

WINTER 2024



# Christ's Church

## Rye, New York

**GROW SPIRITUALLY. LOVE ACTIVELY. SERVE LOCALLY.**



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# From the Rector

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*

This familiar verse from the poetic prologue of John's gospel is read on the first Sunday after Christmas each year.

In a way, it is John's version of the Christmas story. Although there is no baby, no manger, no shepherds or kings, there is the Word. For John the Evangelist, all the many beloved words of our Christmas story can be expressed in one Word. The Word that was in the beginning with God. The Word that is Life and the Light of all people. The Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

Today, we are achingly aware of the power of words to harm and divide and dissemble. As we begin a new year at Christ's Church, may we be a people who speak the word of truth in love. May we cherish the gift of words to deepen relationships and communicate a vision of our future.

This year, I am taking a small step toward being a more effective communicator by traveling to Cuernavaca, Mexico, for a diocesan sponsored two-week Spanish language immersion program. I've never studied Spanish before and I hope to grow as a communicator, both culturally and liturgically.

Our Christ's Church year begins with a parish-wide invitation to give the gift of words to children in our **Blue Skies Afterschool Program**. Please sign up to come one afternoon during the week to read a story to the students who are working hard to improve their reading skills which suffered during the pandemic.

(click [here](#) to sign up, or scan the QR code on the next page.)

And we hope this year to communicate more effectively with you, our parishioners! Please take a moment to update your profile in Breeze, our database, so we can reach you. We will have news about the second phase of our capital campaign projects, news about our new bishop's "Mission Review" for the diocese, and of course news about ongoing worship, programs and outreach at Christ's Church.

Blessings in this New Year,  
Kate+



# From the Curate

So much of worship revolves around remembering...the fancy Greek word we use for it “anamnesis.” Sunday mornings, we listen to God’s Word and hear a Sermon to remember how God has acted and our response to it, and then hear why this still matters to us today from the preacher. In the Eucharistic Prayers, the first half of the prayer is the story of the Salvation History of God, the good and the bad. We do this in worship for us to remember how God has acted in time, and to remember who God calls us to be because of it. While we are all part of this larger salvation history, we all have a story of how God calls us all individually.

One of the most humbling things I have had the privilege, of as a priest, is hearing these stories of everyone I encounter...These little Gospel moments where someone, in the most mundane places, will share with me all of the things that God has done for them. It can be standing waiting on a platform for a train into the city, or getting my hair cut at Frank’s Barber Shop that someone will tell me how God has acted in their life in great and small ways. In these small encounters hearing people’s testimonies of God’s work in their lives, I get to bear witness to God’s light piercing through the world proclaiming the kingdom.

In John’s Gospel, he recounts that John the Baptist did not come into the world as the light, but to bear witness and testify to the light. The Baptist’s job in this world was to bear witness to incarnate God entering into the world and starting his ministry proclaiming a new Kingdom of peace and love. Much like John, we are all called to bear witness and testify to God’s Kingdom breaking in this world in our own lives and the lives of the people we meet. Bearing witness to how God has acted and is acting in our world is one of the most powerful ways that we can proclaim the kingdom.

Ryan+

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*Blue Skies 100 Book Challenge*



# From the Warden

There is so much happening in our Church!

As we enhance our property with upgrades, we also are strengthening our connections to our communities in Rye and Port Chester.

We are thankful for the ability to share our resources and space with the **Rye Boy Scouts** and **Blue Skies' After-School Program**. The Blue Skies' After-School program is a tutoring program that takes place at Christ's Church Rye every day from 3:00-6:00pm for elementary-age children from Port Chester. We welcome anyone who would like to get involved, sharing the gift of time with these children with reading and math.

Additionally, we are in discernment for the updates to the Sanctuary. Brad Smith is spearheading efforts to ensure that renovations to the sanctuary will begin in May, 2024. He has established a committee to prioritize projects based on the original requests of the capital campaign along with an architecture firm that specializes in church work.

