

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, January 26, 2024

A Message from Mo. Maria McDowell

Why Christ Church?

Yesterday at one of the weekly coffee gatherings in my office, someone asked, “why did you apply to Christ Church?” With Christ Church, I share a love of music and liturgy, a commitment to outreach, and that the church as a whole is willing to face careful change. Some of the very same things that drew me to Christ Church also concerned me. Parishes that love music and liturgy sometimes forget that these are essential, but partial, aspects of our common life as Christians. So I was curious: what kind of place was Christ Church?

In my interviews, I intentionally asked questions about outreach and community engagement, on the value of liturgical participation rather than performance. I met a search committee that was a delightfully eclectic cross-section of the church. Rather than members who had been central decision-makers for ages, I encountered interesting, quirky, funny, thoughtful, and fascinating folks who expressed so much wisdom about the church. I heard a recognition of the parish’s strengths and weaknesses, what it does well, and where there was a need for greater health and depth. I met a group that wished more people knew about Christ Church’s openness, that it practiced a kind of Christianity where doubt and curiosity, commitment and justice, relationship and care, were not just welcomed, but actively encouraged.

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Upcoming Events

- Coffee with Mo. Maria, Budget Town Hall
January 28
- Veterans’ Village Food Prep
January 29
- Coffee with Mo. Maria
January 31
- Choir Rehearsal, NA Meeting,
February 1
- First Friday: Kids Night Out,
February 2
- ANNUAL MEETING,
February 4
- Choir Rehearsal,
February 6
- Evening Prayer at Table,
February 7
- Monthly Book Chat,
February 8
- EXPLORE 2024,
February 11
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner,
February 13
- Ash Wednesday,
February 14



Christ Church follows guidance published by the CDC, the Washington Dept. of Health, and the Tacoma-Pierce Co. Health Dept. These guidelines may change based on new evidence or new protocols issued by public health authorities. We respect everyone’s ability to make the best decisions for themselves, including when to wear a mask, while honoring our Christian commitment to protect others through our actions. Christ Church will continue to provide face masks and hand sanitizer.

NEED HELP??

To add to our prayer list, email the [Parish Administrator](#) before Friday, or the Rector from Friday through the weekend. 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 [Mo. Maria](#).

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.

Bring comfort and healing to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit: for Michael Curry; Bill Garriott; George Lewis; Al Buck; Mark Morris; Chaundra Pospychala; Carolyn Guppy; Judy Cullen; Sonsaray; Robert Reeves; Robyn Potter; and Dick Gregory.

We commend to your mercy those who have died: All those who have died, especially Kym Nelson, and the many who continue to perish in Gaza, Ukraine, and South Sudan.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
Misa Guadalupe, Renton • St. John's Sudanese, Tukwila

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
The Church of South India (United)

Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma *Weekly* Newsletter

The Rev. Maria McDowell, Rector, The Rev. Samuel Torvend, Associate Priest
Deborah Hope Breneman, Editor/Design and Layout. Photo Credits: King Schoenfeld and Don Johnson.
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.

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Worship and Formation

But the thing that really struck me, and kindled my excitement to come here was something [I mentioned last Sunday](#). Christ Church “sits on the border between a downtown full of arts and education institutions; a comfortably wealthy neighborhood, and one shaped by redlining and racial discrimination; and a growing healthcare complex.” To practice God’s steadfast mercy and love towards all in such a diverse and vital location, with a community that is open to exploring what its future will look like, was an exciting, and challenging draw for me.

I am a curious person who is drawn to seeing and making connections across lines and borders, and as I said on Sunday, I want to get to know this place with you. I hope that over the next months and years, you will join me in learning about this place. ~**Mo. Maria McDowell**

Adult Formation: What I Learned About Us in Canterbury Sunday, January 28 at 12:00 PM

Join Fr. Torvend for **What I Learned about Us in Canterbury**, an illustrated discussion of what we might learn about our spiritual lives in a visit to Canterbury, England, the point of origin for English and Anglican spirituality.

Lent Quiet Morning: Rewilding Lent Saturday, February 17 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The rewilding movement is an ecological strategy that seeks to restore healthy and sustainable ecosystems by returning land to a natural, uncultivated state, and increasing biodiversity through processes like reintroducing keystone species. Rewilding also includes humans leaving things alone,

letting nature guide the way instead of us trying to overly manage it (in fact, mostly us getting out of the way!). Might some of the principles of rewilding invite us to engage the season of Lent and our lives of faith in some new ways? And/or, maybe some old, wild ways? In this Lent Quiet Morning, we’ll listen to the wisdom of the rewilding movement, interact with God’s scriptures of creation and the Bible, and lean into the ways God might be rewilding us.



Join us for
Evening Prayer at Table,
February 7 at 6:00pm
in Wells Hall.

Let us know you’ll be there by
signing up in the Narthex or
[contact the Parish Office.](#)

EXPLORE 2024: For those who want to know more about Episcopal faith and life and for those who are interested in being received into our church, join Mo Maria as we explore the spirituality of this distinctive form of Christianity. For those who seek to be received or confirmed in the Episcopal Church, participation in all five sessions is required (**February 18, 25, March 3, 10, and 17**). Sign up at the glass table in the Narthex.

THE EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION 2024



Dear friends in Christ, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythm of days and seasons, let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us note the year's culmination, the Paschal Triduum, the Three Days of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising, celebrated between the evenings of March 28 and March 30, 2024.

