



CCA TODAY

sharing the news of
Christ Church Anglican

December 2009

BE PART OF THE PROCESS

This time of year we give thanks for what was done and look forward to the new year for budgets and persons necessary to lead the church in 2010.

We have people who have served and their terms are expiring. We thank them for their commitment and service to the parish.

We have three openings for vestry and one for Altar guild director.

Please consider getting involved in the future of your church. These times are critical and you are needed.

Contact Father Gil or myself.

Thank you,
Steve Fisher

“THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”

This article was in a column written by Liz Smith some years ago

“When you sing and remember the words to “The twelve days of Christmas” you might want to realize this song is interpreted also as having religious meaning.

- 1 A partridge in a pear tree is the one true God.
- 2 Two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments
- 3 Three French hens are faith, hope and charity
- 4 Four callings birds are the four gospels
- 5 Five golden rings signify the books of Moses
- 6 Six geese a-laying are the days of creation
- 7 Seven swans a-swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- 8 Eight maids a-milking are the Beatitudes
- 9 Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the spirit
- 10 Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments
- 11 Eleven pipers piping represent the faithful apostles
- 12 Twelve drummers drumming hail the Apostles Creed.

So enjoy yourself singing this happy and seemingly rather silly song, but at least you know what you are singing about.

—Kate Heermans

God's Work in Progress

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Services:
Sunday
8:00 am, 10:00 am
9:00 am Sunday School &
Adult Christian Education

Rector
Reverend Gilbert Wilkes
Assistant Rector
Reverend Moses Aderibole

Email newsletter info/comments to:
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WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Austin King Donle was born
November 28, 2009 at 4:26 am to
Laura and David. He weighed in at
9 lbs. 12 oz. and is 22 in. in length.



INTERCEDING FOR OUR LAND

By Charles F. Stanley

What does it take to motivate you to pray? For some people, prayer is an everyday priority. They cry out to the Lord on a regular basis—not just for their own concerns, but also for the needs of their country and the world. For others, prayer is a last resort. They turn to it only in times of emergency, when all other avenues of help have been exhausted.

No matter which category you fall into, there is no time like the present to lift up our nation to the Lord. Economically, we are facing one of the most difficult times since the Great Depression. Morally, we are experiencing the devastating consequences of forfeiting our belief in God and failing to live according to His standards. Christians often feel helpless to stop the moral decline we see in America today. But you and I can help improve the condition of our country by crying out to God on its behalf.

What should motivate us to pray?

The condition of our nation is evidence that we need to pray for God's intervention. No one will argue that many families are struggling economically right now. Our mortgage and banking industries are in crisis. Politicians make decisions based on what is best for themselves or what is popular—not what is best for the country. Families are weakened by divorce, abortion, and promiscuity. Terrorism and natural disasters threaten our security. Many people and even some churches are redefining morality based on what is popular or convenient.

Biblical warnings should also motivate us to pray. Moses warned the Israelites, "It shall come about if you ever forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish" (Deut. 8:19). In 2 Chronicles 7, the Lord told His people, "If you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples" (vv. 19-20). This passage clearly indicates that God will send adversity to get the attention of His people (v. 22).

How does this apply to us as believers? The United States has enjoyed prosperity—more than almost any other nation—as a result of God's favor upon our country. We have experienced spiritual abundance too: Churches preach the Word of God, Bibles and other resources are readily available, and numerous ministries broadcast the gospel across our land. However, as a whole, we have forsaken the Lord and His commandments. Instead of basing decisions on God's principles, Americans tend to act according to personal preference or popular opinion. There can be little doubt that our nation is in spiritual rebellion.

The principles of God do not change.

Some people might argue that the two passages above refer specifically to the Israelites and cannot be applied today. But I believe these verses outline an important biblical principle that endures for all time and in all situations.

We also see these warnings echoed in the New Testament. Galatians 6:7 states that what we sow, we will reap. Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall" (Matt. 7:26-27). If God allowed adversity to come to His chosen people because of their sin and idolatry, why would He withhold it from America?

What will it take for God to hear and answer our prayers?

Second Chronicles 7:14 says, "[If] My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This promise is threefold: God will hear our cry, forgive our sins, and heal our land. But we must humble ourselves, repent of our wrongs, and lift up our nation to Him.

The time is now.

Few Christians would deny that our country is in moral decline. As the nation has moved away from biblical principles, we have seen an increase in divorce, drug abuse, suicide, depression, teen pregnancy, and selfishness. Ethical compromise and greed have resulted in financial instability. The right to share our faith, speak out on moral issues, and attend church freely could one day be threatened.

Do you love this country and the independence it provides for us? Then I challenge you to kneel before the Lord and cry out to Him on behalf of the United States. Ask the Lord to awaken American spiritually and call her to repentance. If we do that, He has promised to hear from heaven and heal our land (2 Chron. 7:14).