## On-Going Projects:

- Cleaning out the inside of the steam boiler (provides heat)
- Upgrades to our slate roof. The work that started last spring just was completed.
- A new pollinator garden project, generously donated by Liz Garrett is working with Hilary Garland and Bruce Smith and will break ground this Spring in the grassy area at the corner of Rectory Street and Milton Road
- Nichole Reiff reported that over 500 coats had been collected for the fall coat drive.
- Karen Schulz created lovely brass Christ's Church ornaments for newcomers.
- The 13th annual Christmas tree sale, blessed with many volunteers and gorgeous weather, was a huge success, bringing trees, and Christmas spirit to our community.

Thank you to all who have donated time, effort, and talents in helping with many wonderful projects.

We look forward to the continued momentum and "**Renewal**" at Christ's Church Rye!





# Highlights from the Autumn of 2023



# Winter / Spring Key Dates



## Adult Education and Prayer

- **Women, Wine and Word resumes bi-weekly**, January 16 at 7:30pm, Guild Room.
- **Compline resumes weekly**, January 2 at 8:00pm, Google Meet.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes weekly**, January 3 at 9:30am, Zoom.
- **Roots of Faith Interfaith Bible Study resumes weekly**, January 4 at 10:00am, Community Synagogue of Rye.
- **Traveling Souls resumes monthly**, January 6 at 9:30am, Guild Room.
- **Understanding the Episcopal Identity class (3 part series) begins**, January 8 at 8:00pm, Zoom.
- **Saturday Morning Men's Group resumes monthly**, January 13 at 7:40am, Parish Hall Kitchen/Buttery.
- **Eve isn't Evil - Four Part Series**, January 18 at 7:30, Zoom.
- **Theology on Tap resumes monthly**, March 5 at 7:00pm, Columbarium.

## Children and Youth

- **Sunday School resumes weekly**, January 7 at 10:00am, Undercroft/Guild Room/Buttery.
- **Confirmation Class resumes**, January 7 at 5:00pm, Guild Room.
- **High School Youth Group resumes**, January 7 at 6:00pm, Parish Hall.
- **Pre-Confirmation Class and Parent Meeting resumes**, January 14 at 5:00pm, Parish Hall.
- **Middle School Youth Group resumes**, January 14 at 6:00pm, Parish Hall.
- **First Communion Retreat**, March 23 at 9:00am, Parish Hall/Guild Room.
- **Easter Egg Hunt**, March 31 at 10:00am, Front Lawn.
- **Confirmation of 2024 Confirmand Class with Bp. Allen Shin**, April 7 at 10:00am, Sanctuary.

## Community

- **Monthly Parishioner Dinner Club resumes monthly**, January 4 at 6:30pm, Billy & Pete's Burger Bar.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, February 13 at 6:00pm, Parish Hall.
- **Pentecost Sunday/Annual Meeting**, May 19 at 9:00am, Sanctuary/10:00am, Parish Hall.
- **Pentecost Sunday Food Trucks**, May 19 at 11:00am, Rectory Street.
- **Sanctuary Closes**, May 20.



# Winter / Spring Key Dates (cont.)

## Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Services

- **Ash Wednesday Services**, February 14 at 8:00am and 7:00pm, Sanctuary.
- **Palm Sunday Services**, March 24 at 8:00am and 10:00am, Sanctuary.
- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28 at 7:00pm, Sanctuary.
- **Good Friday Service**, March 29 at 12:00pm, Sanctuary.
- **Sunrise Easter Service**, March 31 at 6:00am, Rye Town Park Pavillion.
- **Easter Services**, March 31 at 9:00am and 11:00am, Sanctuary.

