



Christ Episcopal Church

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*The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to...Love the unlovable; Help the helpless; Inspire the discouraged;
Be a family to those who have none; Be the right hand of God in the world.*

Father Jim's Journal:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

What are we giving up for Advent? Now that's a strange question! Wouldn't you expect me to save that for Lent? But I say it to us (myself included) in all earnestness: What are you and I giving up for Advent?

The Season of Advent (those weeks which include the four Sundays before Christmas) used to be considered a penitential season. Actually, Advent was originally an outgrowth of Lent whereby catechumens prepared to be baptized during the Christmas Season (particularly on the Feast of the Epiphany/Baptism of Christ). Due to a number of circumstances, Advent began to mirror Lent in its pre-Easter penitential aspect, and thus became a time of austere preparation for the great Feast of Christmas. (I remember from my Polish Roman Catholic background that there were to be no pre-Christmas celebrations, and that the day before Christmas—December 24th—was to be a day of partial abstinence from eating meat.)

Nowadays Advent is rarely mentioned in popular conversations. For many of us the Christmas Season is already in "full bloom" with an assortment of parties, decorations, Christmas cards, and gifts under the Christmas tree. Not all of this is

bad; however, when we forget WHO we're celebrating at Christmas, i.e., Jesus Christ, all the holiday festivities may end up becoming a "quick fix" for WHOM we're really longing. In all of our holiday preparations and celebrations, I question whether we are properly preparing spiritually for Jesus Christ and his Second Coming.

If Jesus were to come again in glory tomorrow, would you or I do anything different from what we're doing now? (Someone at our Thursday morning Bible study said "No!" to that question. But most of us felt that we would act a lot differently if we knew that Jesus were coming very soon!) I think that one of the reasons we wouldn't want Jesus to come in glory soon, is that we don't want to give up the **power** we have over ourselves and our lives (and the lives of others as well!).

Aren't many of our arguments in church or at home about power? Are we jealous of the power, authority and/or money that our loved one, relative, neighbor, fellow parishioner or coworker has? And when we can't have that power, how do we deal with our lack? Do we act out, or do we do something positive and thank God for our blessings?

As some of you already know, my church office is in a

shambles—and it has been, for quite a while! I can't blame that totally on the fact that I have been recently diagnosed with adult A.D.D. (attention-deficit disorder), since the medication I'm taking has greatly improved my ability to focus. However, I think there's a complacent attitude behind this messy-ness. In my heart, I'm not thinking enough about Jesus' power over my life. I'm thinking about "my office" and the priestly things that I need to do, and not enough about the fact that it really is "God's office" that I'm being allowed to use for the sake of HIS Kingdom. In my sermon a couple of weeks ago, I mentioned that my office would be neat and orderly by December 25th (and if it isn't, I'm sure that my wife Sandy and a few of you will come in with big garbage bags on December 24th to help me!). The reason for this re-focus is a model for me—and hopefully for all of you as well—to live as if our world (and every aspect of it) belonged to Jesus. So, in the midst of my process of "cleaning house" (or office), I am looking at the prospect of giving up some of the power I have, and turning it over to Jesus Christ.

This Advent, here's what I'd like us to give up: a desire to be in complete control of our lives and the lives of others. I would like us to give up being in control, and let

Jesus our Savior take fuller charge of our lives. This is easier said than done, but I hope that with the power of the Holy Spirit (who empowered the Apostles to preach boldly at Pentecost), we will be able to succeed with this. With Jesus in fuller charge of our lives, you and I will not only be better persons; our families, schools, places of work, neighborhoods—and yes, even our church!—will be improved as well!

Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to you and yours!

In Jesus, the “Reason for the Season,”

Jim+

OUTREACH:

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

In December, the SCCM is asking for canned fruit. In January, they need peanut butter.

SCCM HELPER

December: Sally Aycock

January: Sandy Bernacki

FROM GOD’S WORD...

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

—Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)

STANLY MANOR NEEDS

Sugar-free items	Kleenex
Canned Drinks	Crackers
Cookies	Lotion
Manicure Supplies	Powder
Body Wash	Jewelry
What-nots	Perfume
V-8 Juice	

You may bring take these items to Stanly Manor on Bethany Rd. in Albemarle. Thanks for your help!

