# Christ Church Weekly A newsletter for members and friends

#### A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

he messages are relentless during this season:
"It's the most wonderful time of the year,"
"Have yourself a merry little Christmas," "O'er
the fields we go, laughing all the way." It's as if
one should feel only happy and have warm thoughts
about being with one's family. In many respects, the message of holiday "joy" has become a burdensome law:
"You will embrace the holiday spirit or else!"

But is that so? For a good many people, the holidays - from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve - are simply something to be *endured* rather than embraced. Indeed, it can be a difficult time of the year if one has lost a loved one to death, lost a job, lost a significant relationship; if one is struggling with depression or just plain weary of the gross materialism of the holidays; if one is sick or tired or unemployed or just scraping by.

If you are experiencing little joy or challenged by loss of any kind, then come to church on **Wednesday**, **December 21**, the longest night of the year, for a Holy Eucharist marked by the *comfort* God offers to those of us who just

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#### **Christ Church Parish**



#### Friday, December 9, 2022

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#### **Upcoming Events**

- 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
- Adult Formation: Monastic Ecological Wisdom, January 8
- Secular Book Club, January 13
- Monthly Book Club, January 15

#### **Need Help??**

To add to our prayer list, email the <u>Parish Administrator</u>. 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; 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; those killed in Charlottesville, Moscow, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Chesapeake, Virginia.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** 

Christ Church, Seattle • St. Andrew's, Seattle

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** 

The Anglican Church of Kenya

#### 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 <u>Christchurchtacoma.org</u> to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

Christ Church Calendar

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the <u>Parish Administrator</u>.

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

feel blue or sad about life or the world in which we live. We'll gather at 7:00 PM in Trinity Chapel and listen to readings of solace, celebrate the sacrament of healing, pray together, and receive holy communion: the assurance of God's presence with us through thick and thin. It's okay to be blue ... and in the midst of blue, we find the presence of the One who is with us.

### 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.

#### 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!



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



#### **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 McCarren, 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!

# THICH NHAT HANH MISTISTILING AUTHOR OF PLACE IS EVERY STIP ZEN AND THE ART OF SAVING THE PLANET

#### 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-bereleased 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.

#### 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.



#### **Little Pantry**

**Fight Hunger! Fight Hunger!** How often we see that phrase. And practically every Sunday in church we pray for those who are starving. It is the terrible case all over the world, and there is no excuse for it. We have the capacity to help on the global level and we can reach out to agencies in our city. And at our front door, in our



Little Pantry, we can make a difference. We can indeed Fight Hunger! How about grabbing something from your pantry on Sunday to bring with you to church?



#### CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

### One Way We are Becoming a **Greener** Church

You may have noticed that we have ceased purchasing paper plates and plasticware for use during Coffee Hours and events. Instead of using these disposable items, which just end up adding to the trash, we are now using the church's sup-

ply of regular dishes. We appreciate any and all help with cleanup following events. The church dishwasher takes only three minutes per load, so the work goes quickly. Thank you in advance!

#### From your Profile Committee

The Profile is in the midst of being reviewed by our consultant at the Diocese. We will be sending our 3<sup>rd</sup> draft (after her various suggestions) and hope to hear that it's ready for the

next reviewer (Cannon for Congregational Development) before it gets to the Bishop's review. We know this seems like it's taking an eternity (it does to us, too) and we thank you for your patience. The better our Profile, the more it will result in the best candidates for the Search Committee in the next step.

Vikke Pierson for Anne Avery, Brianne Knudson, Don Johnson, Ron Fields and Sue Stibbe



# A Season & Light

#### 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

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 | 253.383.1569

# 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.

**Coming Soon:** New Directory • If you are new and would like to be included in our new directory, please <u>contact our office</u> to let us know your information. And if you have an address change, please let us know so we can be sure to change our records. We hope to produce the new directory this January.

## Heat for Wells Hall and some random thoughts from your Junior Warden

Advent is a time of waiting and expectation. We have been waiting a long time for heat in Wells Hall. While the "temporary system" is working well except for Tim having to get up so early each Sunday, this is not what we have been waiting for. It is with prayer, as well as fingers and toes crossed, that I anticipate work on our more permanent solution will begin next week. I do not have a completion date because in going over the plan with the project manager, we (the project manager, Christi, Tim, Deborah, and I) came up with a better layout and solution. How quickly the work can be completed will depend on the availability of the units we have decided to use. I will update you when I know more.

