



Glad Tidings

"Publish Glad Tidings, Tidings of Peace"

The Monthly Newsletter of
Incarnation Holy Sacrament
Episcopal Church
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**December
2011**

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Alexander (Sandy) C.
Graham, IV, Rector
FrSandy@ihschurch.org

Joanne Sabatino
Organist and Choir Director

Bev Brescia
Parish Secretary

Diane Tapley
Financial Secretary

VESTRY

Cheryl Avery

Susan Bevilacqua

Maria Buonviri

Tom Chadwick

Kevin Dale

Greg Gutierrez

BettyLou Hadley-Laird

Kris Haelle

Bev Rorer

Dane Tanner

Ashley Thomas

Barb Thompson

www.ihschurch.org

Waiting. In general, we're not good at it. Whether it be in traffic, in a line at a store, for our computers to boot up, the check to clear, the commercial to end, our bad habits to go away, our good habits to take root, or even for the cookies to be done (let's face it, they're good gooey anyway...) - we just don't like to wait. How many products and services grab our attention because they are (supposed to be) fast? Fast food, quick oil change, speedy phone downloads or even caffeine consumption? I still can't believe that one product's selling point in its commercial is that it "takes only seconds to drink!"

And here we enter Advent - the season marked by waiting. We read scripture that transports us to a time when the whole world sat in expectation of God's intervening hand to finally come, for God's Anointed to bring freedom for those held captive and good news to the poor. I hope that we too can find ourselves in a state of expectant waiting - alive to the possibilities - not only of Jesus' Second Advent, but of how his first Advent changed the world, and how being a believer in him signified a brand new way to be human.

Of course we're still living into that first change; still individually exploring how being a Christian transforms our lives and our communities. And the world desperately needs to hear the story of Advent, the story of Christmas and how the Incarnation is truly good news, because the world still needs saving. The world doesn't need to hear how it can feel nice to get a bargain or live through Black Friday; it already knows the fleeting pleasure of watching a child get a new favorite toy or an adult a new favorite gadget, trinket, bobble, hoozy-whats-it, etc. Advent and Christmas have become a combined season when the world instinctively reaches out for more meaning - but instead of hearing the Good News of the season, too often falls prey to consumerist hype, missing out on true worship and deepening relationship with God, family, and friends.

I invite and encourage each of you to learn more about *Advent Conspiracy* - a movement that aims to reclaim the meaning of Advent (and by extension, Christmas) by strengthening our connection to Christ, our bond to each other, and making a difference in the world while we're at it. The video on their website - <http://www.adventconspiracy.org> - is very inspiring, and I hope you take the time to watch it, and join with me in celebrating and proclaiming the importance of Advent, the true meaning of Christmas, and maybe even enjoy a gooey cookie or two.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

12/01 Howard Stepat
 12/04 Elsie Savin
 12/05 William (Liam) Staley
 12/06 Jennifer Vona
 12/07 Melissa Smith
 12/10 Elizabeth A. Ackerman
 12/10 Eric David Pollock
 12/10 Joseph Toriello



12/15 Ji Xu
 12/17 Takatso Moyo
 12/22 Rick Tillberry
 12/26 Mackenzie Rae Staley
 12/27 Cindy Hartnett
 12/31 Kristin (Decker) Douglas

12/20 Jabulani and Takatso
 Moyo
 12/23 Sandy and Heather
 Graham-Patton-Graham

12/27 Jeffrey and Lindsey
 Brooks
 12/30 Dee and Greg
 Gutierrez

Please let the Church office know of any additions, deletions or corrections that need to be made in the above lists. This is our most recent information, and we depend on you to keep us current.

Fellowship Gathering Sign-Up



We have started a "team concept" similar to the Altar Guild. Presently there are 8 teams and a list of substitutes. If you'd like to join one of the teams or start your own, please contact Bev in the church office (610-259-5148) or via e-mail bev@ihschurch.org. If you are

December 4th	<i>Eileen Resci, Hanna Johnston, Mike Kaslov</i>
December 11th	<i>Joyce Bernasz, Jeff Mingle</i>
December 18th	<i>Vestry</i>
December 25th	<i>Mil Brady, Nancy Holder & Isabelle Murphy</i>

not able to host, you may bring in a box of cookies or crackers for the pantry, or a gallon of iced tea or lemonade. Fellowship Gathering is a "coming together" time, and many hands *do* make for lighter work! *And don't forget to bring in an extra mug from home - put your name on the bottom and leave it in the kitchen for use each week!*

Parish Life Committee

Would you like to help with church dinners, bazaars or other special events that energize our parish through fellowship? If you are interested in helping with events that affect the Life of the Parish, please contact the office.

