

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Parish Visitor

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ORDINARY PEOPLE ✦ EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT

Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Yes, Merry Christmas. No, this isn't my December note to all of you that somehow found its way into the January newsletter. This is my reminder to myself that Christmas is a season of the church year, not just one single day set aside for gift giving on the 25th of December. The Christmas Carol "Twelve Days of Christmas" reminds us of the fact that the season of Christmas lasts for twelve days and that our celebration of Christmas extends beyond the night that Santa slides down our chimneys depositing a pile of gifts to be ravaged on Christmas morning.



So, the question we might ask ourselves as Christians is this: How do I (we) plan to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child from the 26th of December until the 6th of January when the Epiphany begins?

At this time of year, I often hear disgruntled Christians bemoaning the fact that Jesus has gotten lost in all the hoopla of Santa and gift giving. The fact of the matter is, however, that Santa only gets one evening and morning of our attention during the Christmas season. That leaves the other eleven and a half days for us to focus on the birth of Jesus Christ and the mystery of the Incarnation.

This Christmas, I plan to make the celebration last for twelve days, not just one day. One of the cliches that popular at this time of the year is, "Jesus is the reason for the season". So, let's remind ourselves that He is the reason for this season. Let us also remember that His season is not just for a day, but for the entire twelve days of Christmas.

God bless,

Father Frank

Reverend Mpho Tutu to lead Christ Church Lenten Retreat

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The **Parish Visitor** is a monthly print publication of Christ Episcopal Church East Norwalk, Connecticut. The **Parish Visitor** is intended to inform and inspire us to live the Baptismal Covenant.



photo from www.smh.com.au

The Reverend Mpho Tutu, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will visit **Christ Church, Norwalk on Saturday, February 27, 2010**, to lead the members of the parish in a Lenten spiritual day. Details concerning Mpho's visit will be published in the **February Visitor**.



Music Notes from the Organist

The choir will be singing anthems suitable for the Epiphany season during the month of January. Some of the scheduled anthems are, The Light Still Shines, by Natalie Sleeth; Gloria Patri, by Palestrina; and Blessed Is The Man, a contemporary piece by Jane Marshall. I would like to thank all of the people that helped make the music so meaningful this past Christmas Season. Special thanks to the Choir and our very fine young soloists.

Betty Belcher

Annual Parish Meeting

The Christ Church Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the sanctuary **following the 10:00 a.m. worship on January 31, 2010.** The purpose of the annual meeting is manifold. First, we will receive the reports from the various parish committees and organizations for their work in 2009. We will also receive a treasurer's report and project budget for 2010. The Annual Meeting is also the venue for the election of Vestry Members and Officers who will guide the parish during the coming year. The Annual Parish Meeting is also a wonderful opportunity for members of the congregation to share their input and ideas with the leadership of the church as they plan activities for the year ahead. **Please plan to attend!**



Christian Formation Classes Begin

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Confirmation classes will begin at 6:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 12, 2010**, in the Guild Room. Fr. Frank will work with the young people of Christ Church in the 7th grade or higher who wish to be confirmed. **The classes will meet on consecutive Tuesday evenings.**

The order of confirmation began in the early church out of necessity. Prior to confirmation, bishops of the church conducted all the baptisms. However, the church grew so rapidly that it was impossible for bishops to baptize everyone. The bishops, therefore, permitted the priests to baptize new converts to the faith.

Later, when the bishops visited the congregations, they "confirmed" what the priests had done.

INQUIRER'S CLASS: Inquirer's Class is an opportunity for adults who attend Christ Church to learn more about the Episcopal Church. Adults interested in a short course in the Episcopal Church are asked to contact Fr. Frank. All adults who complete the Inquirer's classes may be confirmed or received by the bishop into the Episcopal Church if they so choose.