Other random thoughts. If we can squeeze it into the budget, we also have a plan to heat the kitchen and the adjacent hallway. When we can do upgrades to the bathrooms in Wells Hall, I am planning for an "in wall" unit in each bathroom so folks will be comfortable when using the facilities. Also, just a reminder that there is a changing station for infants in the "handicapped" bathroom.

Additionally, I have been thinking about how fortunate we are. Amid looking at all the things that need to be done in our physical plant, it is important to count our many blessings.

So, as I journey through Advent and all the expectations of the season, I am looking forward to the day when the Wells Hall heating project has been accomplished. I am also waiting for the day when there is truly "peace on earth."

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. In peace, Your Junior Warden,

~Nancy Gow Knudsen

#### 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

Community

Northwest Repertory Singers opens its 22<sup>nd</sup> season with Illuminations: Holiday Music from the Americas, Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 pm at Tacoma's Christ Episcopal Church. Showcasing composers, texts, or melodies with ties to the Americas, each choral piece is selected by Artistic Director Kyle Haugen to provide tidings of comfort, hope, and inspiration. Highlights include Canadian composer Sarah Quartel's stunning treatment of a medieval English carol, This Endris Night; composer Roland Carter's masterful settings of Mary Had a Baby and Go, Tell It on the Mountain; and the beloved A la Nanita Nana and Fum, Fum, Fum! from Conrad Susa's acclaimed collection of Hispanic carols. NWRS is delighted to introduce local audiences to Seattle author Paul Hoffman's poignant Night of Wonder set to music by Karen Black, and the concert's theme finds special meaning in I Will Light Candles this Christmas, with poetry by American civil rights leader Howard Thurman and music by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen. Haugen will also play a brief Christmas "fantasy" for organ by American composer Emma Lou Diemer. For tickets, please visit www.nwrs.org.



#### Third Friday Concert Friday, December 16 at 12:10pm

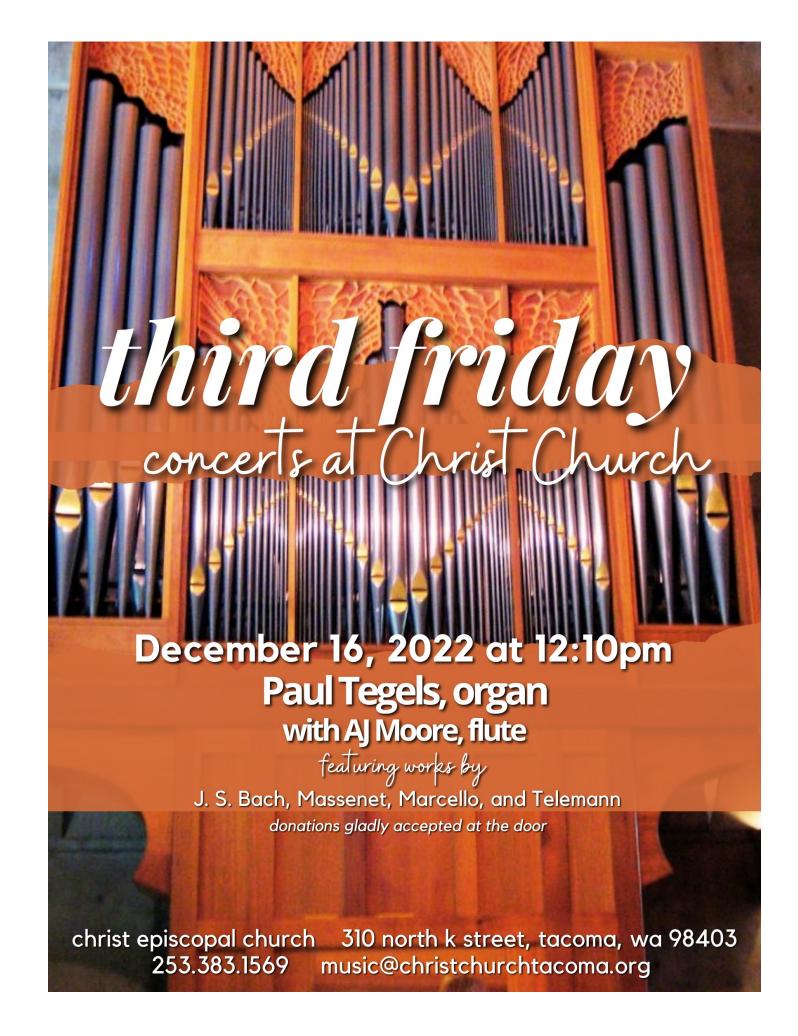
Our next Third Friday concert will be on **Friday, December 16**, and will feature our own Interim Music Director, **Paul Tegels**, along with flutist **AJ Moore**.