Incarnation Holy Sacrament Prayer Cycle - You may have noticed in the bulletin and the Prayers of the People certain ministries named in our *prayer cycle*. This is a seven-week cycle, and the summer month's ministries are listed below. Please consider these ministries in your prayers, and allow us the privilege of connecting you with one or more of these ministries as the spirit moves you!

December 4th	Finance Committee and Ushers
December 11th	Girls Friendly Society and Vestry
December 18th	Eucharistic Ministers and Wednesday Wonders
December 25th	Acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Glad Tiding Newsletter - Articles for the January, 2012 Glad Tidings need to be in the church office by Monday December 19th.

Thank you. Bev B

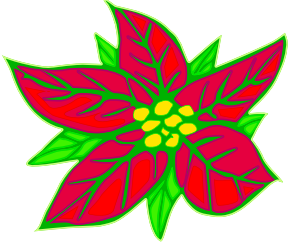
Greening of the Church

- **Save the Date** - We will have the greening of the church on Sunday, December 18th - after our morning service - grab a cup of coffee and join us in this time of fellowship! *Many hands make for light work!*



*Hanging
of the Greens*

Christmas Poinsettias



There is still time to submit your form to **place poinsettias on the altar** for the holiday season. Blank forms are available in the back of the church or in the church office - they need to be submitted by Thursday, December 15th. The poinsettias will adorn the church until Epiphany. See one of the ladies from the Altar Guild on Sunday, January 1st to pick yours up!

Remember flowers may be placed on the altar all year long in remembrance of a loved one. The cost of a bouquet is \$30.00; there are many dates available. See one of the ladies from the altar guild, or contact the church office to request a date.

Altar Guild & Bev B

Dates to Remember in December

Thursday December 15th - Form for requesting Poinsettias to be on Altar must be in church office.

Sunday December 18th - Greening of the Church - after the 10 AM Service

Christmas Services -

Saturday - (12/24) Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Christmas Music and Carols
4:30 PM Eucharist
7:00 PM Christmas Music and Carols
7:30 PM Candlelight Service
Sunday - (12/25) Christmas Day
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday - (1/1/2012) First Sunday
after Christmas
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

The **Church Office** will be opened on Monday December 19th **and hopefully close early** on Friday, December 23rd (between noon and 1 PM). I will be taking some vacation time from Monday December 26th through January 2nd; to rest and spend it with my grandchildren and family. My best wishes for a very joyous holy season to all!

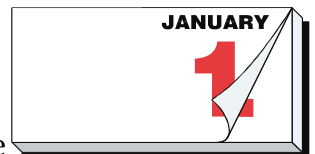
A BIG THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all who have been extremely helpful to me over the years; something I don't say often enough!

Bev Brescia

2012 CHURCH CALENDARS -will be

available in the rack at the back of the church as of Sunday, December 4th.

A \$3.00 donation would be appreciated!



News: We are having a GREAT time in Sunday School. With an average of 11 students each week we are enjoying "Building A Church".

As Christ is our church foundation we made bricks for our strong foundation. All our students can show you the bricks they made. Take note of our "architectural" design for our church also on the bulletin board.

Our first service project of the year – making lunches for clients of the Upper Darby Life Center was a great success. The Sunday School made 73 bagged lunches for the center.

Upcoming will be the collection of warm gloves, hats and scarves for Covenant House.



We are also planning a Christmas pageant! December 18th will be the Sunday School presentation of “The Little Drummer Boy”

Submitted by BettyLou Hadley-Laird

PRAYER LIST: We will restart our prayer list next month on Sunday January 1st; please advise Fr. Sandy or the office of any names you would like to remain on the prayer list or any name(s) you’d like added. We would appreciate you also advising us when they may be removed.



A note from the choir director



It is so wonderful and inspiring to hear our I.H.S choir members singing the anthems, and all the members of the congregation raising their voices to honor our Lord at our services all through the year. I know you’ll join me in thanking all the members of the choir for their unflagging dedication in sharing their time and musical talent with us as they lead our praise of God on Sunday mornings.

As committed as they are, the choir is also a small group, and always welcome and desirous of additional members, we’re not called to be perfect, we’re just called to make a joyful noise to the Lord. As we do

that, God’s Spirit does the rest, and our blended voices truly become instruments of worship.

I wish Fr. Sandy and his family, the IHS choir, and each of you, a blessed, healthy and happy New Year.