FORMER TEC DIOCESES WELCOME CONGREGATIONS

Posted on: November 5, 2009 by Douglas LeBlanc

As two former Episcopal dioceses hold conventions this weekend, they are beginning to incorporate congregations from across the nation.

The Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh will vote on welcoming Harvest Anglican Church, Homer City, Pa.; Church of the Transfiguration, Cleveland, Ohio; Holy Trinity Church, Raleigh, N.C.; and St. James Church, San Jose, Calif.

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth (Southern Cone) plans to receive the Church of Christ the Redeemer, Fort Worth, and St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, Springdale, Ark., as new missions. It also will welcome three existing parishes: St. Francis', Dallas; St. Matthias' Anglican Church, Dallas; and Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulsa, Okla.

On Oct. 30, the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee went to court against St. Andrew's Church, Nashville, which left the Episcopal Church in 2006 and has since announced its affiliation with the Diocese of Quincy (Ill.).

The Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin (Southern Cone) has welcomed three neighboring California parishes — St. Andrew's in the Desert, Lancaster; St. David's, San Rafael; and Santa Maria de Juquila, Seaside — and Jesus the Good Shepherd, Henderson, Nevada.

In the context of the Anglican Church in North America's constitution [PDF], such an elastic definition of diocesan borders is a feature and not a bug.

"Congregations and clergy are related together in a diocese, cluster, or network (whether regional or affinity-based), united by a bishop," the ACNA's constitution says. "Dioceses, clusters or networks (whether regional or affinity-based) may band together for common mission, or as distinct jurisdictions at the sub-Provincial level."

The Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA) is establishing one type of network within ACNA: regional districts.

The Rt. Rev. David Bena, a suffragan bishop of CANA and a former suffragan in the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, is guiding the growth of the recently established Anglican District in the Northeast.

"In the Northeast we had ten parishes that were interested in doing mission and ministry together," he told *The Living Church*. "They were not connected except by bishop visitations."

The new district will unite seven congregations in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. Two other CANA districts unite congregations in Virginia and in the Great Lakes.

"We are going to coordinate on overseas missions and concentrate on the possibility of planting new churches," Bishop Bena said of his district. "We're also talking about trying to plant some churches up here in the rocky soil of the Northeast."

While serving in Albany, Bishop Bena could travel from one end of the diocese to the other within six hours. Today, he travels more by airline than by car. His work also has him providing pastoral guidance to two different types of congregations: those that separated from the Episcopal Church, and those that have approached CANA from evangelical and independent backgrounds.

"For those who used to be Episcopalians, there's a good deal of work to be done on dealing with grief," Bishop Bena said. "Half of our congregations had to walk away from their buildings. If you don't forgive, you get stuck."

"For those who weren't Episcopalians, it's the joy of being on the 'Canterbury trail,' and a question of how you become more immersed in that life."

REAL SERVANTS PAY ATTENTION

By Rick Warren

"Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now." (Proverbs 3:28 TEV).

Real servants pay attention to needs. Servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others. When they see a need, they seize the moment to meet it, just as the Bible commands us: "Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good for everyone, especially for the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10 GWT).

When God puts someone in need right in front of you, he is giving you the opportunity to grow in servant hood. Notice that God says the needs of your church family are to be given preference, not put at the bottom of your "things to do" list.

We miss many occasions for serving because we lack sensitivity and spontaneity. Great opportunities to serve never last long. They pass quickly, sometimes never to return again. You may only get one chance to serve that person, so take advantage of the moment.

"Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now" (Proverbs 3:28 TEV).

John Wesley was an incredible servant of God. His motto was:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

That is greatness. You can begin by looking for small tasks that no one else wants to do. Do these little things as if they were great things, because God is watching.

OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE...

by Outreach/Missions Committee

The Missions/Outreach Committee would like to announce something to the parish, already approved by our Vestry and Rector. We requested and obtained permission from the National Committee for National Day of Prayer to sponsor this event in East Haven, CT. The date set is May 6th, 2010.

We are a nation built on prayer that can be traced back in our history. In 1776, the Continental Congress called on the colonies to pray for guidance as they founded the nation. Lincoln bowed on his knees before Gettysburg and FDR called the nation to prayer on D-Day. Many presidents had called for a day to be set aside but not until 1952 did President Harry Truman sign a joint resolution of Congress that established a National Day of Prayer. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan selected the first Thursday of May of each year as the official day of observance. Chaired by Shirley Dobson, The National Day of Prayer Task Force has initiated a day that has become the Judeo-Christian expression of faith throughout America. It is organized from one coast to the other and coordinated by state and regional leaders. There are literally thousands of local coordinators in each state planning events for towns and cities.