Music featured on this concert will be by J. S. Bach, Massenet, Marcello, and Telemann.

Donations for this popular concert will be gratefully accepted at the door.

All are welcome!





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 XI**

I will bring him to honor – Psalm 92

The work of Christ Church during the year following Mr. Eller's resignation was super-

vised by Bishop Huston and Mr. A. L. Puddicombe. Then in 1950 a great crusader for the Episcopal Church became its rector. He was the Reverend Wilbur Charles Woodhams. At the time of his selection he was assistant rector of St. Luke's Church, one of San Francisco's largest congregations. He was born in Palo Alto, California, graduated from Stanford in 1938, and from Harvard Law School in 1941. He became a government attorney in California. In the second World War he was commissioned in the U. he returned briefly to the practice of law. Subsequently, he

decided upon a ministerial profession. He studied at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass., was ordained a deacon by Bishop Block of California, and in January, 1949, he was ordained a priest of the Church.

The enthusiasm, which Mr. Woodhams, his

lovely wife, and children, Margaret, Caroline and Charles, brought, nurtured immediate growth in Christ Church. The Sunday School was given particular attention. Teachers of exceptional ability were chosen, among them the Revered D. B. Kunhardt, Mrs. George Dutcher, Mrs. Warner Matson, Dale Bowman, Mrs. L. S. Schmitt, Mrs. V. E. Crowe, Mrs. H. T. Clay, Mrs. Yager, Mrs. T. C. Breiten, Mrs. Louise Hershey, Mrs. James Braman, Mrs. Wm. Hobart, Miss Jo Marretta, Mrs. Robert Hitch, Mrs. D. B. Kunhardt. The Sunday School attendance increased remarkably.



S. Naval Reserve and when released to inactive duty in 1946, from the collection of Caroline Woodhams.)

During his work throughout adjacent communities, Mr. Woodhams realized the need for a chapel at Browns Point. Shortly thereafter on April 23, 1952, with the Right Reverend Stephen F. Bayne, Jr., Bishop of the Olympia Diocese, present, ground breaking ceremonies for this church were held. In a bulletin of September 14, 1952, it was announced that

on September 21 Holy Communion would be celebrated in the unfinished Chapel of St. Matthew's, Browns Point, at 9:30a.m., followed by breakfast and a work party for all hands. It stated, "Come along and bring gardening and carpentry tools."

For many years this congregation was a parochial mission of Christ Church. Mr. Woodhams and the curate, the Reverend D. B. Kunhardt, conducted all of the services. St. Matthew's has grown steadily and at present is a thriving, beautiful "by the side of the road" church. The present Vicar, the Reverend Mr. William Hunter, and his delightful, capable wife, together with innumerable dedicated churchmen and churchwomen, carry on its work steadily.

A softly toned bell in St. Matthew's tower summons worshippers. This bell was originally given to old St. Luke's Church in Tacoma by Charles B. Wright. It became the property of Christ Church when the parishes of St. Luke's and Trinity amalgamated. It was never used there and has found its suitable place sounding above the waters of Commencement Bay each Sunday.

An anticipated, yearly event of St. Matthew's is the wild blackberry pie dinner. One must get there early. As a young Lutrich boy said, "Come on! All the pie will be gone if we don't start right away."

The wonderful pie is made from berries grown near Browns Point, a charming place on Puget Sound across from Tacoma.