## Music

- **Choristers Masterclass Kickoff**, January 15 at 3:00pm, Parish Hall.
- **Sea Shanty Workshop with David McIntosh**, January 20 at 5:00pm, Parish Hall.
- **Organ Concert Dupré - Stephen Tharp**, March 7 at 7:00pm, Sanctuary.
- **Chorister Workshop with James O'Donnell**, March 9 at 9:00am, Christ Church Greenwich.
- **Evensong**, March 9 at 5:00pm, Christ Church Greenwich.
- **CHOIRFest**, April 27 at 5:30pm, Parish Hall.
- **Chorister Concert**, May 9, 7:00pm, Byram Shubert Library in Greenwich

For our full calendar of events, please click [here](#) to go to our website or scan this QR code:



# Adult Education Programming

## **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

**Every Wednesday - 9:30am**

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets every Wednesday from 9:30am-10:30am on Zoom continues through June. We begin this year with an exploration of the Gospel of Mark. The earliest, shortest and most urgent gospel in the bible, Mark is the text we read between now and next Advent. All are welcome to join and no advance preparation is necessary.

For more information and to receive the Zoom link, please email Jannine Moran at [jmoran@ccrye.org](mailto:jmoran@ccrye.org).

## **Roots of Faith Interfaith Bible Study**

**Every Thursday - 10:00am**

Roots of Faith is a weekly interfaith bible study led by the Rev. Kate Malin and Rabbi Daniel Gropper. Open to all, it is held in person at the Community Synagogue of Rye and on Zoom every Thursday morning at **10:00am**. On **January 4** we resumed our exploration of Abraham in the book of Genesis. Abraham is considered the father of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. We dive deep into the text to consider its historical and theological significance for both Jews and Christians, as well as its meaning for us today.

## **Theology on Tap**

**First Tuesday of the Month (Starting in March) - 7:00pm**

Theology on Tap (ToT) is a lay led and clergy supported men's monthly gathering that tackles the intersection of modern life and spirituality. If you are interested, please bring a beverage of choice and an open mind, and meet us at Columbarium Garden on the first Tuesday of every month. To be added to the ToT mailing list, please email Andrew Swank at [aswank62@gmail.com](mailto:aswank62@gmail.com).

## **Women, Wine, and Word**

**Alternating Tuesdays - 7:30pm**

Tuesday night bible study is transforming into a prayer study group. We will gather in the Guild Room to share community, then read from the Bible, the weekly Gospel and extra-canonical writings of early Christianity for inspiration.

Our prayer will be focused on the list of aspirations and cares we create at the beginning of the meeting. We can experiment with different forms of meditation before prayer. We will share books about the impact prayer has on our lives and the world. All ideas are welcome for exploration into supporting our world through prayer. First meeting will be held in the butterfly. For more information, email Lisa Pell at [lisavpell@gmail.com](mailto:lisavpell@gmail.com).

## **Saturday Morning Men's Group**

**Second and Fourth Saturday of the Month - 7:30am**

The Saturday Morning Men's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7:30am for a light breakfast and conversation about Sunday's scripture readings. If you are interested in joining the mailing list, please contact Bruce Macleod at [bmacskye@yahoo.com](mailto:bmacskye@yahoo.com).





# Short-Form Programming

## **Understanding the Episcopal Identity**

**January 8, 15, and 22**

The Nicene Creed states that “We believe in one, holy, catholic, apostolic church.” You may wonder how that word “catholic” applies to Episcopalians, especially if you were raised in the Roman Catholic church. What are the differences in our beliefs, practices and traditions? What do we share? How can Christ’s Church better welcome those outside our tradition through a clearer understanding of our Episcopal Identity? Join Bob Flanagan for a lively and enriching discussion about the history, structure, and worship of the Episcopal Church. The course meets on Monday **January 8, 15, and 22** on Zoom, and is open to all.