More recently, presidents and all 50 governors have proclaimed this day in observance of prayer.

2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The goal is watchmen in every community, in every state ... for America!

We at Christ Church Anglican have this opportunity to take the lead, to intercede for our country and its leadership and the five centers of power; church, education, family, government and media.

We want to plan an event that will impact our community. Our first goal in doing this is draw your participation, to form a team of organizers that can engage every member of the church into action. We have advance notice and can take full advantage of it.

This then is the first call to action. Please pray and seek direction, then act if you have it. Call Vickie Manfredi if you want to be a grass roots organizer for this event. We can plan any event we choose, any time of the day. Torrey Morse and Vickie attended the first regional meeting in New Haven lead by Sheila Kimball, the state wide coordinator. There was so much enthusiasm! Another will be happening as we move along. We would like to have our first planning meeting just after the first of the year. You have time to decide, I hope you will get on this train of prayer going across the country.

Let's pray and lead others to pray for this wonderful home of the free and the land of the brave!

MEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER SIGN-UP

by Michelle Viesselman & Nancy Perez

We served 75 very thankful men at the Men's Shelter in the month of November. In addition to a hot meal, New Testament Bibles and prayer bracelets were made available courtesy of the CCA Missions and Outreach Committee.

Please stop by the front table and sign up to assist for our next meal on **Sunday, December 27th**. Here is the menu:

Baked Chicken
Roasted potatoes
Green Beans
Garden Salad
Italian Bread (donated by Apicella's Bakery)

The following nonperishable items are needed each month and can be brought to church on any Sunday:

Napkins
Paper/plastic cups
Italian salad dressing
Non-carbonated beverages

Other helpful items needed each month:

Fresh fruit (uncut)
Desserts
Butter

Consider adding one of these items to your shopping list each month—use your Stop & Shop gift certificates and you'll benefit CCA, too! :))

Thank you so much to all of our committed volunteers!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ed Wood.....	2
Diane Spadacenta.....	11
Karol Ann Shalvoy.....	11
Torrey Morse.....	14
Joan Vulte.....	15
Ryan Perez.....	21
Jeannette Davis.....	22
Joe Perrone.....	31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Gil & Pam Wilkes..... 12-28-1962

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.....	December 7 th
Hanukkah begins.....	December 12 th
Vestry Meeting.....	December 15 th
Winter begins.....	December 21 st
Christmas Service at 4pm.....	December 24 th
Christmas Day.....	December 25 th
New Year's Eve.....	December 31 st

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Twas the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.

See the PC Police had taken away,
The reason for Christmas - no one could say.
The children were told by their schools not to sing,
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.

It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say
December 25th is just a 'Holiday'.
Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!

CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an ipod
Something was changing, something quite odd!
Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.

As Targets were hanging their trees upside down
At Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found.
At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears
You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.

Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty
Are words that were used to intimidate me.
Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen
On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton!

At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.
And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace

The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded
The reason for the season, stopped before it started.
So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'
Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.

Choose your words carefully, choose what you say
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS,
Not Happy Holiday!

Please, all Christians join together and
Wish everyone you meet during the
Holidays a
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



NOTES

1 - Please continue to pray for the healing of Myrtle Cunningham, Anthony Bates, Bobbie Buckley, Frank Stoddard, Sheryl Raffile, Karl Swanson, Jennifer Shaffner, Dan O'Conner, Carlos Sanchez, Helen and Matthew Maselli, Amanda Brault, Anthony Maloney, Debbie Morgan and Barry Langlan. (Names on this list will be removed after one month unless there is a request to renew them.)

2 - We support Fair Haven Parents Ministry as one of our outreach efforts; please bring in food donations for FHPM; the offering taken at coffee hour also goes to FHPM.

3 - Stop and Shop gift cards available every Sunday after 8 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.

4 - The Sunday school children are collecting pennies to be given to a charity of their choice. If anyone has any extra pennies, please feel free to throw them in their jug.

5 - Please bring in pictures of your children and/or grandchildren to be displayed as part of the Mustard Seed Project. We will be praying for them as we pray for the healing of this land.

6 - We will be serving a meal at the Emergency Men's Shelter on December 27th at 5:30 p.m. Thank you to all of our volunteers.

7 - Small Groups/Bible Studies:

- Sunday, 9:00 - 10:00 At Church between Services: "Paul's letter to the Romans"
- Tuesday, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., at 47 Prospect Rd [the Heermans]: "Intercessory Prayer"
- Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., at the Hagaman Memorial Library: "How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth"
- Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at 672 Townsend Ave., NH: "The Gospel of John"

Remember this is your newsletter so, voice your opinion, write your stories, tell us what you like or don't like; your options are unlimited.

We depend on your input; without it there is no newsletter.