Another project by Mr. Woodhams was the reopening of St. Peter's Church in Old Tacoma. It is the oldest Episcopal Church in this part of Washington, having been started in 1875. George E. Atkinson, superintendent of

a sawmill at that time and a loyal churchman, was largely responsible for the building, since he supplied most of the building material and labor without charge. In 1961, Mr. Woodhams suggested holding an annual service in St. Peter's Church on St. Peter's Day. During the remainder of the year it was used by a Bible Community School, directed by Reverend Carlisle Shafer.

Three years later it was decided to redecorate and renovate the old church, and erect a new bell tower for the bell which had come from Philadelphia in 1876. Thereafter, this historic landmark was used for Sunday Evensong conducted by various Episcopal clergy throughout the Tacoma locality. Colonel D. C. Andrus, USA, retired, was appointed lay reader.

Mr. W. Yale Henry, an ardent supporter of the reopening of St. Peter's, received the Bishop's cross from Bishop Bayne for this work. Among other things, Mr. Henry procured a cedar log which was imbedded with 12 feet of concrete to replace the decayed cedar stump that was the foundation of the original ivy-covered bell tower of old St. Peter's Church.

As Christ Church continued to grow under Mr. Woodhams' leadership plans gradually formed in his mind and in those of the vestry and parishioners with regard to new features which would enhance the spiritual value of Christ Church. At one point a new church building was suggested – that old Christ Church should be torn down. To many this seemed almost wicked. As expressed by a most ardent and loyal, aging churchwoman, Mrs. Grace Judson, who had worked with others to bring about their much loved present structure, "Christ Church will be torn down over my dead body."

The church remained upright, but other great changes, at large expense were consummated. Trinity House was built. This structure is a wing connecting Wells' Hall and the church. It is designed in traditional English style. The ground for Trinity House was broken on November 21, 1956. Thanksgiving Day, and on May 21, 1957, Whitsunday, the whole parish was invited by Mr.

life which lies at the center of our parish. The main living room with its library and cozy fireplace, will be dedicated in memory of the Reverend Sydney James, the first rector of Christ Church."

The structure also includes a chapel, columbarium, meeting rooms, offices, classrooms and a most attractive Sacristy.



The Rev. Wilbur Charles Woodhams and family, in a Christ Church Celebration of Rev. Woodhams' first five years here. (Photo from the collection of Caroline Woodhams.)

Woodhams to the dedication of the new building. In his parish letter of that date the rector explained that Trinity House was called this by the vestry to commemorate the merger of St. Luke's and Trinity Churches to form Christ Church. It was to be a "house" rather than a "hall." He wrote, "The rooms are living rooms for the daily

At no time during Mr. Woodhams' work of overseeing the construction of Trinity House did he falter in his other church duties. One becomes almost exhausted reading his parish letters reporting accomplished work, as for instance, his report of May 21, 1957:

"A forthcoming dedication of Trinity House on June, 1957: Bishop Bayne arrives for his annual visitation and will confirm 50 adults, and later a large class of children: the Diocesan convention, just over, was a little change, good for us all, and from all reports of our lay readers, Percy F. Stevens, J. Norris Pearson, and Richard E. S. Adams, did a magnificent job. Our thanks to them."

An announcement followed that family services would continue through the summer months, and the rector advised men interested in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and its work of reaching men and boys for Christ that it would have as its director, Mr. Donald McKay. It was then announced that on June 3, the Brotherhood would convene at the Woodhams' summer home on Rocky Bay, as would the Mr. and Mrs. Club on June 8, and the members of St. Ann's guild with their husbands on June 21. These outings would be followed by picnics and later dates for the Young People's Fellowship and the Junior choir. Mr. and Mrs. Woodhams were busy!

Still the bulletin continued with a report of work done for the Charles Wright Academy and Annie Wright Seminary. The splendid accomplishments of the Sunday School teachers were noted with special thanks being given to Miss Helen Porter, Mrs. Leone Cummins and Miss Lucy McAfee.

Later the rector's work was enlarged when he became chairman of the Department of College Work of the Diocese. He also became chaplain for Episcopal students at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.

