

ILLUMINARE

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WEAVING US MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER

Happens like this. Feast gets talked up. Everyone hears about it, starts gettin' something' ready. Hunters hunt, bring fresh meat, people go fishin', bake bannock, everywhere there's people gettin' ready. That's the first sly part. Getting' ready. Everyone wants to make up their best. Best moose stew, best bannock, best deer roast. Right away they're thinkin' of something' outside themselves. Thinkin' of the people. Right away that simple ceremony's workin' on their thinkin'. Then the gatherin' happens. People come together. See each other headin' together reminds 'em of how important they are to each other. Maybe how much they miss someone they ain't talked with for long time. Gets that feelin' movin' inside 'em.

Richard Wagamese

This fragment of a memoir by a North Woods Mainiac (i.e. a citizen of the state of Maine) describes the way it feels to me to be a part of this parish family. Minus the moose stew (crawfish instead?) when we "see each headin' together", it reminds us how important we are to each other. It "gets that feelin' moven' ". The people at Christ Church enjoy one another more than any other congregation I have served in 36 years. This is a powerful grace and a vital blessing in a time when "the one" has gotten lost in the grid of 100,000. When you drive up to Christ Church, it looks and feels like a place where everyone will know your name. That is what all of us hunger for, I think.

Lately, this has become more difficult actually to realize in our congregational life. We are not a "little country church". We are 514 families and 1,500 people who live in ten zip codes. The Vestry recognizes this fact and has spent the last few months developing one new way to help us better know, enjoy and care for one another. We are calling it Christ Church Connections as put together by the Vestry Parish Life Committee and explained by its co-chairs, Judy Shopf and Lucie Thornton. You'll hear more from them right after the new year when we actually do our start up, but here's what to expect. I'm excited about this new ministry, thankful for their faithful preparation, and hopeful you will want to participate! Fr. Tom

Christ Church has grown in numbers and our membership is spread throughout Western St. Tammany Parish. Last spring, the Vestry identified our need to keep our community close — to be able to know one another, enjoy one another, support one another and reach out together to others. With these goals in mind, we are forming neighborhood groups, *Christ Church Connections*, to foster closer relationships, face to face visits, fellowship and better communications.

Approximately 13 groups have been identified, thanks to good maps and computer software, and are based solely on neighborhoods. Each group will have co-leaders, who will be trained to facilitate communications in each neighborhood and also with Christ Church as a whole.

The purposes and objectives of *Christ Church Connections* are to:

1. Provide connections, information and fellowship among members of Christ Church who live near one another. Each group will function as agreed upon by its members and they will determine the frequency and style of their gatherings.
2. Introduce newcomers and visitors to Christ Church parishioners in their own neighborhoods.
3. Offer prayerful and pastoral support to members in difficult times and connect their needs to staff members or ministries.
4. Share information about various events, programs, projects and services of Christ Church, enhancing all members' working knowledge of our life and God's work that is being done in our community.
5. Facilitate seasonal gatherings or services, such as Lenten Home Eucharists or the Advent Las Posadas procession.

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Judy Shopf, Bill Batson, Mark Berry and Lucie Thornton are the Vestry members who have been working on this project, along with Shelly Berry, Anne Blackmon, Kerry Yeates and Kathy Turner. They have invested many hours and a few bottles of good wine to get it all done. We are in the process of identifying leaders and planning their training, with hopes that the groups may begin to meet in early 2012.

Lucie Thornton & Judy Shopf, for the CEC Vestry

REACH OUT FOR FALL! **Fall Festival, Sunday, November 6** **following the 10:00am service**



The air is cooler, the colors are changing, the Saints are winning, it must be Fall! Time for an old fashioned church festival with everything from Deda's homemade cake to the corn hole game! Face painting, Twister playing, sweets consuming, fun for all ages, all groups, all people who enjoy food and fellowship. Step outside the doors of the Church from the 10:00am service into a festival dedicated to our Outreach opportunities. One can of food, or your Thom Turkey package, gets you into the fun. From Blood Bank punch to Beads for Life jewelry to the Saints Game (on in the Parish Hall of course), you are sure to find something of interest. To volunteer, to bring food, or to bring a cake for the cake walk, contact Mary Anne Reidy at 892-3177 mareidy@christchurchcovington.com



NEW GROUP: **GO ON AND LIVE (GALS)** **Formerly known at** **Go on Living**

Go On and Live is a gathering of individuals who have lost their spouse and enjoy the friendship and support of others learning to live in this new reality. Periodically we gather for lunch and conversation. The next meeting will be at Judy Shopf's house on Sunday, October 30 following the 11:15 a.m. service. Please contact Anne Maxwell for more information amawell@christchurchcovington.com or 892-3177.

THOM TURKEY HAS ARRIVED!



Help us reach our goal to provide Thanksgiving dinner to 250 families in our community! Thom the Turkey has landed in the narthex and is stuffed with feathers. Each feather lists 8 items needed to provide a Thanksgiving feast for one family. Those items are: green beans, green peas, yams, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing/dressing mix and cornbread/roll mix. Please return your donations to Christ Church no later than November 13. The assembly of the Turkey Train bags will be in the Parish Hall on Wed, November 16 and the distribution will be on Tues, November 22 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Faith Bible Church, 1148 N. Columbia Street, Covington. Please contact Daniel Ciufi at 892-3177 if you can help with the assembly or distribution of the Turkey Train bags.

IMPORTANT!