Thank You to Christ Church

Christ Church collected \$231.01 for Thompson’s Child & Family Focus! And, we collected \$107 for the United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in fulfilling Jesus’ call of the Great Commission to reach out to the all world!

Environmental Committee

The ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE is pleased to note that the newly placed Wal-Mart bin is being used and that Craig Kennedy took the contents of all three bins to Norwood on Dec. 8th to add \$90 more to our “bottom line” which is now **\$1,404.37**. With the Vestry’s approval, a check for \$280 will be sent to SCCM [Stanly Community Christian Ministries] or other local charity. Many thanks go to Linda Burris and Beth Chivington for taking and selling three loads of cans to Norwood. Craig Kennedy also had new chains welded to the Delco Plaza bin for easier hauling. We need another volunteer or two with a 2” hitch to take the bin to Norwood for selling. They will go through the bags, so we no longer have to sort them. Please call Sally Aycock (704) 986-6669 or Linda Burris (704) 982-1323 to volunteer. The bin must be in Norwood by 4:00 pm.

--Submitted by Sally Aycock

♥ SPECIAL THANKS ♥

Thanks to everyone who donated non-perishables to the SCCM on November 5. We had 145 lbs. of food that Sunday!

GUEST SPEAKER IN JANUARY

Thur., Jan. 18, at 7 pm, in the Parish Hall, Mr. Kamal Faiz, a Fulbright Scholar & instructor of Arabic Language at Pfeiffer Univ., will speak to us about Islam and the Middle Eastern culture. All are encouraged to attend.

DECEMBER

Mondays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18

6:30 pm *Living The Adventure Study*

Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26

6:30 pm *Evening Prayer-Upstairs*

7 pm *Narcotics Anonymous*

Wed., Dec. 6, 13, 20, & 27

6:30 pm *Holy Eucharist in church*

7:15 pm *Choir Rehearsal (not 27th)*

Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28

6:30 am *HE, Brkfst, & Bible Study,*

12 Noon *Narcotics Anonymous*

Fridays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

6:30 pm *Narcotics Anonymous*

Sun., Dec. 3, Annual Meeting Day,

Sun., Dec. 10 *Deadline to sign up for food /work Christmas Day Meal*

Sat., Dec. 16 *9 am Garland Making at Aubrey & Jane Almond’s home*

Sun., Dec. 17 Hanging of the Greens & Hot Dog Brunch

Loose Plate to Rector’s

Discretionary, Deadline for

Gifts & Donations for the Needy

Families for Christmas, 3 pm ECW

to wrap gifts for Needy Families,

Deadline for names for Christmas

Flowers listing in memory/in honor

in Christmas bulletins, Deadline for

donations for staff’s Christmas gifts

Fri., Dec. 22 Church Office Closed

Sun., Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

5 pm & 11 pm Services--with music

at 10:30 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 25, Christmas Day,

9 am Service, 11 am-2 pm

Community Christmas Dinner at

First Presbyterian Church

Mon.-Tue., Dec. 25 & 26

Church Office Closed in Observance

of Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Tue.-Sat., Dec. 26-30 Fr. Jim away

Sun., Dec. 31 5 pm Service



We Wish To Thank

Special thanks to November newsletter workers:

Sandy Bernacki

Shelia Chase

Sally Aycock

PRAYER CONCERNS

Parish Intercessions

Praying for the presence and action of God's holy and healing spirit is a vital part of the Christian community's work. On Sunday morning during the intercessory prayers, we will be praying for those who have come to our attention during the week. The updated list will be available in the Sunday bulletin in order that individuals may be remembered in private prayer. We are praying for:

Those with pressing needs:

Teresa Anderson (per Kay Jennings); Heather; Rae Bernacki (per Sandy Bernacki); Father Bob Egenscheller (friend of Fr. Abuid Sam); Jill Bailey (niece of James & Alice Lewis); Patty (a police officer in Buffalo, NY who is a friend of Sandy Bernacki's cousin); Regina & Brittany Woodson (at Battered Women's shelter); Tokiko Watanabe (mother of June Mabry); Ralph Little & Family (father of Maureen Davis' co-worker); and George Bostian.