During Mr. Woodhams' 11-year rectorate in Christ Church his ability and Christian leadership were noted by the Right Reverend Stephen Fielding Bayne, Jr., Executive Officer of the World Wide Anglican Communion and Bishop in charge of American congrega-Europe. He appointed in Woodhams rector of St. Paul's American Church in Rome, Italy. This historic, beautiful Episcopal Church, a national monument of the Italian government is known also as St. Paul's-Within-the-Walls. It is believed to be built on the spot where St. Paul met his death. It serves the entire non-Roman Catholic American community. "It Woodhams' words, is the only Protestant church within the walls of ancient Rome and is the standard bearer of all the best that the Anglican Communion has to offer in this confused world."

Many of Mr. Woodhams' former Christ Church parishioners have seen this magnificent church. Among them are Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Finnigan, Libby Finnigan, Mrs. George Stickney, Mrs. Thomas Murray, Jr., Mrs. Frederick Haines, Sr., Gwendolen and Isabel Jones, and Mrs. E. W. Hilton (Leah) who attended a service there in the summer of 1963. She says, "As we walked toward the church entrance, there was Mr. Woodhams cordially welcoming all worshippers into the church. I will never forget how inspiring it was to hear our dear Christ Church friend preach from the pulpit of this grand church. It was nearly filled and I realized that almost all of the congregation was composed of tourists."

Tacoma remembers the concrete achievements which mark the Reverend Wilber Woodhams' rectorate here, but he also left an everlasting, spiritual memorial for his kindness to those in sorrow, sickness, and need. One learns that when the revered General William Daugherty was stricken with his first heart attack, and was not ex-

pected to survive, he did, because, as the General told friends, "Bill Woodhams helped save my life." He would tell that the rector sat with him hour after hour, encouraged him to live, prayed with him, cheered him and made him live. Then, there is a report by a nurse who said that not a week passed without Mr. Woodhams calling on the hospital sick, and in one case he sat up all night with a patient's mother until a crisis passed.

Mr. Woodhams' secretary of seven years, Mrs. Donald McKay (Muriel), said, "Any hour of the day or night Mr. Woodhams was available to those who suffered. I believe his credo is the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of First Corinthians, so great is his love for men and so great is his contempt for hypocrisy – you know, 'Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal'."

To the great pleasure of the people of Christ Church, Mr. Woodhams and family visited them this summer of 1964, and he preached at the 11 a.m. service on June 5<sup>th</sup>. His graying hair enhances his attractive appearance and his delivery is as gratifying as always to young and old. He spoke on the unity through study of the Gospels which must, eventually but not suddenly, come between Protestant and Roman Catholic faiths. He said to know Jesus Christ one must know God and that the Gospels afford personal knowledge of God. He added that there is no boredom in working for God.

Lay readers, who had served with Mr. Woodhams during his Christ Church rectorate, Mr. Percy Stevens, Mr. Richard E. S. Adams, Mr. Herrick Allen, Mr. Warner Mattson, and Mr. Donald McKay, sat in the

first row and several in the choir had sung for his previous services.

This morning, the anthem, "Be Merciful Unto Me," was sung, and, finally the congregation joined in the recessional hymn, a favorite of Mr. Woodhams, "Faith of Our Fathers."

Johnnie Lutrich III helped his aged father from the church and said, "Dad, do you want to go over to Wells Hall for a cup of coffee and to speak to Mr. Woodhams?"

"I certainly do," the old parishioner replied, adding, "and I want to shake the hand of this man to whom the Lord has brought honor."

#### **CHAPTER XII**

O God, my heart is ready. I will sing and give praise with the best member that I have – Psalm 108

Since that first Sunday service in Trinity Church, December 8, 1889, when under the direction of Mr. L. D. Darling, the choir of 20 singers furnished music, it has been important in the life of Christ Church, a parish in one of the 102 dioceses and missionary districts of the American Episcopal Church.

Great directors, singers and organists have served, among them: Harry Hanlin, Fannie Dailey, Keith Middleton, William Gibbons, Charles Sherman, Ralph Cunningham, Mr. Chapin, Mary Ella Cook, Alice McClelland, John Lyons, Carl Weiss, Glen Darling, Emily Coleman, Grace Clark Kahler, May McCormick, Charles Hilton, Clayton Johnson, George Childs, the McConahy boys, Mrs.

Frank Allyn, Mrs. B. B. Broomell, Mrs. Monroe Smith, Richard, Morgan, and Marian Rowland, Mr. Frank Grube, Mr. John Jones, and many others.

The last two named above are well remembered not only for their musicianship but for the fun they brought to the choir members of their day. Mr. Jones, one of the greatest bassos who ever left Wales, was a recognized practical joker. Whenever a new young member of the choir showed signs of a cold which threatened absence from practice, Mr. Johns presented him with a pink, peppery tablet. The efficacy of this was immediately evident. It nearly removed the top of the patient's head, at the same time curing any evidence of a cold, and certainly, warning the neophyte to never let Mr. Jones learn of any further sniffles.

Mr. Grube entertained his charges a bit differently. After choir practice he crammed all into the few available automobiles and headed for ice cream sodas at Muehlenbruch's popular candy store. After this the ride continued to the Masonic Temple where Mr. Grube would play request numbers on the large pipe organ.

One of the innovations introduced at the time of Mr. Clapham's rectorate into the church musical life was the "Boys' Auxiliary Choir." This was composed of a lively group of youngsters, and in a bulletin of 1900, it is stated, "The Parish House has recently been fitted with electric lights in all the rooms. This is a great convenience, as we had to depend before upon kerosene lamps, not the safest thing when a number of high spirited boys are frolicking about."

By 1907 the vested boys' choir became a service of widespread note. Mrs. William Clarke

(Frances) became choir mother, and was considered "a most admirable Mother." She performed the arduous task of making vestments for 30 boys at the minimal expense of \$155.87 for the 1907 Easter service.

Mrs. Clarke stands out in the history of Christ Church as one of its greatest workers, in later years acting as historian and news clipper for the church. She was the wife of an English druggist whose shop stood for many years at the corner of North Yakima Avenue and Division, opposite Wright Park. They were the parents of Margaret, Arthur, Ernest and Fred Clarke. This drugstore was a familiar gathering place for Stadium High School students, who promptly named those two graceful, marble statues, which still adorn the entrance to the park, "Annie and Fannie." The three Clarke boys were among those who faithfully pumped the Estey organ which Alice Brooks McClelland played at Trinity Church in the early 1900s. Of them she says, "They were splendid lads and a wonderful help to me and the choir."

Mrs. Clark died December 22, 1959, at the age of 95. She left a substantial bequest to Christ Church. This has been placed in a trust fund, the returns of which will long provide means whereby Mrs. Clarke's interest in her church will be continued.

The Easter service of 1907 was not the only notable one of that year. That of the following Christmas was reported in a bulletin of the church as "Probably the most beautiful service we have ever had in Trinity." A large choir of vested boys joined the regular choir under the direction of Mr. Charles Sherman. The procession extended the entire length of the church. It was headed by the new processional cross, a gift presented to the church by Mrs. James Rawlings (Jennie) and

her brother, Joseph Bell. It was a memorial to their brother, John, "a very fine, lovable, manly boy, formerly a choir boy in St. Paul, Minnesota."

Mr. Grimes, Mr. Anshutz and Mr. James encouraged the boys' choir and during Mr. James' time the lads were paid ten cents apiece for each service and five cents for each rehearsal. Many of these boys remained during Mr. Pfeiffer's years and in 1945, the Easter service at Christ Church was thus reported in the News Tribune, "One of the finest choirs in the city gave a magnificent program with the voices of vested men, women, boys and girls blending together."

