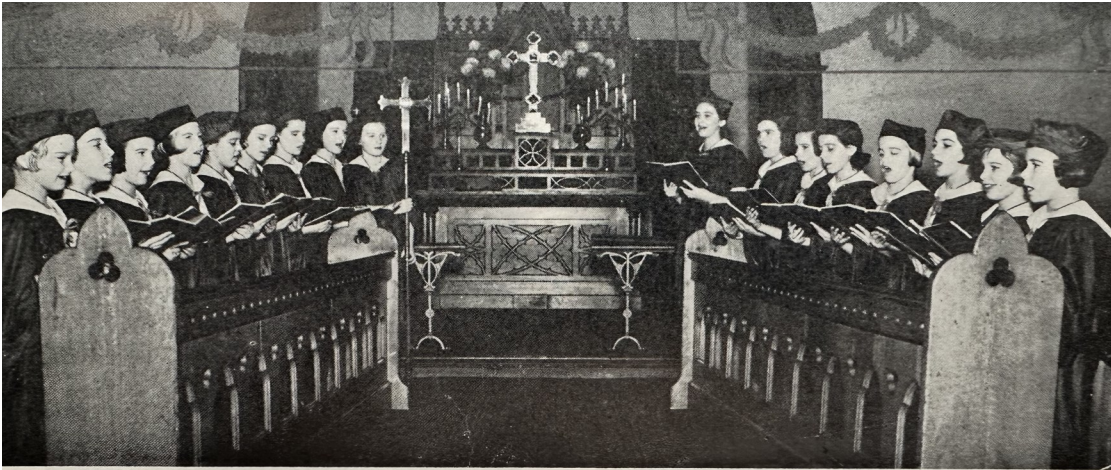


## It Came to Pass

planning by Mrs. John Reed, then president of the Women's Guild and chairman for the occasion.

Before and after completion much complicated business was conducted to promote the financing of Wells Hall. Immediately af-

which an old mortgage of \$4,000 was held by the Charles P. Wright estate. Although this mortgage had been outlawed, Christ Church vestry considered it a moral obligation in the matter. After considerable correspondence with the Wright estate, the



Girls' Choir, Christmas Service, 1931

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ter construction was begun, a drive was started to canvass funds. Tacoma business men, such as Chester Thorne and George Wright, who was Tacoma's mayor in 1904, donated freely. This canvass yielded some \$20,000. During the drive daily luncheons were served by Christ Church guilds at old St. Luke's parish house when reports of various captains for the drive would be given.

On August 19, 1926, arrangements were made by Trinity church vestry to borrow from the Tacoma Savings and Loan Association \$25,000, secured by a mortgage on the church property. As the work of building continued more money was needed and the loan was increased.

In August, 1926, the vestry recommended the sale of the St. Luke's parish house upon

\$18,000, which amount reduced the loan from the Tacoma Savings and Loan Association to \$30,000. This balance was placed with First Mutual Savings Bank on a 6¼% basis for ten years, the principal to be paid at \$150.00 each six months. Finally, the debt was almost liquidated through canvass subscriptions, sale of St. Luke's parish house, sale of St. Luke's property and gifts from estates.

In order to aid in meeting church expenses the guilds and other organizations of Christ Church worked unceasingly. The vestry was now composed of B. A. Berryman, Stephen Young, C. E. Gray, F. A. Latcham, J. G. Newbegin, J. M. Nicholson, Paul Prentice, W. L. Shedd, W. L. Watt. Members of the old vestries worked with the new for the continual



# It Came to Pass

betterment of the parish house as a gathering place and Sunday School.

The women accomplished great things. Mrs. F. E. Lawrence was president of the Altar guild, Mrs. C. W. Mason, president of the Choir guild; Mrs. W. Yale Henry, chairman and treasurer of Gilpin Circle; Mrs. L. F. Rickenbach, president of the Women's guild; Mrs. A. A. Cronemiller, president of the Women's Auxiliary; F. A. Latcham was present of the Men's club; Rinaldo Keasal and Dale Bowman headed the Young People's Fellowship.

