From the desk of Father Alex Andujar

On the 1st of January millions of Americans will make New Year’s resolutions. They will declare to the world that this is the year that they lose 20 lbs, change to a healthier diet, or start a new hobby. Many Christians will use this as an opportunity to resolve to pray more, love their neighbor more, or just “be a better Christian”. Sadly, the majority of people, myself included, will fail at their resolutions within just a few weeks of starting the new year. Starting something new is hard and often we lack the discipline to follow through.

That’s why this year I am encouraging people to try something different. Each year we focus on what we can do to make ourselves better. But what about allowing God to work within us? What if we decided to lower our defenses and allow God to do the work within us that only He can do? So instead of action this year let us focus on surrender. There is nothing we can do to earn the love and affection of God. There is nothing we can do to lose it. The only thing that keeps us from it is a stubborn heart.

But how do we lower our defenses? First we must listen. We must listen to the voice of God calling out to us like He has called out to every person throughout history. God doesn’t want anyone to be lost. Like the prodigal son he wants them home. Second we must be open. We must be open to what God is saying. Often times we hear God’s voice but we aren’t open to what he wants to say. Maybe we don’t understand it or we have rejected what God is telling us. But we must at least be open to what God is saying. Lastly, we must accept. One of the most difficult things for many people is to simply accept that they are loved. Perhaps we have been hurt by someone we love or a member of the Church.
Clergy and staff members may be contacted by using the listed extensions and phone numbers. Please follow the prompts on the menu to leave a voice mail.

The Clergy
The Rev. Joel J. Morsch, Rector, ext. 227
The Rev. Alex Andujar, Priest Assistant, ext. 247
The Rev. Gretchen M. Platt, Deacon
The Rev. Micheal Sircy, Deacon

The Vestry
Aaron Welch (Senior Warden)
Doug Reiff (Junior Warden)
Jane Reed (Secretary)
Jeanette Edwards (Treasurer)
Blake Hadley
PK Isiminger
Susan M. Kelly
James Martin
Alan Prather
Gary Polly
Carolyn Ritchie
Sarah Stephenson
Rick Teigland
Claude Tankersley (Alternate)

The Staff
Debbie Holt - Parish Administrator, ext. 285
Richard Odell – Facilities Manager, ext. 236
Maryam Whitaker – Parish Facilitator, ext. 229
Pamela Willey – Parish Registrar, ext. 223

Music Department
Richard Benedum, D.M.A. Organist/Choirmaster, ext. 226
William Holt – Associate Organist/Choir Director
Cecilia McEnaney – Jubilate Handbells

Clergy Emergency Cell Phone:
Rev. Joel Morsch: 773-6018
Clergy Email:
Rev. Joel J. Morsch: joelmorsch@icloud.com

Our Parish Mission Statement
Matthew 28:18-20
And Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Hospitalization and Other Pastoral Concerns:
As a result of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), parishioners and family members who find themselves hospitalized can no longer expect the hospital authorities to inform the clergy of their pastoral needs. The clergy depend on you to call the Parish office (747-3709) with as much information as possible.

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Perhaps we feel that we are unworthy of being loved. But God loves everyone that He has created, and everyone He has created He also wants to sustain and see flourish.

Listen, be open, and accept. This year let us stop working so hard to do better and simply start by allowing God to love us. A good start to this non-resolution would be the collect for the 1st January, the Feast of the Holy Name. The name of Jesus is so powerful that even those who don’t believe will one day have to bow to it.

Let us pray: Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

You may reach the Church staff by calling (941) 747-3709
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
BIBLE STUDY AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

CHECK OUT THE CHOICES BELOW .....  

Father Joel is offering his Galatians bible study Wednesday nights at 7:15 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 following the 6:30 p.m. Eucharist. The class will resume on January 13th.

Father Joel’s Spring Inquirer’s Class is being offered Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Meeting Room1 beginning January 10, 2016.

Sunday morning class for MEN at 10:00 a.m. in The Upper Room studying the book, “Forgotten God” by Francis Chan. The class is led by Blake Hadley and Dr. David Leslie.

All women are invited to the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays for the group “WOMEN NEED WOMEN” led by CAROLYN HOWARD and CHANDRA MOORE. Join together for fellowship, prayer and support.

Daughters of the King morning group meets on Wednesdays in the Parlor at 11:00 a.m..

Men’s Group Bible Study always welcomes new members. The group is studying “The Holy Spirit, an Introduction” by John Bevere. Come and join us in Meeting Room 1 at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

The Evening Daughters of the King will hold their next regular monthly meeting on January 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Classroom.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Father Joel will be offering Inquirer's/Confirmation Classes. The class prepares you to be confirmed or received into The Episcopal Church and become a member of Christ Church. The class begins January 10, 2016, in Meeting Room #1 at 10:15 a.m.

Please call the Church office 747-3709 if you plan to attend so we know how many to prepare for.
Evangelism & Outreach Dinner

2016

Tickets are now on sale

$35.00 per plate

Your choice of Entrée: Chicken, Fish or Pork.
Vegetarian and Gluten Free entrée also available upon request.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BEFORE DECEMBER 30th
and SAVE $5.00 ($30.00 per person)

Tuesday February 2nd, 2016 Bradenton Yacht Club,

Palmetto

Preview and Cash Bar begin at 6 pm

Dinner followed by Live Auction

CONTACT: Heather Whelan
(941) 749-8564 for Tickets and Information

Address for Palmetto Yacht Club is:

4307 Snead Island Road Palmetto FL 34221
The music calendar at Christ Church includes three special events, in addition to the ongoing music for Sunday services. Mark your calendar; we hope to see you at one or more of these events.

On Sunday, January 17, Dudley Oakes will present an organ recital at 4:00 p.m. Oakes earned his doctorate in organ performance from the University of Michigan, a school which has a long history of one of the best graduate programs in organ performance in the U.S. He is Vice President for Sales and Marketing at Létourneau Organs, and worked closely with the Christ Church organ committee in the planning and installation of the magnificent organ we enjoy every Sunday.

On Sunday, January 24, Richard Benedum will present a lecture on Mozart’s opera Cosi fan tutte, which will be performed during the spring by the Sarasota Opera company. Dr. Benedum led 15 seminars on the music of Mozart, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and held in Vienna, Austria; these seminars principally focused on Mozart’s operas. The lecture will be at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, and will include a power point presentation and recorded excerpts.

On Sunday, January 31, at 4:00 p.m., Nash Ryder will present a violin recital, accompanied by Charles Chacallo. Nash is currently a student at the Juilliard School of Music, where he studies violin with Prof. Ronald Copes (the son of V. Earle Copes, who was a consultant in planning Christ Church’s Létourneau organ. Nash is the grandson of Joanne and Ernie Ryder, and has occasionally played for worship services over the past several years.

All these music events are free; a free will offering will be taken for the two concerts. We hope to see you there!

Doctor Richard Benedum D.M.A. Organist/Choirmaster
ANNUAL MEETING

THE CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO PRESENT YEAR-END REPORTS FOR 2014 AND TO ELECT VESTRY MEMBERS.

THERE WILL BE REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES AT 7:30, 9:00 AND 11:00 A.M.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Vestry Nominees to be announced

Parishioners can make nominations in writing in advance of The Annual Meeting. The nominator and nominee must be members who attend regularly and are givers of record. The nominee must consent to be elected before the nomination is accepted.
MINISTRY NEWS

E. C. W. by Joyce Cory
The women of Christ Church join in fellowship for the purpose of deepening their spiritual life and fostering active participation in the whole Church program. All adult churchwomen in Christ Church are members of the ECW and are cordially invited to become active in the Church.

ST. ANNE’S CHAPTER by Mary Braine
Founded in the 16th century for the exclusive use of the Hapsburg Royal family of Austria, the Royal Lipizzans are unquestionably the rarest, most aristocratic breed of horses in the world. The pride of the Hapsburg Empire, the Lipizzan breed was first established by Archduke Charles at Lipizza. A visit is planned in January and members will be notified as soon as we have a firm date.

OUR LORD’S PANTRY by Richard Odell
The needs of the community are outpacing the supplies of food at The Lord’s Pantry. The Pantry is in need of the following items: SPAGHETTI SAUCE, INCLUDING TOMATO PASTE, PASTA, CANNED FRUIT, CANNED BEANS, CANNED VEGETABLES, CANNED TUNA AND MAC & CHEESE. Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry. Volunteers are always welcome! Contact the Church office if you are able to help.

THE CHRIST CHURCH THRIFT SHOP by Lolly Weaver
Please drop by the Shop to meet our dedicated and helpful volunteers. While there, enjoy relaxed conversations over coffee and cookies, and look over the quality merchandise offered at attractive prices and displayed in a pleasant and uncluttered setting. All profits support the Church’s Outreach Program. We always welcome your donations, and particularly need furniture, home decorative pieces, kitchen items, and fashion jewelry. The Shop is open 10 AM-2 PM Monday through Saturday. Contact the Thrift Shop (941-746-4906) or Lolly and Jim Weaver (941-545-0082) with questions, comments, and suggestions.
EPIPHANY

The Feast of Epiphany will be observed on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 when we celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men. We will have a brief service at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Pot Luck Dinner.

MINISTRY FAIR

JANUARY 17, 2016

Will be held in the Parish Hall from 10-11am. Please come and visit and see all the wonderful ministries that are available here at Christ Church. Why not even volunteer to give just a few hours of your week to help? A few examples are - Altar Guild, Chorale, Jubilate Bells, Praise Team, Vergers, Readers, Chalice Bearers, Ushers, Brass Polishers, Palm Crosses, Daughters of the King, Men’s Ministry, Lord’s Pantry, Thrift Shop, Outreach, Crop Walk, Welcome Committee, Greeters, Office Angels, CC Knitters, St Anne’s, ECW, Needlepoint, VBS, etc.

For further information please call Debbie Holt at Church at 747-3709 ext. 285.
Among the most respected independent, college preparatory schools in the nation, Saint Stephen’s Episcopal School provides a world-class education for students in grades Pre-K3 through 12. At every level, students are nurtured in small classes, encouraged and supported by outstanding faculty who help them navigate a carefully designed and balanced curriculum of academic rigor and character development.

Saint Stephen’s delivers exciting programs, including extensive AP courses, an iPad initiative, a global education program, a K-12 daily foreign language program, a growing marine science initiative, and a band/strings program.

We also offer a wide variety of customized curricular and extracurricular experiences that result from flexible scheduling and a philosophy of meeting individual student needs. The range and breadth of our curriculum offer children who come to Saint Stephen’s excellent preparation in becoming global citizens. The world opens up for Saint Stephen’s students. Current families hail from Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch, Palmetto, Parrish, Ellenton, Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key and Casey Key, as well as from countries all around the globe.

Rich academic offerings go hand-in-hand with a strong college counseling program, allowing every student an opportunity to pursue higher education. Saint Stephen’s students are excelling today in colleges and universities nationwide, thanks to a strong foundation for success built on proven educational models.
Anglican Cycle of Prayer
Pray for:

January 3, 2016  The Second Sunday after Christmas
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia
The Most Revd William Brown Turei Pihopa o Aotearoa and Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

January 10, 2016 - The First Sunday after Epiphany
The Anglican Church of Australia The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia

January 17, 2016 - The Second Sunday after Epiphany
The Church of Bangladesh The Most Revd Paul Shishir Sarker Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka

January 24, 2016 - The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil The Most Revd Francisco De Assis Da Silva Primate of Brazil & Bishop of South-Western Brazil

January 31, 2016 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
The Anglican Church of Burundi The Most Revd Bernard Ntahoturi Archbishop of the Province of Burundi & Bishop of Matana
What a year 2015 was! We have a lot to be thankful for, and a lot of things to look forward to in 2016.
Youth group will resume on January 10th with an Epiphany party. Although this is after January 6th, we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus in a big way.
The high schooler’s will also have a lock-in on January 17th. The event will be combined with a couple of other parishes in our diocese, which should be fun for all.
There will also be a BIG event with the diocese on January 23rd. This will be a “Rootin’ Tootin’ Hottenanny”, held at St Stephen’s Episcopal School Gymnasium from 12pm-4pm. All middle and high school youth are invited to attend ad this is a great way to get to know other youth in our diocese. January is turning out to be a busy month, and there will be many other fun and exciting things to get involved in.

Remember that all 6-12th grade youth are welcome to attend youth group. We meet on Sunday’s from 4-6 pm, unless otherwise specified. If you are interested in receiving calendar updates or email correspondence of what is happening with the youth please let me know. I am always available and open to questions and inquiries.

In Him,
Andi
### January Birthdays

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<td>Welton Kopp</td>
<td>14 Griffin Ramirez</td>
<td>23 Kelly Seagreaves</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Eric Daniels</td>
<td>14 Jackson Ramirez</td>
<td>23 Patrick Whelan</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tony Delisa</td>
<td>15 Rich Moeller</td>
<td>25 Philette Sandstrum</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ruby Fisler</td>
<td>19 Julie Meeks</td>
<td>25 Jack States</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Peggy Meyers</td>
<td>19 Collin Moore</td>
<td>26 Wardine Dodson</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Debbie Holt</td>
<td>19 Bolivar Turner</td>
<td>26 Dozier Lee Hilliard</td>
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<td>Robert Angstadt</td>
<td>20 Jeanette Edwards</td>
<td>28 Anne Douglass</td>
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<td>Beverly Burdette</td>
<td>20 Carolyn Ritchie</td>
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<td>Deacon Gretchen Platt</td>
<td>20 Lolly Weaver</td>
<td>31 Susan Crooker</td>
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<td>Joanne Ryder</td>
<td>22 Marjorie Krogel</td>
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<td>Gregory Andujar</td>
<td>23 Barbara Chastain</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Kate De Villiers</td>
<td>23 Larry Kramer</td>
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### January Anniversaries

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<td>2</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Jennifer Kreisel</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Marjean Saltsgiver</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Kim Herba</td>
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<td>Tom &amp; Jane Brown</td>
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<td>The Rev. Joel &amp; Barbara Morsch</td>
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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2015
SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

These lectionary citations are from the Revised Common Lectionary as used by The Episcopal Church.

We are now in Year C.

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<tr>
<th>Celebration</th>
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<td>Second Sunday after Christmas</td>
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<td>First Sunday after Epiphany</td>
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<td>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</td>
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Scripture readings can be found on Biblegateway.com
SUNDAY SERVICES
All Sunday Services are held in the Nave
7:30 a.m. Rite I (Traditional Music)
9:00 a.m. Rite II (Contemporary Music)
11:00 a.m. Rite II (Traditional Music)
1:00 p.m. Spanish Language

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

WEEKDAY SERVICES
All Weekday Services are held in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Monday, 12:00 p.m.
First Monday, Holy Communion Rite I
Remaining Mondays.
Morning Prayer Rite I
Wednesday, 12:00
First Wednesday, Holy Communion Rite I
Remaining Wednesdays
Morning Prayer Rite I
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Rite I