Those with ongoing needs:

Vincent Durrett (son of Kay Jennings); Edgar Morris (Allison Poplin's friend); Bob Tucker; Traci (niece of Robin Hughes); Carol Blalock (friend of Robin Hughes); Mary Hampton (mother of Frances Reaves); Poss Wilhelm; Clyde Sawyer (father of Laura Lowder); Michelle (Bobbie Hadfield's sister); Evelyn "Jan" Jaquinta; Jonathan Klutz (Betsy Ballenger's grandson); Coy Ritchie; Peggy Burdick (Julie Russell's mother); Brian Mabry (nephew of Jane Almond); Amanda and Brittany; Thelma Gardner; Roger Carter; Bob Corriher; Jeff Burdick (brother of Julie Russell); Jeff Price (per Allison Poplin); Patty (per Walter Davis); Michael (great-nephew of Thelma Gardner); Loretta Brown (per Coy Ritchie); David & Ellen Whitley; Andria (per Walter Davis); Sherry (per Diane Robinson); Byron Eury (per Renita Ritchie); Bishop Gary Gloster; Joy (cousin of Marianne Bumgarner-Davis); Janie Hall (per Jane Almond); Sherry Rogers (per Joe Burris); Sarah Boyd (Pieter Scheer's mother-in-law);

Jenny Haywood (aunt of Thelma Gardner); Roy Lane (son of Lori Kirkingburg); Helen Comber; Phil Huneycutt; Olive Jennings (mother of Russ Jennings); Gene & Mary White (Beth Irvin's parents); Wade York (Judy Ross' father); Chris Burris (son of Linda & Bo Burris); Dillon & Rose Harris; Marianne Bumgarner-Davis; and Ryan Hinson. Pray also for all engaged in battle in world conflicts and for world peace.

Those who have departed:

Barbara Gray (Archie Chase's sister); Roger Scheer (Stan Scheer's father); Karl Herwig (Jane Scheer's brother); Johnny Tucker (friend of Clif Robinson); Dawn & Tim Rhyne (niece and her husband of Rita Huneycutt); Dr. Perry Weston (chemistry instructor at Stanly Community College). May Barbara, Roger, Karl, Johnny, Dawn, Tim, Perry, and all the departed rest in Christ's peace.

Also, special thanks to:

Jean Daly

Lori Kirkingburg

Sally Aycock

Linda Burris

*For helping fold papers and
stuff envelopes, etc. for the
special mailing the week
following annual meeting*

♥ ON THE FUNNY SIDE ♥

In Scotland there have been times when collection plates were rarely full. During one of those dry periods, an old Presbyterian cleric looked down at the returned collection plate and prayed, "Well, Lord, we thank you for the safe return of the plate."

FROM GOD'S WORD...

"O come, let us worship
and bow down, let us kneel
before the LORD our
Maker!" –Psalm 95:6 (NRSV)



Merry Christmas!



Christ Church Shares Christmas...

Thank you to everyone who so generously gave to all the special Christmas projects to serve others! We collected 8 Christmas shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse! Also, we collected money for groceries, clothing, toys, etc. for 2 families in need. We also collected a tremendous amount of toiletries, disposable diapers, etc. for the Battered Women's Shelter at the Christmas Drop-By at Helen Harris' home, with approximately 45 people in attendance!

Our youth shared their time and the love of Christ and fed 50-60 people at the Saturday Soup Kitchen at The Community Table in Albemarle on Dec. 2. And, our church also is participating in the outreach of the Community Christmas Day Dinner by providing food and volunteering. We also appreciate all those who came out for the Wednesday Noon Advent Services and meals and to those who helped in any way for the preparation, clean up, etc. Thank you to everyone who has made Christmas a little brighter for others.

**WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF
COOK BOOKS AVAILABLE
FOR \$10 EACH. CALL OR
COME BY THE OFFICE.**

A special thanks to everyone who shared the joy of Christmas through fellowship at Helen Harris' house last Sunday. We especially appreciate the overwhelming generosity of those who donated items and funds for the Crisis Council (Battered Women's Shelter). Gathering and sharing reinforce the true meaning of this blessed season.