The summary of the work done in 1929 was given at the annual parish meeting in Wells Hall. This was one of the largest meetings to be held by Christ Church parishioners. One hundred and forty persons sat down to dinner. The 14 annual reports showed great progress and splendid cooperation. It was as the Reverend Sydney James stated during the evening.

"Life is a flying shuttle, but the pattern grows, the web is wrought. It takes both dark threads and golden to work out God's design. 'All things work together for good to them that love God.' Give God time to put this and that, the dark threads and the bright together, and complete the purpose of His Providence. In this New Year let us think less of our present desire and more concerning the Divine Weaver's design."

During the years ahead such consistently devoted, hard work took its toll of Mr. James' health. Besides his church work, he was an enthusiastic civic and Masonic leader. The family home was at Lake Steilacoom. On the morning of October 13, 1939, he in-

sisted upon driving in from the lake to this office at Christ Church, although he had been ailing. While at his post that morning he suffered a fatal heart attack. His passing was a great loss to Tacoma.

## CHAPTER X

*The Lord is the strength of my life and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him. Psalm 27*

The interim clergyman following the death of Mr. James was the Reverend Leslie Hill. He served Trinity church until the Reverend Robert Pfeiffer was appointed permanent rector. He had been curate of All Saints Church, Pasadena, California, during which time he was active in the youth program of that church. He was one of the younger clergymen and was an impulsive, vigorous leader. He was a native of Wisconsin, educated at the University of Wisconsin and at Harvard, where he received his degree in Divinity. He remained at Christ Church from 1940 til 1944. During this time he continued great work among young people. A large choir of vested girls and boys as directed by Mrs. George W. Duncan with Marian Brush as organist. Young leaders of this time included Frank Price and John Reynolds. Miss Phyllis Stanyon was directress of the Altar guild and Mrs. George W. Osgood was president of the Choir guild. C. Dale Bowman, an outstanding younger churchman was superintendent of the church school and Senior Warden. Dale as confirmed when he was 14 years old and from then on he was a devoted and dependable worker in Christ Church. As a boy he cleaned up after church weddings and later sang in the choir, taught Sun-

## It Came to Pass

day School classes. He was also a long time lay reader. He served in World War I. Like Mr. James, he suffered from a bad heart condition of which his friends were not aware. Dale passed away July 18, 1954. For a time his loss seemed irreparable, so great had his Christian service been to Christ Church.

During Mr. Pfeiffer's rectorate the church was renovated and redecorated. The renovation included extensive roof repairs, reconstruction of the underpinnings, a new floor, new carpeting, new pew cushions, redecorating and modernizing the church proper and narthex and complete overhaul of the organ. This program was under the leadership of the rector assisted by S. L. Simpson, A. E. Graham and Will Connor.

There was much social activity in the parish at this time. St. Margaret's guild provided exceptionally fine pancakes for Shrove Tuesday luncheons, and members of St. Ann's guild, an organization of young women, gave bridge teas and fashion shows. Older groups served church suppers and luncheons, always with the aid of capable Mrs. B. A. Robinson, who for 41 years was treasurer of the Women's guild. To those who knew her she was regarded as one of the saints of the church. Although she worked hard for what money she earned, she was ever ready with her share for her church. She lived in her home a few blocks from Christ Church, rented part of it and did dressmaking. Before Sydney James married, he was her regular boarder and was well cared for by Mrs. Robinson, fondly known as "Mother Robinson." She was also known as the "biscuit lady" and her short-cakes and biscuits were one of the greatest

attractions at all church dinners.

