



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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*The Reverend Peter N. Campbell, Priest-in-Charge*

February 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Easter is late this year (April 20<sup>th</sup>). This moves Ash Wednesday into March. Even though Epiphany has come and gone (January 6<sup>th</sup>), I will extend Christmastide with a few final thoughts about this year's season.

After three years of missing them, the luminaries returned this year. Three years ago, the Christmas Eve wind was so fierce that it blew over the first luminaries which were being set out, so that process was halted. Two years ago it was wet and rainy, as it was last year.

Finally this year, they were back: rain had been predicted early but never arrived, just cloud cover. The sidewalks were dry, so out they went. They provided a magical scene as we left the church (after dark) and for the rest of the night. We had just read John's magnificent Prologue before the recessional hymn, and leaving church we were given a visual display of light shining in darkness as the candles glowed through the white bags of the luminaries.

On my way from the church to the rectory, I noticed several cars slow down to take a good long look at our grounds: the lawn crèche (of course) and the luminaries inviting the eyes to look all the way to the church and the lighted stained glass windows.

Christmas remembers and celebrates the Light that came into the world in the person of Jesus. Christ Church was extending that Light out from our sanctuary, where we had just celebrated his birth, nearly to the street. It was working!

Let us continue to extend the Light and the love that comes with it that are within us out into our worlds as we go about our business on a regular basis. It doesn't cost us anything and will produce fruit in due season, sometimes even surprising us.

Christmastide is a short season (twelve days, as the song says). The Light and the love abide in us permanently. Let's use them to improve our worlds every day.

Peace be with you,  
Pete+

## AROUND AND ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH

After a slow start to the season, winter finally arrived mid-January with snow, ice and frigid temps. But the hearty Christ Church parishioners, still high in the Spirit after a glorious Christmas celebration, continue to move ahead into 2025 with their mission of sharing the light of Christ with the community.

### **Marilyn Ann Leonhart**

Marilyn passed away on January 1, 2025, at the age of 92 in Redmond, Washington. She and her husband Glenn were long time members of Grace Church in Oak Park and former members of Christ Church. A funeral service will be held at the Montclair Lucania Funeral Home, 6901 W. Belmont, in Chicago on January 31<sup>st</sup>, visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m., followed by a service at 10:30 a.m. May she rest in God's Peace, and Light Perpetual shine upon her

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, after the 10 a.m. service. The Vestry hosted the meeting with a delicious spread, including Don Moravec's famous cheese and sausage casserole, prepared by Pat Millett and Debbie Schaubel. Fr. Pete thanked the outgoing members for their service and dedication and welcomed the new members.

### **Open Mic, January 4<sup>th</sup> ...Buzz Hunter**

We rang in the New Year with a wonderous night of song, story and dance. January 4 was our first open mic of the year, and despite the temps, the undercroft was more than warm and inviting.

Stories were shared by Baba Tony, Kuch, Peter L and Boman. Margie provided elegant dance along with an intro to Tai Chi. A new performer, flautist Michael engaged everyone with his musical prowess on the Japanese flute along with his knowledge of the instrument.

Singers and songwriters shared their gifts, starting with yours truly and followed by Frank, Jason, Aaron, Joel and Datu. The show closed with Fr. Pete offering a lovely rendition of *O Holy Night* and closing with the crowd pleasing *Hotel California*.

Thanks to all who came and shared. And a special shout out to Nancy DiCiocco, without who the evening would have been greatly diminished.

### **SALE OF OUR FAMOUS EPISCOPICKLES**

Pickles are still here and are ready to take home, but they are going quickly. You may pick them up during the week between 1 and 4 p.m. Please call the church office at 708-366-7730 to make arrangements with Julie. They are \$7 per jar, payable when you get them.

## CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES RESPONSE FUND

Please consider making a donation for those impacted by the devastation and aftermath of the California wildfires. Please make your check payable to **Christ Church** and mark for "*California Wildfires.*" Specially marked envelopes are also available in the Narthex for this donation. Mail your donation to Christ Church or put it in the offering basket on Sundays. All our collected donations will be send to the Episcopal Relief & Development.

## BEYOND HUNGER

Please keep bringing non-perishable food items, regular size toiletries and cleaning products. **Note: check all items for "sell by/expiration date"**, the item must be factory sealed and not open, and any brands with identities based on racial stereotypes will not be accepted. Please bring them on Sundays and place in the basket in the Narthex.

## People to remember in our prayers

Andrew, Nancy, Joy, The Reverend Bob Wyatt, Tony, Alayna, Emily Gracia, Lou Dasaro, Bette Eilers, Diana & Robert Morris, Terry Kearns, Cindy Pierpaoli, Marc & Sylvette, Diane, Christina & Dean, Peter & Peggy, Merik, Kasia, Lamont, Jan Santos, Faith, Ceil, Maureen Puleo, Andy Longinow, Iga, The Rev. Mary Frances, Nicholas, Christina, Nancy Stiller, Doreen, David, Courtney, Buff Martin, Jordan, John, Hilde, John, Dom, Darlene Downs, The Aronson family, Mike & Marilyn, Paul, Marc, Gail Goodwin, Emily Gracia, Frank Cassello, Patrick & Veronica, Buzz, Cecelia, Chris, Regina, Ray Platek, Betty Moody, Dawn Hughes, Judy Skowronek, Ron, David Avalos, John Geyer, Bill Edson, Brennan Keefe, Eliza Ann, Ada, Jamie, Darcy, and those in our armed forces: Andrew Tapley, Reese Jones, Joseph Sowka, Alicia Quetzalcati, Alicia Johnson, Colton Stockholm, Hank Hamilton, Zack Zobel.

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

25    Maureen Puleo            26    Eliza Moravec            27    Jill McReynolds

## IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

**Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> - Men's and women's lunches at noon**, Madison Park Kitchen.  
**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> - Vestry meeting** after the 10 a.m. Eucharist

## IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

**Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday**  
    "*Ashes to Go*" distributed from our sidewalk ministry,  
    7:45 - 8:15 a.m.  
    Holy Eucharist/Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon  
**Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> - Men's and women's lunches at noon**, Madison Park Kitchen.  
**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - Vestry meeting** after the 10 a.m. Eucharist