

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, February 10, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

What great energy!

We packed our newly cleaned and painted Wells Hall last Sunday and what a gathering it was! The energy in the room was palpable. I experienced a pervasive sense of hope, animated by our senior warden's presentation on what has happened among us over the past year. So many good initiatives and so much incredible generosity from Christ Church members and friends now orient us toward a future marked by **hope**.



Wells Hall, just before our Annual Meeting began.

If you have time and have not read the [Annual Report](#) yet, please do so. There you will find initiatives taken by the vestry to secure a strong financial basis that weans us away from dependency on endowments to living within our means. The work to secure various groups as renters of our space - with a steady stream of income - has been and continues to be cared for by our parish administrator, Deborah Breneman. The staff have been and remain eager to receive proposals for new initiatives from members and friends of the parish.

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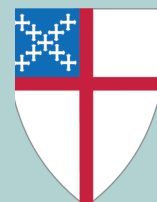
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Upcoming Events

- Repeat Town Hall:2023 Budget
February 13
- New Vestry Orientation
February 15
- Adult Formation, **February 19**
- Monthly Book Club, **February 19**
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper,
February 21
- Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist,
February 22
- First Sunday in Lent,
Holy Eucharist, **February 26**
- Lent Quiet Morning
March 4
- Rector Search Committee
March 5

Click Here to Donate
to *Deck the Halls*
(Wells Hall)



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:

Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Debbie Oakman; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Roby and Marie Dodd; Dick Gregory; Lois Garriott; Bill Garriott; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick, Ginny Peterson; Morrie Stafford; Teena Kidder; and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Ellen Kjesbu; Leilani Ordway; and Jessie Van Vorhis.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Good Shepherd, Federal Way • St. Columba's, Kent

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

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 Tuesdays 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



Worship

Continued from page 1.

Keep in mind that we have only one full-time staff person at the moment, our parish administrator. The rest of us work part-time. And take note: our senior and junior warden - Christi McCarren and Nancy Gow Knudsen - are volunteers yet they work just about every day for the parish: their work ethic is amazing.

As we move into **Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22**, we enter a busy time at Christ Church. Reading *The Weekly*, perusing the parish website, and watching for announcements on the parish bulletin board in the church entry way are easy ways to track all that is going on at Christ Church. And there is a lot going on this coming Spring.

With many thanks for your commitment to the parish and its mission, may this new season in the church's year of grace, bring an even deeper sense of hope.

February is Black History Month

In honor of this month devoted to Black history in the United States, we are presenting Black Episcopalians who are commemorated in our church's calendar.

The commemoration of **Absalom Jones** is February 13. Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read

and did so by reading the New Testament. He was eventually sold to a family who lived in Philadelphia, a city filled with many Quaker abolitionists who opened schools for Blacks. In one of these schools, Absalom enrolled. He was able in time to purchase his freedom.

In 1787, Jones and his friend, Richard Allen, organized the Free African Society, a group of Black Christians who opposed the segregation of Blacks from Whites in worship. In time, this group of Black Philadelphians established a church and applied for membership in



The Rev. Absalom Jones, the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church.

the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. In 1794, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church was received into the diocese. Bishop White ordained Jones as a deacon in 1795 and as a priest in 1802. His ordination made Jones **the first Black priest** in the Episcopal Church.

Jones was committed to his ministry: a ministry inspired by his reading of the Bible in which he recognized the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and Paul's teaching that prohibited Christian ownership of slaves as inspiration to denounce slavery in the United States. His faith led

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Worship and Formation

Continued from page 3.

him into political activism. In time, Jones became known as “the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church” who ministered faithfully to his parish and to the larger society as the movement for the abolition of slavery grew.

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday, February 12

11:45 am in the church

The Worship Committee will meet in the Parish Library after the 10:30 Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, February 22

7:30 pm in the church

**Holy Eucharist with
Distribution of Ashes**

Sunday, February 26

The First Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist at 8:30 and 10:30 am

Weekly Altar Flower Donations

There are still a few Sundays available for flower donations; please sign up in the Narthex. *Please note that due to our arrangement with our florist, we are unable to accept specific floral requests.*



Sunday, February 19

A New Look at the Spiritual Practices of Lent

11:45 am in the Parish Library

Since 1970, major changes have taken place in the practice of Lent: changes that accord with our emphasis on a baptismal and eucharistic spirituality. This is a change from the late medieval view of Lent that survived into the 20th century! Join us as we consider a fresh emphasis that departs from a long period of focusing on one's personal sin.