At this time with World War II raging in Europe many of Christ Church young men were called into service. To all who served goes the everlasting gratitude of the whole church for their bravery, courage, accomplishment and sacrifice. In 1941, the Reverend Mr. Pfeiffer requested a leave of absence to become a Chaplain in the Army. This was granted with the blessing of the parish.

The Reverend Dr. Henry M. Eller of Chicago, Illinois, became "locum tenens." He had been on the faculty of Elmhurst College in Chicago and also at the General Theological Seminary. Besides his background in the educational field, Dr. Eller had broad parochial experience. For a number of years he was rector of St. Phillip's parish and the church of the Redeemer, both in Chicago. He obtained his B.A. degree at the University of Nebraska and a M.A. from Harvard. After obtaining a Ph.D degree from the University of Chicago, he taught for three years at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, before he studied for Holy Orders.

He was in his 30s when he came to Tacoma, and when Mr. Pfeiffer wrote that he would continue with his work as Chaplain in the Army as long as he was needed, Dr. Eller was then appointed to be the rector of Christ Church.

At the time of this appointment, a large affair was given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Eller by the vestry, their wives and the Women's Council under the direction of Mrs. A. S. Black, Mrs. Charles Hilton, president of the Altar guild, and Miss Beatrice Turrell, who



## It Came to Pass

presided over the tea tables. She alternated with Mrs. Grace Judson and the presidents of the other guilds. This affair was held on January 13, 1946, and because of the Epiphany season, a traditional cake was served. Three symbols were placed inside the cake: a gold ring for the missionary unity of the church, a thimble for the practical work of various organizations and a coin for the means by which church work is accomplished. Mrs. Harvey Austin received the ring this time, and she was thereby made cake hostess for the coming year.

At this point it is well to report on the work which Mr. and Mrs. Austin have accomplished for Christ Church since 1945 and which continues to the present time. He has been sexton, and she, secretary of the parish for 19 years. It is inconceivable to imagine how the physical plant of Christ Church could have been maintained adequately throughout these years without the services of this dedicated couple.

Mr. Austin came to Tacoma, a veteran of World War I and in 1945 was asked to serve as sexton. Since then he has attended to the needs of the church properties, including the garden and lawn. He keeps the buildings in model condition through his mechanical knowledge and constant hard work. At times one sees him serving, voluntarily, as coffee-maker for coffee hours and church dinners. Each week he transports ladies of the Women's Guilds to their meeting. He is a truly versatile gentleman.

Marie Austin came to Tacoma from her home in South Dakota. She is the daughter

of a clergyman and for many years was a sewing teacher for the Singer Sewing Machine Co. That, in part, accounts for the excellent drapes she had made for the many windows and entrances throughout the entire church buildings – a tremendous task well done. Also, she is responsible for the hundreds of well dressed dolls which attract buyers to the Christmas bazaars.

In 1948 she was asked by Dr. Eller to “help out” in the parish office in an emergency, which “emergency,” Marie states lasted 19 years until her retirement for reasons of health. She is a delightful, gracious, capable, and forever young Marie Austin. At times she still substitutes for the present secretary of the parish, Mrs. Nancy Hilton.

As the end of the year 1949 approached, Dr. Eller accepted a call to be rector of a parish in Brooklyn, New York. A memorial stands for him in the form of the Roll of Honor plaque at the entrance of Christ Church. Dr. Eller provided this for the names of the Christ Church heroes of World War II. Those named are 121 in number and gold stars mark those who made the supreme sacrifice. They are:

Gregor Bronson  
William S. Galbraith  
Thomas Johnson  
Donald J. McNeil  
Richard Names  
Donald Woodring

Note: To bring the work of the Reverend Robert Pfeiffer up to date, according to a recent letter sent by him, he is now (1964) associate rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church in Evanston, Illinois.

# Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma  
The Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 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](http://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

Visit [Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](http://Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar) for weekday Morning Prayer,  
Lectio Divina, and Conversation & Compline Service Schedule

## Christ Episcopal Church

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TO:

