



# The Channel

Monthly Newsletter of St. Christopher's Church/Gladwyne, PA  
A Member of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Mission Statement: To provide a thoughtful and active community of faith, fellowship and ministry.

WILLIAM H. WOOD III, Rector / MARY E. LANEY, Parish Associate  
JOSH WALTERS, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Channel - Reflections  
February 2011

### ANNUAL MEETING

Sometimes this announcement does not stir an uncontrollable excitement within the souls of all parishioners. Those members of this parish perhaps do not comprehend how much can be experienced and accomplished with a high degree of reward.

Our Annual Meetings are really gatherings of the parish family. The necessary "dispatch of business" is often accomplished quickly by our system now of pre-meeting written reports. The heart and soul of these meetings is really in the conversations generated and shared both at the time and following the meetings. Some of our best ideas and new ventures have come about through such generated and continuing thought.

This year the Vestry has decided to put a focus on the local and important topic of our property. An increasing number of people have raised questions about the care and continued upkeep of our magnificent buildings and grounds. We have been bequeathed "a goodly heritage" though the thought and responsible actions of our predecessors. Now it falls to us to understand what we are called to do as responsible inheritors of one of the finest properties of the diocese in a challenging financial climate. The Annual Meeting is the one time that the people of this parish are called together to share our wisdom and dedication to faithfulness in God's continuing ministry here. You are a part of it, as we all are.

We will commence our meeting this year on the first Sunday of February - February 6th - with a delicious brunch in our Parish Hall following our 10:00 AM service.

-WHW

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

Reflections 1

Rector's Warden Report 2

Mardi Gras Night 3

Letter to Rob Rogers 4

Youth Ministries 5

Announcements 6

Calendar 7

## RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

The agenda for the meeting of the Vestry in February included a report from George Wrangham who detailed some ideas for improvements in the Day School space. Michael Johnson will investigate and oversee this project.

Ken Jones presented the final version of the 2011 budget, a deficit budget for the first time in many years; we discussed it with reference to the pledge numbers in the final Stewardship Report given by Tom Allen. The letter from Ken Jones to Rob Rogers regarding our 2011 Diocesan Pledge and Assessments was distributed and discussed by Ken at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Forum. It is reprinted in this issue of The Channel. We talked about various ways in which the Parish could save money, one of them being the online distribution of The Channel to those with the capacity to receive it by email. Considerable savings could be realized in printing and mailing costs if a greater number of parishioners elected this method of delivery. It was mentioned that Cynthia Drayton takes all copies of The Channel for Beaumont residents and delivers them there. She is one of the many volunteers who make St. Christopher's such a warm, welcoming, and caring community.

Ellen Pemberton and I have completed our terms on the Vestry. Ellen's compassion, gentleness, and genuine concern for people have made her the perfect person to oversee Churchyard and Memorials. As one who has been the beneficiary of her help, I can attest to the importance of these wonderful qualities. Ellen has also been a great advocate and teacher for the Sunday School, has been instrumental in the development of activities for young families at St. Christopher's, and is truly interested in every facet of Parish life. Her presence on the Vestry will be missed.

Every member of the Vestry expends great effort on behalf of the Church, none more so than Ken Jones whose depth of feeling for St. Christopher's is evidenced by the enormous amount of time he devotes to ensure the financial well being of the Parish. Tom Allen oversees the Stewardship process with superb insight and organization. In addition, he serves as the Parish Solicitor; his expertise and ever lucid advice have been vital during the past months of Diocesan turmoil. Jenny Colen makes the demanding role of Hospitality look easy. She is always calm, organized, and pleasant even when the Coffee Hour sign-up sheets have too many blank spaces. Peggy Cooke deserves many kudos for the demanding chore of serving as Secretary of the Vestry - accurately recording many of the Vestry discussions is not easily accomplished. Cathy Higgins brings deep solicitude and discernment to her leadership of the Outreach Committee. Peter Hunt is the designated Azalea Day Liaison and he certainly does an outstanding job in that capacity but he does ever so much more, including serving as our resident technology guru. Susan Hunter's background in marketing provides valuable ideas for her thoughtful direction of our Membership program. The Youth Ministry has flourished with Josh Walters as Coordinator and Skip Irvine as the Vestry person in charge. Skip's years as a Sunday School teacher and his genuine enthusiasm for the program assure success. We are really fortunate to have Michael Johnson, an architect, in charge of Property and Grounds. There are numerous problems to be addressed in our aging buildings and his professional expertise is invaluable. George Wrangham, with his extensive knowledge in the field of education, brings excellent insight to his position as

Liaison to the Day School. It has been a great experience for me to work with all of them. We have a truly dedicated staff at St. Christopher's - Katie Gibbs, Shawna Minnucci, Josh Walters, Scott Drackley, Bill Petty, and Val Galati - and it has been wonderful to have the chance to interact with them. Mary Laney ("Mother Mary") is such a special person. Her seemingly boundless energy and enthusiastic embrace of all of us at St. Christopher's are to be treasured. I am honored to have served as Bill's Rector's Warden for the past four years and to have had the opportunity to benefit from his wisdom, marvelous insights, and compassionate care for all of us. He is indeed the heart and soul of St. Christopher's. Often, when I talk with people they will ask what parish I am in and when I tell them, the response is always "YOU have Bill Wood!" Indeed we do and how very lucky we are!

Thank you so very much for your support.

*Mary Anne D. Justice*

## AZALEA DAY MARDI GRAS NIGHT

*You're Invited!*

Spice up the end of winter and join the revelry on **Friday, March 4 at 7 p.m.** for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Pot Luck Dinner! What better way to usher in the Lenten Season and to kick off Azalea Day 2011?!

Join family and friends - old and new - and share Cajun, French and Creole cuisine along with King cake, masks, beads and feathers. And don't forget about our wine and cheese favorites. It all makes for a fun and festive evening - a St. Christopher's favorite that must not be missed!



Peter Hunt will regale us once again with his photo homage to last year's Azalea Day. And we'll acknowledge the creativity of a host of parishioners who so generously gave of their time and talent to make this event an unprecedented success for our Outreach efforts - as well as an annual festival that all of Gladwyne celebrates.

***Mark your calendars now!*** Spend a fun evening with friends and family. And while you're at it, don't forget to book **Azalea Day, Saturday, May 7** - and plan to join us once again in support of this very important Outreach event. Our contributions do make all the difference to those in need.

St. Christopher's Mardi Gras Night is the next best thing to being in New Orleans, so bring along your favorite dish and "*Laissez les bons temps rouler!*"

*See you at Mardi Gras!*  
Steve Marshall and Susan Hunter  
Co-Chairs, Azalea Day 2011

December 16, 2010

Mr. Rob Rogers  
Canon for Financial Administration  
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania  
240 South 4th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RE: 2011 Diocesan Pledge and Assessments

Dear Rob:

The Vestry of St. Christopher's Church met on December 14, 2010 to consider the subject. There was considerable debate and discussion about our support of the Diocese in light of Bishop Bennison's return as Diocesan Bishop. The Vestry decided to pay our 2011 Pledge and Assessments in the following manner and amounts. The signed Assessment and Pledge Form is enclosed with this letter.

We will contribute our assessments for Clergy Financial Assistance and for Retired Clergy Medical Insurance in the amount requested of \$10,709.

As things now stand, we will not contribute our Episcopate Assessment for 2011. Our Vestry, like that at Christ Church, Philadelphia, believes that to contribute to the Episcopate Assessment is to support Bishop Bennison and we refuse to do that. We are aware of the potential penalty provided by the Diocesan Canons (loss of representation at Convention, subject to reinstatement per Canon 7.4.2).

We are concerned that withholding the Episcopate Assessment potentially harms worthy people and functions. We will retain the amount of the assessment during at least the first six months of 2011 and will be happy to reconsider paying it in the event of Bishop Bennison's resignation, elimination of his compensation or other similar action. If no such action is taken, we will consider increasing our Diocesan Pledge by the amount of the withheld Episcopate Assessment.

Our 2011 Pledge is \$34,563, which is \$5,000 less than what we would typically donate. St. Christopher's is facing a deficit budget for the first time in my memory and we had to cut many line items including our Pledge amount. We will pay this amount monthly, not quarterly as customarily we had done in the past, and will stop paying it if and when there is any evidence of interference by Bishop Bennison with the Program Budget which this Pledge supports.

If you have any questions, please call me at (610) 977-2787. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth E. Jones  
Accounting Warden

Cc: Charles Bennison, Kathleen Gibbs, Joe Suprenuk, The Rev. Timothy B. Safford, The Rev. Frank W. Allen w/Enc.



## FEBRUARY 2011 “Love Wins.”

The word “love” occurs in its various forms over 250 times in the New Testament! That’s more than double the amount of occurrences of the word “sin” (approx. 104). I believe that the earliest followers of Jesus, who authored the New Testament, had a message for us: LOVE WINS. This is indeed good news! And yet, for the earliest followers of Jesus, this was not just a mere ‘moral sentiment’ about being nice. For Jesus and his followers it was a literal “game-changer.”

I use the term “game-changer” because I love sports. And if I were a betting man I would think that it would be highly advantageous to know the outcome of a game before placing my bet. Similarly, this is what the Good News of Jesus Christ is like: we know the outcome of the cosmic game that is life, and we can thereby place our bets accordingly. When we know that Love wins, we wager our lives on that fact. When we know that Love wins, we have the opportunity to live the victory early, to celebrate the way of Love before the game ends. It is for this reason that the Youth are studying the “Way of Love” written by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. To be disciples of Jesus the Victor, we must be imitators of the Victor’s Way; we must be his teammates on the Team of Love. May we all at St. Christopher’s wager confidently and live according to the promise in Jesus Christ: LOVE WINS. Period.

*“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
1 Corinthians 15:57*

### Youth Schedule February 2011

February 6 - Super Bowl Party @ Marinchak’s (6-10pm)  
 February 13 - Valentine’s Visit to Waverly Heights (12-2pm)  
 February 17 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Dinner & Bible Study (6:30-8:30pm)  
 February 20 - NO YOUTH EVENT  
 February 27 - Philadelphia Rock Gym w/ G.P.C. (12:30-3:30)

### Meeting Every Sunday at 10:00

**Nursery:** for children birth to 3 years  
**Sunday school:** for children ages 4-12  
**Confirmation Class:** for ages 12+ (meets in library)  
**A.M. Meeting:** for ages 12+ (Youth Group)

### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

February 6 - Christopher H., Max H., Alec C.,  
 February 13 - Brian H.  
 February 20 - Cristian C., Alec C., Edward D.  
 February 27 - Karen I.  
 March 6 - Alex H., Karen I., Casey H.



Sr. High Dinner & Bible Study  
 Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. 630-830pm

\*\*\*This month: *February 17th*  
**Eat. Talk. Listen. Explore. Think.**  
**Share. Learn. Live.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to our January Coffee Hour Hosts!

Jennifer Colen, March and Perry Pepper, The Skorupski Family, Ray and Joanne Welsh



Visit our Coffee Hour webpage at [www.SaintChristophers.org](http://www.SaintChristophers.org) to view available dates, instructions and more!

### ANNUAL MEETING



*Sunday, February 6, 2011  
Following the 10:00 a.m. service.*

Brunch, discussion and the election of the new Vestry Members.

#### VESTRY

For a second three-year term  
MICHAEL JOHNSON  
GEORGE WRANGHAM

For a (first) three-year term  
DEMETRIE COMNAS  
JILL MARSHALL

Diocesan/Deanery Delegates to be appointed by  
The Rector

### PARISH REGISTER

Deaths:  
Peg Vandermade                      December 25, 2010

### OUTREACH REMINDER

Thanks to all those who generously donated food for St. Peter's food cupboard! If you have yet to donate and would still like to contribute you have until Sunday, March 6th.

### VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION

*February 13, 2011*

Come join us in Coffee Hour to celebrate with special Valentine's Day treats! Sunday School children and Youth will be taking Valentine's Day cards to Waverly Heights. If you have any cards to pass along, please get them to Josh Walters before the 13th.



### CHANGING THE WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

*February 17-19, 2011*

A conference by and for women in the Diocese of Pennsylvania and their friends. Come listen, discover and be empowered! All events will be held at St. Thomas, Whitemarsh, MacColl Auditorium. Co-sponsored by St. Thomas's Church, Whitemarsh and St. Christopher's Church. For more information please see the Clergy.

### ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

*Mark your calendars!*

*March 8, 2011*

*Serving 6:00-8pm*

# FEBRUARY

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

226 Righters Mill Road

Gladwyne, PA 19035

Phone: (610) 642-8920

Fax: (610) 642-1241

www.SaintChristophers.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>1</i> 7:00 a.m. Bible Study	<i>2</i> 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Soup Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	<i>3</i>  7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I Annual Meeting 2:00 p.m. Scouts (PH)	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:00 a.m. Bible Study  7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	<i>9</i> 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	<i>10</i>  7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Commissioning of the Vestry Waverly Valentines	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 7:00 a.m. Bible Study	<i>16</i> 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Soup Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	<i>17</i>  6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study  7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II	<i>21</i> Office Closed 	<i>22</i> 7:00 a.m. Bible Study  10:00 a.m. Channel Mailing	<i>23</i> 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	<i>24</i>  7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Communion Class Begins 2:00 p.m. Scouts (PH)	<i>28</i>					

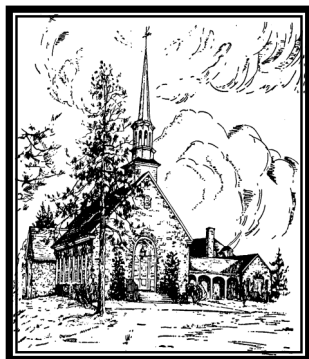
# The Channel

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF  
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH  
226 RIGHTERS MILL ROAD GLADWYNE, PA 19035

CHECK HERE AND RETURN THIS PAGE IF YOU NO  
LONGER WISH TO BE ON ST. CHRISTOPHER'S  
MAILING LIST.

## February 2011

HELP US GO GREEN. SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER BY CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (610) 642-8920  
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO SHAWNA@SAINTCHRISTOPHERS.ORG.



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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

### PARISH STAFF

The Reverend William H. Wood III, Rector  
The Reverend Mary E. Laney, Parish Associate  
Scott Drackley, Organist/Choirmaster  
Josh Walters, Coordinator of Youth Ministries  
Katie Gibbs, Office Manager/Bookkeeper  
Shawna Minnucci, Parish Secretary  
Bill Petty, Sexton  
Val Galati, Sexton  
Ann Catania, Nursery Coordinator

### VESTRY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

Mary Anne Justice, Rector's Warden  
Ken Jones, Accounting Warden  
Tom Allen, Jennifer Colen, Peggy Cooke, Cathy Higgins,  
Peter Hunt, Susan Hunter, Skip Irvine, Michael Johnson,  
Ellen Pemberton, George Wrangham