## **Eve isn’t Evil**

**Beginning January 18**

Throughout January and February, Christ’s Church will read through the book *Eve isn’t Evil*, by Dr. Julie Faith Parker. It is a phenomenal book that interweaves the academic study of the Bible with personal stories and experiences that encourage you to foster a deeper engagement with these treasured texts. The four classes will be on Thursday evenings at **7:30** on Zoom starting on **January 18**. At the end of our study, The author, Dr. Julie Faith Parker, will be joining us on February 11th to Preach and then lead a small book discussion during coffee hour. You can purchase the book and/or the audiobook (narrated by Dr. Julie Faith Parker) from Amazon. Please email Ryan Zavacky at [rzavacky@ccrye.org](mailto:rzavacky@ccrye.org) if you are interested in joining.

## **Newcomers Brunch**

**March 10**

Following the 10:00 am service on **March 10**, we will have a special newcomer’s brunch to welcome people to Christ’s Church. It will be a great way to meet with members of the vestry, the clergy, and parishioners alike. We hope you join us after coffee hour at the Rectory on March 10th.



**Eve  
Isn’t  
Evil**

# Children and Youth Programming



## **Sunday School**

Sunday School continues! This year, drop off for children will be in the Parish Hall from 9:30am - 10:00am. At 10, the Sunday School teachers will bring the children into grade specific rooms to take part in this year's program called "The Jesus Project." Grounded in story-telling, craft projects, games and conversation each class will center on Jesus's question to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" At 10:30am, all the children will be brought into the Sanctuary, where they will sit with their teacher in the first two pews for the duration of the service.

A dedicated group of high school volunteers, mentored and supported by adult staff and clergy, help our younger parishioners learn and grow in faith.

## **Confirmation**

Our 9th grade Confirmation Class continues their work to be ready for Confirmation next spring. This is the second year of a two-year preparation, and 21 teens are engaged in the process. This year began in September with a weekend retreat at Frost Valley YMCA Camp in the Catskill Mountains. The retreat provided a great opportunity for the Confirmands to reconnect with each other after the summer, focus on their faith and what it means to be Confirmed, and have some fun together. It also afforded them the time to be with their clergy, Kate and Ryan, their new Confirmation Leaders, Jessica Lodato and Michael Bagley, and Youth Ministries Coordinator Tyler James.

Since the retreat, the group has met bi-weekly to continue their preparations. With Kate, Ryan, Jess, and Mike, they have explored the Baptismal Covenant and Profession of Faith, working toward a deeper understanding of what it means to say yes to Confirmation and have been challenged to think about how to apply the lessons of the Gospels to their daily lives. This December the Confirmation Class participated in the numerous Advent and Christmas services and events, serving as acolytes, helping with the pageant, and simply being present during this important part of the church year. Classes resume in January, and we look forward to welcoming Bishop Allen Shin on **April 7** for Confirmation.



# Children and Youth Programming (cont.)

## Youth Groups

Middle School and High School Youth Groups continue! Both Youth Groups will be bi-weekly. The High School Youth Group, led by Coordinators Korbii Reiff and Ella Sheth and supervised by Youth Ministries Coordinator Tyler James, resumes January 7, from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The Middle School Youth Group will resume January 14, also from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Please have your teens join us in all the fun we have planned this school year!

## Youth Grantmaking Board

The 2023 Youth Grantmaking Board (YGB) had another exciting year. It allocated **\$10,000** in grants to four worthy organizations doing meaningful work in Port Chester to address this year's funding priorities of extra-curricular activities and academic support.

In November, the YGB held its annual celebration to thank donors and acknowledge all the hard work the board has done from March through November, as well as congratulating their grant recipients on their successful projects this past year.

Christ's Church look forward to next year's YGB when a new group of dedicated teens takes on the task of learning about philanthropy and grass-roots organizations making a difference in Port Chester. If you know a teen who might be interested in applying, go to [www.ccrye.org/ygb-members](http://www.ccrye.org/ygb-members). The application process will begin in February 2024.

Thank you to everyone who supported and continues to support the Youth Grantmaking Board, and to our amazing adult advisory board.