Service Schedule Time Change

On **Sunday, November 6** we will have one service at **10:00 a.m.** No 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on this day. Reach Out for Fall Festival will follow the 10:00 a.m. service. The 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. services will take place as usual. **Also, remember to set your clock back one hour on November 6.**

FALL DRIVE FOR COVINGTON FOOD BANK



Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to the success of our latest drive. You donated checks totaling \$1,170 and 55 bags of food. This year Christ Church members have donated a total of \$3,241 and 189 bags of food to the needy of our community. These drives are successful not only because of your generosity but also because of the wonderful people who volunteer to pass out bags and deliver food to the Food Bank. Volunteers who helped this time included Julie and Rhenne Cervantes, Kerry and David Yeates, Barbara and Steve Canter, David Moore, David Lynd, Laura Robert and Liz Bedikian.

More than Enough!

As we begin preparation for the 2012 annual budget, I'm reminded of praying with a friend who sang, "I believe that God will provide more than enough" to meet our needs. I agreed.

In these tough economic times, it is often difficult to "trust" that God *will* meet our needs. But these also can be exciting times when our relationships deepen and faith grows as we rely more fully on God's promises?

We work to "budget" the proper amounts to order our worship, maintain our buildings, provide sustenance for clergy and staff, and expand outreach programs. We "crunch" numbers, look at projections and use our best abilities in prayerfully administering God's gifts. All the while, it is GOD, through you, who abundantly and consistently provides "More than Enough"!

This year, not unlike others, we have had some unexpected expenses. Air conditioning units gave out, deferred maintenance on our wooden buildings arose and some unforeseen payroll liabilities required our attention. All these have put a strain on our 2011 budget. We are on our way to making this up toward the end of the year, when our giving typically increases from the trough of the summer months. If you are lagging in fulfilling your pledge or can make an extra gift, both would be most appreciated.

Please pray for us as we pray for you in discerning where and how God is calling us all to participate in our corporate worship, our individual ministries, and our financial commitments at Christ Church as we look to the future.

As we consider a budget for 2012 that is both faithful and prudent, our target is \$815,726, 9% above the 2011 budget. In dollar terms, this would include some "structural" increases in areas such as insurance and utilities. We would offer modest merit increases to high-performing employees, because retaining our valued staff is a priority and we would encourage the Vestry in this direction. We would also recommend a realistic number in the operating budget for capital maintenance and repairs (this year it will be about \$50,000) so that we do not have to "borrow" from capital reserves to pay for repairs that really must be done. We are also suggesting that we make a parish-wide commitment to Christ School's expansion program of \$5,000 in 2012 and \$5,000 in 2013. The categories and percentages of our expenditures for next year with such a budget breaks down as follows:

\$259,993	Clergy salary and benefits	31.87%
\$270,283	Other staff salaries and benefits	33.13%
\$103,250	Operations and Administration	12.66%
\$65,000	Repairs and Maintenance	8.25 %
\$65,000	Diocese of Louisiana	8.25 %
\$41,684	Parish Ministries and Programs	4.56 %
\$10,000	Audit Expense	1.23%
\$5,000	Christ School Expansion	0.6%

On the income side, we depend upon your gifts and pledges to meet our expenses. We have no endowment income and very modest profit on other investments. Our largest pledge is \$25,000 (thank you!) and our average pledge is a little over \$2,600. Of our 514 families, 365 pledge or give in a regular and consistent way. We plan on that basis and expect to adopt a prudent operating budget. Outreach costs are largely non-operating expenditures, raised annually by appeals throughout the year and add up to another \$75 — \$85,000. We are streamlining that process this year with the "Hands That Touch Hearts" project which will fund Caritas, CEEP, and part of our YM mission trips expenses. And although external audits are expensive, the Treasurers and Vestry believe they are the best way to insure the adequacy of our accounting and protect our officers, directors, and all of you who give.

We are thankful that our Christ Church community is faithful and active in providing for the ministry into which we have all been called. God's well never runs dry, He never gets tired and will always provide "more than enough" for His people. We are mindful of God's promise in 2 Corinthians 9:8

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

The Christ Church Treasurers and Finance Committee: Skip Scoggin (Chair), John Sandidge, Paul Vining, Dunbar Healy, Karen Courtney, James Valliant, Rob Hewitt, Mimi Dossett, Kirk Michel, Fr. Tom Blackmon, Michelle Gallagher (Sr. Warden), Bobby Coxe (Co-Treasurer) and Darci Senner (Co-Treasurer).

Christ Church, Covington

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Max Welch *Assistant Organist*

Benjie Branson *Assisting Organist*

Buddy Anderson *Nursery Coordinator*

Chuck Aversa *Facilities Coordinator*

VESTRY

2009-2012—Jeff Bell, Mark Berry,

Michelle Gallagher, Lucie Thornton

2010-2013—Bill Batson, Mel Elliott,

Jim Valliant, Paul Vining

2011-2014 — Mary Thomas Coady, Patterson Conner,

Michelle Prather, Judy Shopf

Scheduled to Serve Sunday, October 23, 2011

	7:30	9:00	11:15
MC		Rhenné Cervantes	Liz Taurman
EMs	Ralph Menetre	Mel Elliott Melinda Jones	John Linder Alison Pelegrin
Acolytes		Cove Geary Caroline Ahrons Max Peregrine	Ava Hunley Sarah Trahan Collin Jacks
Lectors		McKenzie Elliott Becky Roniger	Ken Nolan Liz Taurman
Ushers	Don Kieffer Charlie Stahr	Tim Wolfe Jason Reina Mark Mercante Andrew Mercante Michael Willis Bert Duvic Dylan Langdon James Richardson	Matt Holzhalb Jim Conner Patterson Conner Clave Gill
Greeters		Lisa Geary	Judy Shopf Kerry Yeates
Altar Guild Team 1			
Caring Ministry Leader Linda Wendle 845-1479 Barbie Lasater 892-2378			
LESSONS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011 Deuteronomy 14:22-29, Psalm 43, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 6:19-33			