--Helen Harris, Allison & Reggie Poplin, and Betty & Chip Manuel

FROM THE MAIL BAG:

Dear Fr. Bernacki and Church,

I would like to personally thank you for your recent Thanksgiving Offering of \$231.01 to Thompson Child & Family Focus. We deeply cherish the generosity of friends and supporters like you.

For 120 years, Thompson has been committed to enhancing programs that help meet the needs of the very special children and families it serves. This journey of hope has always been led by a strong mission of healing, teaching, worship and play. Throughout more than a century of change and growth, the legacy that sustains us is one deep in tradition, dedication and love.

Your continued support remains a rich investment in the lives of many deserving children. Thank you for making a real difference in our community.

Warm regards,

Ginny Amendum, President

Pat Le Neave, Church Outreach

More packages of photos are in the parish house foyer ready for pick up. Rick still has some not ready, so check the foyer table weekly.

The following puzzle came from the bulletin of the First Baptist Church, Newberry, SC. You may find it fun. Remembering, no cheating. Do it without referring to your Bible. "In these remarks are hidden the names of 15 books of the Bible. It's a real lulu. Kept me looking so hard for facts I missed the revelation; I was in a jam, especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of our readers...to others it will be a real job. For all it will be a most fascinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot, and others hard to judge. So we admit it usually results in loud lamentations when we can't find them. One lady says she brews coffee while she puzzles over it. One book is underlined to help you start. Can you find the other 14?

--Submitted by Jane Almond

Why Go To Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope! Why Go To Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I am wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing...God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

"When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, 'Jesus, could you get that for me?'"

--from *Central United Methodist Church's newsletter*,

Submitted by Fr. Jim Bernacki

COMING UP IN JANUARY...

Jan. 1 Church Office Closed

Jan. 5-6 Vestry Retreat

Jan. 15 Church Office Closed

Jan. 25-27 Diocesan Convention

Dear Friends,

When the 75th General Convention was held in Columbus, OH, in June, what must have been a

record number of visitors stopped by our booth in the exhibit hall. As in the past, it was a great pleasure for us to meet or renew acquaintances with so many of our subscribers. A great percentage of our visitors took the time to tell us how much they enjoy The Living Church and how important the magazine is to them. It was especially gratifying to hear so many say, "Keep up the good work."

Those are the words for us to live by as we continue to publish this unique magazine. It is a costly venture to produce a magazine like ours week by week, but thanks to the generosity of those who contribute to the Living Church Fund, we have been able to do this. I am very grateful for your November 3, 2006 contribution of \$50. Please know we will be faithful stewards with that gift.

This comes with best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving.

Faithfully,

David Kalvelage, Editor of
The Living Church magazine

Please invite a friend to Christmas

Eve or Day Eucharist Services:

Sun., Dec. 24:

5 pm Family Service with Baptism

10:30 pm Music Prelude

11 pm "Midnite Mass"

Mon., Dec. 25:

9 am Shorter Eucharist

Dear Jim,

On behalf of Homes of Hope, I want to thank you and members of Christ Episcopal Church for your generous donation of \$295. Your contribution makes a real difference in the lives of so many people. Your gift has enabled us to assist 11 homeless families, which includes 18 children. Thanks for helping to make Stanly Co. a better place to live. God bless you.--Skeet Ayscue, Exec. Dir.

Thank you, Christ Church...

Thank you so much for your many gifts, cards, kind words, and other acts of love and support at the deaths of Stan's father and Jane's brother recently.

--Stan & Jane Scheer & Family

Report on the Formation of a Team to Minister to Those in Prison

We regularly pray for those behind bars, languishing in our nation's prisons.

But, as the body of Christ, we must do so much more.

As a volunteer at Albemarle Correctional Institution in Badin, I've received so many blessings in helping recovering addicts-inmates learn a new way of life.

So it wasn't a leap of faith when Father Jim approached me about helping fashion Christ Episcopal Church's service to our local prison population. A prison ministry, after all, was one of the goals following our church Re-Visioning. Remember Re-Visioning?

An ad hoc committee - Father Jim, Tom Lowe, David Cook, Matt Irvin and myself - met with prison officials a couple of months ago to learn about the opportunities offered there to serve God and our fellow man.

One way, we learned, was to tackle something called "Prison Re-entry." It's not really about re-entering prison, it's about re-entering life on the outside. It's about getting inmates ready to become acceptable, responsible and productive members of society. ACI Social Worker Betty Amason told us that while many of us take the daily skills we use for granted, those about to be released from the medium security prison don't have a clue about how to do things like write a resume, interview for a job, manage money or deal with daily ups-and-downs.

The Re-entry Life Plan Program covers a number of subjects, including:

- Learning how to make wise choices;
- Setting realistic goals;
- Building self-esteem;
- Looking at problems to be faced and finding solutions;
- Discovering talents and assessing job skills;
- How to find a job;
- Budgeting and wise use of money;

- Building positive relationships with family and others;
- The importance of spiritual base for life.

The program gives inmate "students" 36 hours of classroom training from volunteer teachers. A study book guides the inmates through practical lessons for successful living on the outside. In 2002, Re-entry Life Plan was taught at the Albemarle Correctional Institute. At that time, classes lasted two hours per day and were taught twice per week over a nine-week period. "After we had the classes last time, I noticed that those who attended want to take advantage of other courses being taught," Amason said. "I think it helped motivate many of them." Amason said the practical information the class offers inmates is fundamental to a better life for those released. "Albemarle has an abundance of volunteers that want to come do a Bible study, but a lot of those same volunteers feel that they're not qualified to teach this course," Amason said. The Re-entry Life Plan Program was the brainchild of Angeline Breitenbach in 1994 at state prisons in Randolph and Davidson counties. To determine the impact of the program, she recently reviewed recidivism data and found something truly inspiring. "In the decade since they were in the first class, only 12 of the 45 have been re-incarcerated," she said. "That's just 27 percent, compared to a national average of 60 percent. That's a huge difference." We as members of Christ Church can be part of the effort to make a "huge difference" in the lives of those serving time, their family members and society as a whole. We'd like to explore the interest in taking on a re-entry class as a church and sharing our skills, strength, hope and wisdom with those in need of help. Volunteers are given training and support from ACI program employees. If you are interested in joining the effort, which will require only a few hours of your free time, call Father Jim today.--Joel Barrett

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, Dec. 3, 2006

The 2006 Annual Parish Meeting was called to order with an Opening Prayer on Sunday, December 3rd after the Post communion Prayer, Father Jim Bernacki nominated Pat Bryfonski to act as Secretary for the Annual Meeting.

The minutes of the December 4, 2005 annual meeting were accepted as presented.

Father Jim announced the slate of nominees for next year's Vestry: Archie Chase, Cindy Moore and David Wilhelm. Nominations from the floor were then made. Sally Aycock nominated Joe Burris and Carol Kennedy nominated Linda Burris. A Motion to close nominations was made by Matt Irvin, and was seconded by Marianne Bumgarner-Davis. Ballots were distributed, Father Jim offered a prayer and eligible church members filled out the ballots that were then collected and given to outgoing Senior Warden, Allison Poplin.

There followed the blessing, closing hymn and dismissal to the Church Hall. Lunch was provided by the Vestry.

Father Jim announced the election results (as counted by the tellers: Father Jim, Allison Poplin, Sam Lambert and Craig Kennedy) : Archie Chase, Cindy Moore and David Wilhelm. Joe Burris and Linda Burris are alternates in the event a Vestry member can no longer serve.

Reports of import were then made. Written Committee reports were published in a special December newsletter.

Senior Warden, Allison Poplin thanked everyone who has helped with church activities and expressed her sorrow about leaving the Vestry. Frances Reaves gave special thanks to Clif Robinson for his work on the hill behind the church and Father Jim also thanked the anonymous donors who helped to fund this major project. Sheila Stafford discussed the use of nametags. Father Jim said this issue

would be further addressed at the Vestry Retreat.

Russ Hollins thanked everyone on the Stewardship & Finance Committee for their tireless work. He went over next year's budget (copies had been distributed) and status of pledges. Letters have been sent to the 23% of members whose pledges are still outstanding.

Father Jim's sermon was the Rector's Report. In addition, he gave special thanks for all the work done by the Vestry this year. He has nominated Walter Davis to be Senior Warden for 2007.

Proposed amendments to the Parish By-Laws were discussed. Article IV, Section 3: Removal of Vestry members was reviewed. A Motion to pass this Amendment was made by David Cook, seconded by Linda Burris and approved unanimously.