## Taizé

Our youth pilgrimage to Taizé this year begins in **Barcelona, Spain**, where our group of teens from Christ's Church Rye, Trinity Wall Street and St. Mark's New Canaan will explore the city's extraordinary architecture, unconventional churches, and delightful street scenes. After two days of sightseeing, we head to the ecumenical monastery for a week with other teens from around the world who come together in the beautiful French countryside to work and pray and learn and recharge as a community.

Our pilgrims depart on **February 15** and return on **February 25**.



# Music

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**March 9 at 5:00pm EVENSONG @ Christ Church Greenwich**

Our CCRye Choristers have been invited to join the Choristers of Christ Church Greenwich for an all-day workshop with the one and only James O'Donnell, former Organist and Choirmaster at Westminster Abbey, and Professor for Organ Studies at Yale University. It will culminate in an Evensong at 5pm at Christ Church in Greenwich on March 9..

## CONCERTS

**March 7 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary:**

**100 year Anniversary Organ Recital with STEPHEN THARP**

On March 7th 1924, famous French composer and organist extraordinaire **Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)** gave a celebrated recital at Christ's Church Rye. To commemorate that occasion with an extraordinary organist of our time, we are delighted to welcome international concert organist and recording artist **Stephen Tharp on Thursday, March 7, at 7:00pm.**

**Tickets: \$35 at the door.**

Childcare available.

**April 27 at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall: CHOIRFest**

Join us for our annual celebration of the voices of CCRye on Saturday, April 27 at 5:30pm! This concert is the result of our month-long masterclass series. Each choir singer will learn a solo or a duet, and sing it in a masterclass with Dr. DeGraf through January and February, then perform it at CHOIRFest. There will be a lot of fun music, food, and drinks. Suggested donation of \$20 to support the CCRye music program.

**May 9 at 7:00pm at the Byram Shubert Library in Greenwich: Chorister Concert**





# Music (cont.)

## WORKSHOPS at CCRye

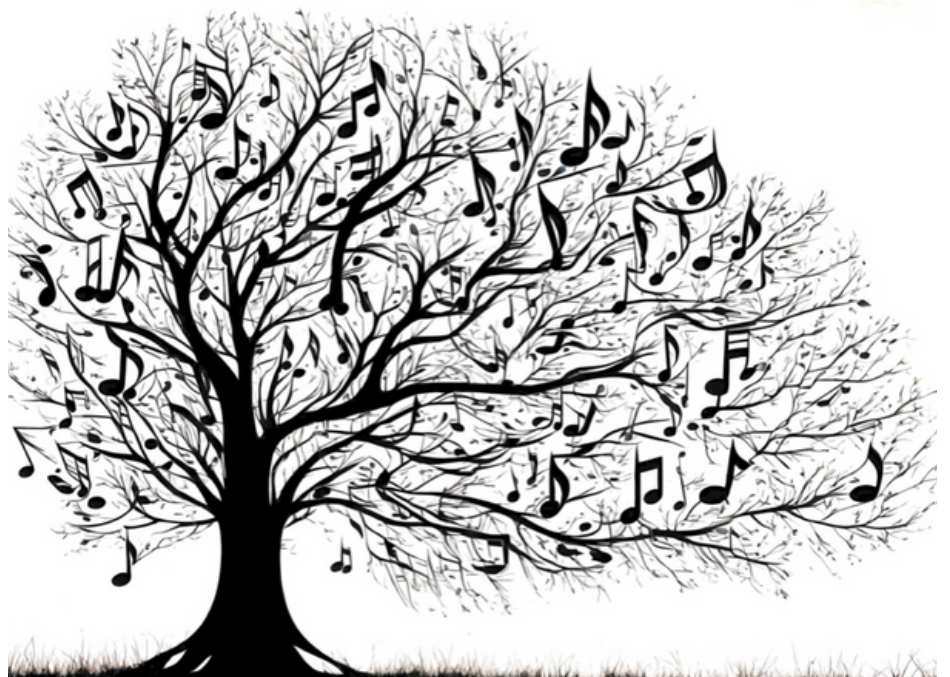
### January 20 at 5:00pm in the Parish Hall: SEA SHANTY Workshop with David McIntosh