*Joanne Sabatino,
Organist and Choir Director*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
As of 11/20/2011

Year to Date Income

Envelope	73,804.75
Plate	1,861.11
Special Event	604.00
Great Beginnings	18,150.00
Investment Interest	12,306.94
Christmas/Ester	1,939.00
Miscellaneous	143.00
Endowment principal	
Used in 2011	15,000.00

Total Income to date **123,809.95**

Income Needed to Date to avoid use of any additional Endowment Principal in 2011

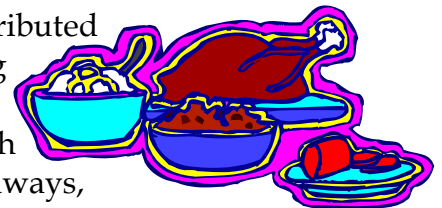
42,108.95

Total Budget for 2011

165,918.00

Thanksgiving Food Collection

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving Dinner done by 1st Presbyterian Church in Glenolden. As always, IHS came up big in helping. I will follow up with the number of people fed this year.



Thanks for your generosity. *Dane Tanner*

Annual Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony

All are invited to this meaningful service on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Spencer T. Videon Life Celebration Home, 400 Shadeland Ave., Drexel Hill, PA and Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at the James F. Knoetgen Funeral Home, 746 Kedron Ave (Route 420), Morton, PA to remember our loved ones who have passed from this life.

Registration begins at 6:30 PM with the service to follow at 7:00 PM. As we start the Christmas/Holiday season, it is both helpful and healing to place a dove in memory of our loved ones on a beautiful tree just before it is lit. Local clergy will also help to guide our thoughts through Scriptures and prayers. All are welcome; refreshments and fellowship will follow each service. Any questions, call 610-259-2200 or 610-544-0600.



Building Development Committee Update

In November, our Development project moved into the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study phase with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), with our mailing of the Case Statement and Questionnaire to all parish families last week. It is very important that you please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope addressed to Erin Tharp at ECF by December 12th. On January 12th, our ECF consultant will present to your Vestry and Development Committee their recommendations based upon the returned questionnaires and several personal interviews conducted earlier. They will give us their advice with a realistic assessment of the resources they believe we might expect to have available for our development project. Please note that the questionnaire is not asking you to make a pledge now, nor to make a gift now, but rather to estimate how much you think you would be able to pledge over the next couple of years toward this project.

We think it is important to remind everyone that your responses are being directed only to ECF; we will not be told your individual questionnaire responses. Your Vestry and Development Committee will receive recommendations from ECF based upon their study of those responses.

Our total project cost is approximately \$950,000. This amount is considerably higher than we had first expected based upon the preliminary designs. The new total cost includes actual contractor materials and labor costs, architect's fees for the detailed design plans, engineering costs, documents and permits for township approvals, landscaping, storm water runoff management, etc., plus contingencies built in for cost increases. Our firm expectation is that we will determine a budget we can manage, and design and build to that budget.

Meanwhile, we continue to work toward the actual detailed planning of the project leading to construction. We selected a contractor, C. Raymond Davis & Sons, and are reviewing their contract. We will start preliminary discussions with engineers. And we will certainly start looking at various organizations that provide grants for the type of work we are planning. Grants will certainly help, but this is our church, and grant organizations will look first to see what we are putting into the project of our own resources.

This is a challenging but exciting time for IHS. Spellchecker always wants to change IHS to HIS which is somewhat ironic. IHS really is HIS and our ongoing prayer is to ask for God's guidance through His Holy Spirit to help us to be certain that our plan mirrors His desire for us. If we are working for the glory of God and not our own, the plan is certain to unfold according to His will.

IHS Building Development Committee

<i>Cheryl Avery</i>	<i>Stacey Hawley</i>
<i>Joyce Bernasz</i>	<i>John Laird</i>
<i>Margaret Chadwick</i>	<i>Jeff Mingle</i>
<i>Father Sandy Graham</i>	<i>Bev Rorer</i>
<i>Dee Gutierrez</i>	<i>Dane Tanner</i>



Social Security, Retirement & You”

Are you planning to receive your Social Security retirement benefits? Have questions about eligibility, when to collect and the application process?

If so, this **free** session is for you! Come & get answers to all your questions!