This was under the direction of Mary Ella Cook and the choir included: Girls - Barbara Putnam, Gil Conner, Joan Grafton, Patty Boyle, Jane Hagen, Beverly Gayeche, Maxine McLaughlin, Shirley Baker, Nancy Purchase, Joanne Estey, Mary Jane Palmer, Barbara Hite, Beth Hite, Beth Armstrong, Betty Lorenz, Janet Lorenz. Boys - Ted Cornier, Richard Allard, William Harkins, Richard Jones, David Evans, George Heath, Robert Jones, Richard Martin, James Dunn, Hunter Simpson, James Braman, Horton Dennis. Women - Elizabeth Gaylord, Flora Nelson, Mrs. W. T. Coors, Dorothy McEwan, Mary Jane Brooks, Mrs. F. A. Washburn, Mrs. C. V. Hurley, Mary Ella Cook, directress, Mrs. W. A. Monroe, Mrs. E. V. Armstrong, Mrs. T. Held, Miss Phyllis Stanyon, Mrs. Albert Jefford, Mrs. C. W. Mason, Miss Katherine Allard, Miss Molly Jo Duncan, Mrs. R. W. Brooks. Men – Shelby Coates, Dale Bowman, John Stevens, F. A. Latcham, L. R. Bonneville, Charles W. Hilton, William Galbraith, T. H. Palmer. William Simpson was Crucifer and John Moore the Flagbearer.

A change in the choir took place some time after the arrival of Mr. Woodhams. The lead-

ership, upon the retirement of Mr. Frank Evans, was given to Mr. John Cowell in 1954. Mr. Woodhams felt that the new director should appoint the choir members. During this time Mrs. E. Price (Roberts), who for years had been the talented and valuable leading soprano, also tending to the needs of the choir, was entreated to continue her choir work. For a while she was the only adult woman member of the group. However, Mr. Cowell later reinstated many of the previous vocalists, among whom were Persis Shook, Flora Nelsen, Phyllis Stanyon, Barbara and Eleanor Smith, Eleanor Bertram, Harry Aldrich, Dick Dossett, Dick Porter and Dale Bowman.

The choir of 1964 is composed of a group of accomplished musicians. Under the direction of Dr. Charles M. Fisher of the Music Department of the University of Puget Sound, Christ Church presents beautiful, sacred music each Sunday. The members of this choir are: Sopranos – Persis Shook, Joan Falskow, Roberta Price, Elaine Ludtke, Shirley Fisher, Linda Fornia, Penney Porter. Altos – Judy Anderson, Hattie Baum, Leslie Doerner, Marian Fornia, Frances Gardner, Diane Purcell. Tenors – Jim Rusinak, Ken Nelson. Bassos – Dick Porter, Charles Fisher, Jim Kinney, Terry Schuster.

Father Richard C. Tumilty, an ordained priest of the church, is organist, and his assistant is Dan Waddell. Both men are fine church organists, who have the ability to produce from this electric organ the deep but soft, loud but soothing, tones which a church service requires.

The present organ at Christ Church is a memorial to Herbert Stanton Griggs, Jr. This fine instrument is an Allen organ built by the Allen Organ Company of Macungie, Pennsylvania. It was chosen for the church by the Reverend Wilbur Woodhams and Mr. John Cowell. It

was dedicated on June 19, 1960, at an Evensong service, at which the chorus and Mr. Cowell presented selections from Bach, Vierne, Franck, Schubert, Brahms, and Cowell. It is of note that John Cowell is a renowned composer as well as an organist. He has travelled extensively, giving organ concerts throughout Europe and the United States. His work has been acclaimed by music critics. At present, Mr. Cowell is teaching organ in Seattle, Washington, where he is, also, organist at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

It is always desirable to learn, when possible, the present status of anyone belonging to the Christ Church musical family. A look backward into its beginning, and especially into the early as well as the present life of one of its first members is presented here.

In the early '90s there was an abundance of musical talent in Tacoma. The Ladies' Musical Club, with Mrs. Frank Allyn, a member of Trinity Church, as president, was started in 1890. The Orpheus Club, a group of men, began in 1891. Parishioners of the church were and still are members of these organizations which have advanced the cultural atmosphere of the Northwest.

Mr. Clapham was interested in the Orpheus Club and, during his ministry the music of Trinity Church reached a high peak. Much of this was due to a fine Estey organ, sent to the church from Philadelphia. It was one of those soft-toned instruments attuned to church music but it was pumped by hand much as an old fashioned well was manipulated.

In 1901 a shy, sixteen-year-old musician, Alice Brooks, came from Pennsylvania with her sister and widower father to make a home in

Tacoma. Immediately, she continued her work in music with Dr. Mendenhall, organist for the Methodist Church and when the Doctor was called to take a larger position in Chicago, he recommended that Alice fill his place. The girl was unassuming and feared to take the position. She continued her studies with Professor William Gibbons, a great musician. He had been head of organ work in the Royal Conservatory of Music, London, for 17 years, prior to coming to the Northwest because of his wife's health. Mr. Gibbons, at this time organist of Trinity Church, admired his pupil's ability and declared that she would have his music library if he passed away.