January 6, 2024

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 7, 2024

The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

February 2, 2024

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 13, 2024

Shrove Tuesday

THE PASCHAL CYCLE

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2024

The First Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday | Sunday of the Passion

Lent ends with sunset on Thursday, April 6

THE THREE DAYS: THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday: Institution of the Holy Eucharist

March 29, 2024

Good Friday: Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

March 30, 2024

Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter, the Lord's Passover from Death to Life

**Mark your calendar well for these holy days when the people of God
gather as one to celebrate the great mystery of our salvation**

Service and Community

Budget Town Hall

this Sunday

**January 28 at 12:00 noon
in Wells Hall**

**Learn about the 2024 budget
in this informative session.**

Coffee with Mo. Maria: sessions are still available on Wednesdays at both 10:00am and 4:00pm on January 31, and at 4:00pm on February 21, 28, and March 6. Sign up in the Narthex or contact the Parish Office to join one of these sessions.

If you would like to be an Acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, or Lector, please contact the following: Acolyte Team Lead: Caroline Huckaby, EM Team Lead: Robert Hicker, or Lector Team Lead: Brianne Knudson. Please note that a training session will be offered for all current and new liturgical ministers.

FOB HOPE

FORWARD OPERATING BASE

We will be providing

dinner for the vets living at the Veterans Village/FOB Hope on the 29th. This month we are serving homemade minestrone soup, bread, salad, and desserts. Yumm!!! Once again we hope that we can count on all of you to provide desserts. We have found that cookies, brownies, cupcakes and the like work best (rather than pies or cakes that need to be cut and served). Please bring desserts to church on Sunday and we will deliver them on Monday. Thank you again for your support of this well-deserved ministry. ~Deacon Donna

Group Dinners with Mo. Maria

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex on the table for group dinners with Mo. Maria and Elizabeth. Dates will be confirmed with the Hosts after the list is finalized. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Bertolin.

Annual Meeting Notice

Our 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, February 4, 2024, in Wells Hall.
Luncheon will be served.

The documentary, "A Case for Love," released on Jan 23, is based on Bishop Michael Curry's teachings and writings on unconditional love, and how they can be applied in actual life. For reference, his books The Power of Love: Sermons, Reflections, and Wisdom to Uplift and Inspire and Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times come to mind, as well as his sermon at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

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Community



CHRIST CHURCH GREENING

Have you wondered what to do with those clam shell containers that contain berries, pies, etc.? Happily, they can be recycled at the Tacoma Recycling Center at 3510 S Mullen Street (the street that goes to the dump). This recycling center has numerous bins in which one can put recyclable material, including clam shells. There are also bins for plastic bags, other plastic material, and styrofoam. Unfortunately, wax coated cartons, foil, computers, TVs, etc. are not recyclable.

Since the city is no longer collecting glass, they have set up convenient dumpsters to recycle glass. Below are the locations and what one can recycle at each one. ~**Sandy Johanson**

Central Co-Op	4502 N. Pearl St., Tacoma, WA 98407	7:30AM - 9:00PM; Monday - Sunday	Glass and household batteries
Center at Norpoint	4818 Nassau Ave. NE, Tacoma, WA 98422	7:30AM - 9:00PM; Monday - Sunday	Glass and household batteries
Stewart Heights Park	5715 Reginald Gutierrez Ln., Taco- ma, WA 98404	7:30AM - 9:00PM; Monday - Sunday	Glass, household bat- teries, scrap metal, cardboard
Tacoma Recycle Center	3510 S. Mullen St., Tacoma, WA 98409	8:00AM - 5:30PM; Monday - Sunday	Glass, household bat- teries, scrap metal, plastics, cardboard, paper, and much more!



Community

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The movie starts by acknowledging the divisiveness and lack of love prevalent in our society today. But it then makes the case for love – that love does exist in our society, and that practicing love, God’s Love, is the path towards unity.

A CASE FOR LOVE

It does this by interviewing everyday people, and also some well-known people including Bishop Curry. And by highlighting the lives of those who have acted with extreme love, showing what is possible. Bishop Curry says that “we should do the greatest good that we can do in any situation.” One interviewee said, “Wherever you go, leave love behind when you leave” by doing small and large acts of kindness.

Recognize that rather than an emotion, that love is a choice. So, at the end of the movie, Bishop Curry challenges each one of us to practice love consciously for the next 30 days. I think this is a challenge worth putting our hearts into. Who’s with me, and Bishop Curry? ~**Deacon Donna**

JOIN US FOR SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKES / COFFEE /
HOT CHOCOLATE

Wells Hall

February 13, 2024
5:00pm – 8:00pm

The last day of the Season after the Epiphany is known as Fat Tuesday, or *Mardi Gras* in French. In the The Episcopal Church, we refer to this day as Shrove Tuesday—the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday—so named from the “shriving,” i.e., confession and absolution of the faithful that day.

Every season of fasting (Lent) should be preceded by a feast, so come join us for Pancakes!

DONATIONS
GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED

The Blessing of Our New Birdbath took place last Sunday, January 21, 2024. Visit the Courtyard to see it in place.

Below: **Mo. Maria** and **Deacon Donna** blessed our new birdbath, which has been installed by the Greening Parish Team in honor of **Fr. Samuel Torvend**.
Photo: King Schoenfeld.



The Daily Office at Christ Church

◇ Monday 9:00am*
Morning Prayer

◇ Tuesday 7:30am*
Lectio Divina

◇ Thursday 7:30am*
Morning Prayer

***zoom link available at
christchurchtacoma.org/**

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

January 28, 2024

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church

Bulletins

Visit [Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar](https://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

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



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