This event is open to the whole parish (children are invited, but alcoholic beverages may be served, so caution is advised). From the learned materials, we will choose a few seas shanties to share at our service the next morning, on the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 21 at 10:00am to connect to our Gospel from Mark that day:

*As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.*

### Music Theory

After a popular first run of the Music Theory for Singer series led by Dr. Galen DeGraf, there will be additional sessions held in the spring which will be announced soon through our weekly e-newsletter.



# Christ's Church Nursery School



We are currently wrapping up our Admissions Season for the 2024-2025 school year. As new families come for visits, we often explain the CCNS difference. Other schools will talk about being child-centered, play-centered, and a fun, safe space for children; no doubt we are all that! However, CCNS has something unique many other schools do not spend the money on or try to include in their curriculum: a deliberate literacy program and a block room curriculum. We know that these classes are value-added experiences that benefit all students, and we are so happy to be able to include them.

## **Block Room**

Learning through play is the hallmark of childhood, and the Block Room at Christ's Church Nursery School is the ideal environment to facilitate all that play has to offer a developing learner. When children enter the Block Room, they not only build amazing structures, but they also build imagination, confidence, and lifelong skills that support academic success.

Block play encourages a child to be creative, think critically, collaborate, and negotiate with others as they turn imagination into tangible outcomes. They become resilient problem solvers while learning about balance, gravity, and spatial awareness. Fine and gross motor skills develop along with risk assessment as they place blocks strategically. Academic concepts are visually and tactically reinforced in areas of shapes and numbers, measurement and fractions, perimeter, area and volume, testing hypotheses, understanding simple machines and engineering concepts, and social studies as they build cities, roads, and homes.

Here at CCNS, we are so proud to give children open-ended experiences with the freedom to explore and engage in valuable play that makes them proud, innovative, and successful.

# Christ's Church Nursery School (cont.)



## Literacy

When it comes to building the foundations of reading, CCNS believes that more is more. Each week, CCNS students attend literacy classes with Mrs. Courtney Donohue and have the opportunity to build “science of reading” skills while also experiencing the joys of classic children’s literature. During each session of the CCNS Literacy program, children spend the first half of class focused on “reading science.” Each lesson is heavily influenced by the Wilson Reading System, “Foundations”. The more opportunities children have to learn reading rules, the better they will be for elementary school.

Every class includes a review of letter/sound correspondence, alphabetic knowledge, recognition of vowels and consonants, enunciation of separate syllables, print concepts, and a discussion of basic sentence structure. For the child that reading will come easy; these practices will accelerate them to be fluent, intuitive readers quickly in elementary school. This practice is vital for the child who may have reading difficulties in the future, as they will need to rely on their knowledge of the rules to read successfully. Either way, early, consistent exposure to letters, sounds, and rules is key for all readers. Children love repetition, and they build confidence from consistent practice. Every student finds this portion of the class exciting and never tedious. They are delighted to have these knowledge. Now, rules are necessary, but so is fun! CCNS is built on the concept of play-based learning and language-rich experiences.

The second part of each literacy class is dedicated to literature study. Mrs. Donohue always says, “I never read a story to our students. We read it together. It’s so important for children to be invited into a book. Their observations should always be welcomed.” Through open-ended questions, story time becomes a play-based experience instead of a passive-listening one. For Mrs. Donohue, no vocabulary word is too sophisticated for a child to understand, and no plot is too complicated for kids to retell. Children’s literature, with its playful language and detailed illustrations, provides the perfect setting for children to articulate their understanding of a book. And wow, can they articulate! Move over Oprah and Reese, CCNS students have sharp observations and recommendations worthy of a book club stamp on Amazon!

# Church Directory

< January 2024 >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Calendars (+)

Internal Building

Main



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