Article VIII: Tithing of Fund-Raisers was reviewed. A Motion to pass this Amendment was made by Marianne Bumgarner-Davis, Seconded by Archie Chase and approved unanimously.

The next Annual Meeting will be Sunday, December 2, 2007 following a 9:30 service.

Father Jim thanked the church youth group and volunteers who served at the Community Table on Saturday. David Cook thanked Father Jim for his ministry and for his presence at so many of these community events.

Father Jim announced the following changes: Pat Bryfonski will replace Gene Hinson as Head of the Altar Guild and Wayne Davis will replace George Reaves in scheduling the Ushers for each service. A Motion to adjourn the 2006 Annual Meeting was made by Walter Davis and seconded by Tom Lowe at 12:10 p.m.

Very respectfully,
Pat Bryfonski

Vestry Meeting Minutes December 3, 2006

The December meeting of the Vestry was held immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting and brunch.

Both current and newly elected members attended.

Those present:
Fr. Jim Bernacki Russ Hollins
Allison Poplin Walter Davis
Sam Lambert Matt Irvin
Sheila Stafford Tom Lowe
Frances Reaves Craig Kennedy
Lana Erickson Cindy Moore
David Wilhelm Archie Chase

Those absent:
Jane Scheer – excused

Nominations for the following Offices for 2007 were put forward and voted upon:
Sr. Warden – Walter Davis accepted the nomination and was approved by acclamation.
Jr. Warden - David Wilhelm, Archie Chase and Russ Hollins were nominated. David and Archie declined. Russ accepted and was approved by acclamation.
Clerk of the Vestry – Lana Erickson was approved to continue as clerk.
Treasurer – Archie Chase was approved to continue as Treasurer.

The Vestry then nominated members to the Executive Board to serve along with Fr. Jim. Sheila Stafford, Frances Reaves and Matt Irvin were nominated. Frances declined due to up coming service on the Montgomery Board of Education. Matt and Sheila were approved by acclamation.

Although Fr. Jim Bernacki discussed the inclusion of staff in the Christmas gift, a later phone vote by the Vestry empowered the Vestry Executive Board to handle this. A motion was proposed by Matt Irvin to purchase a short term three month CD with the \$7,400 donation and let the current Executive Board make a recommendation to the Vestry on how best to utilize. The Vestry would then make a decision at the annual Retreat. The motion was seconded by Sam Lambert and approved by all.

Fr. Jim reminded the Vestry that the annual Retreat and January Vestry meeting would take place at The Summit on January 5th & 6th. Meetings beginning in February will be held on the second Thursday of the month and he also asked if

meetings could be held in the upstairs classroom rather than the choir room. All agreed. Fr. Jim then excused himself and turned the meeting over to Allison Poplin while the Vestry discussed Christmas gifts for the staff. A motion was made to adjourn by Matt Irvin and seconded by Tom Lowe. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Lana Erickson, Secy. of Vestry

LAST NEWSLETTER BY BULK

This will be our last "mass-mailed" newsletter! As many of you know, we've had many problems in getting our bulk-rate newsletters out. For instance, members in Norwood received theirs two weeks after those in Albemarle. From now on, we are going to send our newsletters electronically, that is, via email on the Internet. This will ensure "instant access" for all who have email access. Stan Scheer will convert our newsletter to a PDF file so that it can be easily downloaded. For church members who do not have Internet access, we will mail "hard [paper] copies" of the newsletter to you. For people who are on our newsletter mailing list who aren't church members, we ask that if you wish to continue receiving our newsletters, to either: (1) send us your email address, or (2) send us a check in the amount of \$10 per year to cover our postage. We feel that after spending approximately \$150 for a bulk-rate fee and \$40 per month for each newsletter edition, we're not getting our/your money's worth. Even if we spend \$.63 per copy mailed to our parishioners who do not have internet access, we will be saving a lot of money. If you're a church member but not on our email list, please call Carol our secretary and let her know your email address. If you're a church member, (even if you have internet access) but would like a copy of our newsletter mailed to you first class, please call Carol & let her know. Thank you very much for your understanding! This will help us be more "current" with our information of import.