Sunday, February 19

at 6:30 pm

Monthly Reading Group

Meet at the home of Don and Wanda Johnson to discuss *In the Upper Country: A Novel* by Kai Thomas. Newcomers are welcome! Questions? [Contact Don Johnson.](#)

Saturday, March 4

Lent Quiet Morning

10:00am to 12:00 noon In the church

Come away to this oasis of peaceful reflection, meditation, and prayer as we consider how ancient monastic wisdom informs our distinctive spiritual practices of Lent.

We Need Your Palm Branches

It is our Christ Church practice to bring last year's palms from our homes to church prior to Shrove Tuesday. Kindly bring your palm branches to church and place them in the basket on the glass table in the entryway. They will be burned on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, with their ashes used on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Godly Play, our Children's Formation,

is now every Sunday through mid-June. Meet in the Narthex at 10:30 am to travel to Wells Hall together on Sundays.



Community

Monday, February 13, 7-8 pm
Repeat Town Hall on 2023 Budget and Financial Health (Zoom Meeting)
 Host: Christi McCarren

Wednesday, 15 at 6-7 pm
New Vestry Member Orientation
 (Zoom Meeting)
 Host: Christi McCarren

Sunday, March 5, 12 Noon
Rector Search Committee Orientation
 (Trinity House Library)
 Hosts: Fr. Torvend and Christi McCarren

Lost and Found



We have several items of interest in the Lost and Found—please be sure to check with the Parish Office if you are missing anything. Recent found items include a lovely pearl/hoop earring and a pair of glasses.

Furniture and Appliance Requests: If you just *happen* to have a **mini frig** you don't need any more, we'd love to help you with that! Our current mini frig is on its last legs, literally.



Other items we'd love: A **desk**, to be used as a reception desk in the outer office, a **dining table**, to be used as a conference table, and **chairs to match**. Let us know if you have anything you would like to donate, and thank you!

third friday
 concerts @ Christ Church

Our next Third Friday Concert will be held Friday, February 17, at 12:10 pm, featuring organist Susanna Valleau.

Susanna serves as music director of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Shoreline, where she proudly plays the newly-installed Ortloff organ. She also directs the St. Dunstan's choir and oversees their music program. Susanna is a faculty member of the Seattle Girls' Choir, where she works with the Allegra and Prime Voci Choirs, along with teaching in her private studio and maintaining a busy performing schedule.

Susanna will be performing works by Buxtehude, Bach, Jessica French, Vaughan Williams, and Mendelssohn.



Organist **Susanna Valleau** appears Friday, February 17 at 12:10 pm.

DECK THE HALL

Wells Hall. that is...

We have had a tremendous response to our Wells Hall Improvement project.

As of February 9, 2023, we have donations of \$52,000 and commitments for another \$35,000. That brings us to \$87,000. This allows us to completely remodel all three bathrooms and paint the first and second floors.

Next up is work on the Green Room and Fireplace Room to return them to their former glory. The Fireplace Room will be the most expensive. We need (at the very least) new carpeting as we do not believe the wooden floors underneath are salvageable. Seems someone thought it was a good idea to glue the rug to the wood! Cosmetic wall repair and paint are in order for both rooms. I'm not sure we will have enough funds to do much in the kitchen yet as our bids for the work we are currently doing keep expanding as they find "surprises" at every turn.

Up for consideration: new carpeting on the stairs, new chairs (to replace the shabby ones we use now), stage curtains, and a stair lift to make the second floor of Wells Hall accessible to everyone.

Thanks everyone for the tremendous support and love of Wells Hall. It already feels different! We will continue to take donations to finance as many of these projects as possible.

~Christi McCarren, Senior Warden



From Your New Project Manager

The remodel of the bathrooms is underway! As with any remodel, we have encountered some surprises: galvanized pipes, dubious electrical fixes, and a ceiling air vent that doesn't have a function.

In addition to the bathrooms, the entry way from the Multicare parking lot, the stage, and the doors from the courtyard will also get a refresh. And, I have a new email address:
projectmanager@christchurchtacoma.org.

Please let me know if you have any questions!
~Nancy Gow Knudsen

Following are some snapshots of the demolition work so far.



Alex from Inca Construction,
removing the ground floor ladies
bathroom mirror.



Out with the old...this is the ladies room on the ground floor before they remove flooring.



Ladies Room without the mirror and sink, and now the flooring has been removed.



Your Project Manager, Nancy Gow Knudsen pointing to the new wall studs that were put in to hold new ground floor ladies bathroom pipes.



Second floor bathroom, showing new pipes and the old flooring.

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)

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

February 12, 2023:

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

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

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

[Forward Day by Day](#) | [Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection](#)

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