Social Security Administration experts will cover these topics:

Your full retirement age ... How your benefit is figured ... When to take benefits ... Rules for collecting benefits while working ... Enrolling in Medicare ... Family benefits for spouses, children, widows

Friday, December 9
Haverford Township Free Library
1601 Darby Road
Havertown, PA 19083
12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

This free seminar is sponsored by the Social Security Administration and is open to the public, but registration is required

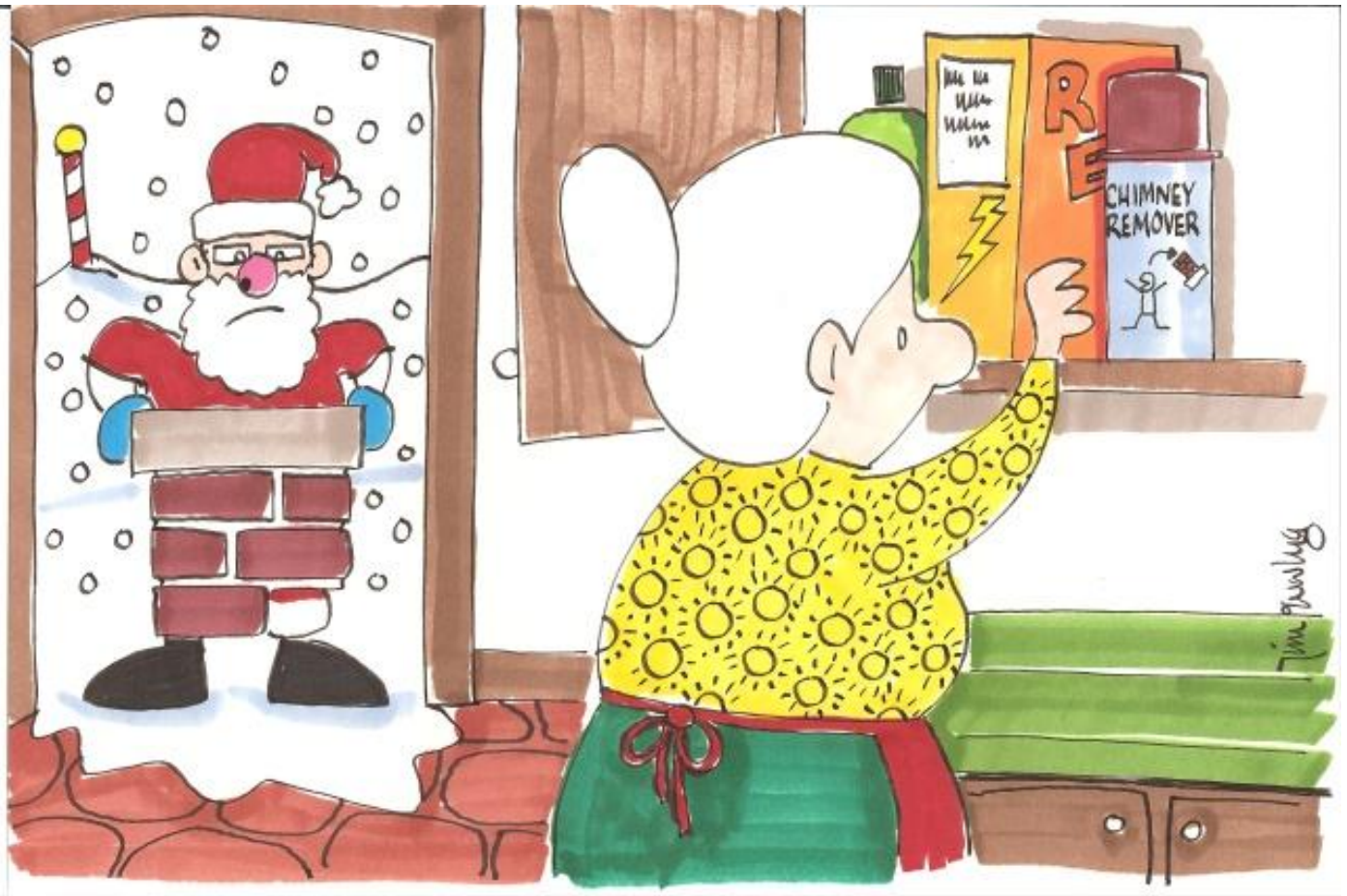
To register, send an email to:
edward.lafferty@ssa.gov
or call 866-398-3469, extension 29305

101 Reasons to be Episcopalian Reason #99

Our Eucharistic table is not made less special if all are invited, which is contrary to the understanding that I grew up with. Adjusting to the idea that everyone is invited to this most holy meal took me some time, but it has become one of the things I love most about the Church. Understanding that the true presence in the body of Christ is strong enough to survive inside someone who might seem less worthy requires more, not less, faith in its power. I am saddened that I cannot share in communion at my parents' church, and that they will not receive in mine, but I would rather be in that position than the other way around.

Sean P. Hackett
Diocese of Bethlehem





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The Rev'd Alexander (Sandy) C. Graham, IV, Rector
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