



CCEP Newsletter

A Mindful Christmas

In Family Chapel this week, we assembled the figures of the crèche by first bringing the animals to the stable, then Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus, shepherds, and angels. We also lit the first candle of the Advent Wreath. The unlit candles remind us that we are not yet celebrating Christmas. We must pass the days of Advent, lighting one candle each week, before we can truly celebrate the nativity. How nice it is to have these days of anticipation, while all around us the world is “celebrating” early! It is hard to feel that what we’re doing—shopping, decorating, baking, partying, moving the Elf—is celebratory when it drags us down with obligation and drudgery. By all means, if it brings you joy, do it! Our children can teach us a great deal, though, about the joy of anticipation. The

waiting itself can make the arrival of Christmas all the sweeter.

Christmas Day is only *day one* of the season. Christmas lasts for 12 days, ending on the eve of the Epiphany (when we’ll bring out the 3 Kings for the crèche). My challenge for you is to find a way to celebrate Christmas all 12 days. (It’s easier to do this when you haven’t begun early.) This doesn’t mean a gift every day, at least not the kind that is wrapped up with a bow, but it could be the gift of time and presence. Consider giving your child an hour of one-on-one play with a favorite game, taking a drive to see Christmas decorations, letting him/her choose the menu for dinner, having a special privilege....you get the picture. Begin each day of the season with a recognition that “This is the 2nd (or 3rd, or 4th...)”



day of Christmas. Maybe you’ll want to have a “Twelfth Night” party for family or friends on January 5th. Taking your tree down on Epiphany is a common practice; again, this is easier if it hasn’t been up since Thanksgiving.

However you choose to celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas, I hope you do it with intentional practices. Take the time to be mindful about what will make this time sacred for you and your family.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

*Jo Harney, D.Min.
Head of School*

**Christ Church
Episcopal Preschool**

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DECEMBER 2017

Points of Interest:

☺ Aftercare ends at
5pm on December
13th.

DECEMBER DATES

DECEMBER 1, 2017

**Green Show
School Closed**

DECEMBER 5, 2017

Family Chapel

DECEMBER 13, 2017

**Christmas Party
5:00pm—7:00pm**

DECEMBER 14, 2017

PA Mtg 8:30am

DECEMBER 19, 2017

Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 20-22, 2017

**School Closed
Holiday Camp Only**

Happy Wings: Angels and Butterflies

Anticipation is growing, as we prepare for a joyous holiday season! The wonder of the season highlights our curriculum. Students are developing their fine motor skills and senses by creating decorations and making Christmas gifts for mommy and daddy. Our language skills are increasing as we read and discuss Christmas stories.

Christmas music always makes us feel merry. We can't help but sing and dance along. We

are enjoying making memories with our friends as we prepare to sing Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus.

Happy, Healthy Holidays

Susan Chatburn, Suzanne King,
Lisa Stasio & Lisa Stevens
Nursery Teachers



CCEP Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 13th

5:00–7:00 p.m.

Dinner for Children ♥ Light Bites for Adults

Holiday Crafts ♥ Christmas Sing-A-Long

Photos with Santa taken by our staff
photographer, Kristin Finio

Please sign up to help and/or bring a dish at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fafa62ea5fc1-ccep1>

RSVP Today! dgilliam@christchurchde.org

Twice the Fun: Two Christmas Pageants

Our Pre-K students will be presenting the annual CCEP Christmas Pageant on Tuesday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. (for students) and 11:30 a.m. (for parents and the public). Come and watch the Stars tell the story of Jesus' birth through song, dance, and tableau. Video recordings of the performance will be available at [OK Video](#).

If your child is in the Lions or Lambs (or even if he/she is in the Nursery program, but already 3 years old), you are invited to have him/her join the Christ Church pageant, which will be held on December 17. See the following information:



CCCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 17

Sheep, cherubs, shepherds, townspeople, and angels are needed for the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17 at 5 PM. Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 16 from 10 AM to 12 PM. [Click here](#) to **register by Monday, December 11** for names to appear in the program.

Adult Advisors Needed

Would you like to help with this year's Christmas Pageant? No acting or prior pageant experience is necessary - just a willingness to donate four hours of your time over two days. Contact [Sandy Durgin](#) for details.

Sounds of Christmas

Many parents request the words to the songs that we sing in music class. I am including several songs and a rhyme that the kids love to sing this time of year. The words are set to familiar tunes. Enjoy!

ADVENT SONG

(tune: London Bridge)

Advent is the time to share,
time to share, time to share.
Advent is the time to share
while we wait for Jesus.
Advent is the time to pray,
time to pray, time to pray.
Advent is the time to pray
while we wait for Jesus.
Advent is the time to love, time
to love, time to love.
Advent is the time to love
while we wait for Jesus.

TAPPING, TAPPING, LITTLE ELF

(tune: Twinkle)

Tapping, tapping, little elf, as
you work upon your shelf.
Working hard to make some
toys, all for little girls and boys.
Tapping, tapping, little elf, as
you work upon your shelf.



FIVE LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREES

(finger-play rhyme)

Five little Christmas trees stand-
ing all alone. (hold up 5 fin-
gers)

They were very sad 'cause
they didn't have a home.

(fingers trace tears down
cheeks)

Then chop went the ax (palms
together in downward chop-
ping motion)

And down fell the tree (bring
hands down to knees)

And off it went with a happy
family. (bounce pointer finger
from left to right)

Four little Christmas trees ...

Three ...

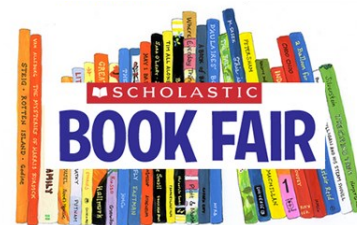
Two ...

One ...

No little Christmas trees stand-
ing all alone.

They were all very happy
'cause they all had found a
home!

Nadine DiLorenzo
Music Teacher



The Book Fair is being re-
stocked over the weekend
with new titles being add-
ed. Please come back by to
see what we've added.

Thank you to all who have
shopped and for your gen-
erous filling of our teachers'
wish lists. Thank you to the
awesome volunteers who
have managed the sales; we
are still in need of a Mon-
day 8-9 a.m. and Thursday
8-9 a.m. volunteer, so let us
know if you can help. The
Book Fair is open during
the Christmas party next
Wednesday, so if you have-
n't found a time to come by
and browse, you can do so
then.

Thanks for your support!

Thank You to Our Annual Fund Donors to Date!

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Joyce Tavani
Margaret Wagner (in honor of Marion Lux)
Edward & Noreen Welch

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A Ministry of
Christ Church Christiana Hundred



ccepde.org

December Birthdays!



Dean M.—December 4

Elliot B.—December 11

Anthony A.—December 13

Sancia C.—December 30

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JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 School Closed Holiday Camp Only	3 Welcome Back!	4	5	6
7	8	9 Family Chapel BOT Mtg	10	11 PA Mtg	12	13
14	15 MLK School Closed Holiday Camp Only	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Movie Night
28	29	30	31			