Miss Brooks married Lawrence E. McClelland, a young building engineer on March 20, 1905. The bride continued her organ engagements and became organist at the Church of Holy Communion and at old St. Luke's in downtown Tacoma. During this time Mr. Gibbons was offered the position of organist in Christ Church Cathedral at Victoria, B. C. He urged Mrs. McClelland to take his place at Trinity. This she did and she filled the position for the following eight years. She continued studying with William Gibbons, who on alternate weeks made the trip from Victoria to teach Tacoma pupils.

It was on one of these trips that the tragic sinking of the steamship Clallam occurred off the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and all aboard were drowned. Among them was William Gibbons. Alice McClelland was grief stricken but found consolation in the collection of music which the great organist left to her.

And what of Alice Brooks McClelland and her husband in 1964?

To reach their home in the historic town of Steilacoom, founded in 1851, one drives past the Herbert West Memorial Hall on a street paralleling Puget Sound and facing McNeil Island Penitentiary. This Federal institution is where Lionel Schmitt, a lay reader of Christ Church, has for the past four years done exceptionally fine work in helping inmates reconstruct their lives.

The Reverent Gerry Snapp, curate of Christ Church, says of the meeting he attended with Mr. Schmitt at the penitentiary on August 10, 1964, "I was greatly impressed. The atmosphere at the meeting showed the good results that such meetings have produced. The men do much of the planning for the affairs; they are alert, intelligent, clean spoken and interested. It is evident that not one of them would miss a meeting with Lionel, who is a dedicated Christian. The faces of the "guests," show appreciation. It is hard to believe that they are imprisoned for all sorts of federal offenses. A number of them are serving time for dealing in narcotics."

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We have reached the McClelland home, a short distance beyond Salter's Point. This large house was built and its garden planned by Dr. Charles McCutcheon and his wife, ardent members of Trinity Church. Neither of them lived in it, for in the early '90s the Doctor died and his wife's death followed shortly after. Alice McClelland recalls that at the request of each of their respective wills, she played their favorite Chopin nocturne at each funeral.

The McClellands have owned and lived in this delightful place for 42 years. From the gate a rose path lies beneath heaven-bent firs, cedars, madronas and a towering Cedar of Lebanon. Alice and Lawrence McClelland extend a cordial welcome and lead the way into a great livingroom. A fire crackles in the fireplace that covers most of one wall. Lawrence explains that this is made from brick brought from England and used, originally, to build the old Tacoma Tourist Hotel, later remodeled into Stadium High School.

After tea, Mrs. McClelland consents to play a Brahms' number on the electric organ that stands within an alcove of the adjoining library. She has never disregarded her God-given talent. She teaches organ on Sundays plays for services at nearby Western State Hospital.

The beautiful afternoon beckons the guests onto the park-like grounds, hidden from the bay below by great purple colored beechnut trees. These were brought from the Kew Gardens in London in 1890 by the Reverend John Alexander, a curate at Trinity Church and British vice-consul at Tacoma. Time flies and the guests must leave reluctantly.

"Come back soon," Alice McClelland calls, "Come to my party for Christ Church Choir Guild and the Women's Guild in September."

There have been numerous such parties during the years, given by Mrs. McClelland, who was an original member of Trinity Church Choir guild formed in 1907. At present she is directress of this guild.



#### **Daily Office at Christ Church**

- ♦ Monday 9:00am\*
  Morning Prayer
- ♦ Thursday 7:30am\*
  Morning Prayer
- ♦ Saturday 9:00am Morning Prayer
- \*zoom link available at christchurchtacoma.org/calendar

#### **Worship at Christ Church**

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma The Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022: 8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel 10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



Bulletin for 10:30am

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

#### **Christ Episcopal Church**

310 North K Street
Tacoma, Washington 98403

p: 253.383.1569 info@christchurchtacoma.org christchurchtacoma.org PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

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