



THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✠ DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022 ✠

Photo by Nancy Palluti

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

A CHILD IS BORN

The birth of a child is an exciting and joyful time. With the arrival of my grandson Benjamin in August and my great-niece Hannah in October, the Morrison Clan has had much to celebrate this year. Having lost three members of our family the previous year, the new additions have brought back hope and of course, joy.

The birth of Jesus was also an exciting and joyful time. The Gospel accounts tell us that at his birth angel choirs sang, shepherds came to visit and wise men brought gift for the new-born king. This heavenly child would bring hope, not only to a family and a clan, but also to all the world. The babe in the manger was the promised Christ or Messiah, who would by his dying take away the sins of the world, and by his resurrection overcome the power of death for all who believe.

The Good News of Jesus' birth is that God's rescue plan had arrived, bringing with it hope and joy to those who believe. So, as we prepare for Christmas let us recognise that even in the middle of dark and difficult times, the birth of a child still brings excitement, hope and joy.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,

Fr. Alistair ✠



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VIEW FROM THE PEW

A PHONE CALL TO THE WIND

BY JOHN WEILER

There was a story on the morning news about a telephone.

In a secluded park in Olympia, Washington there is an old, kitchen style wall phone mounted on a cedar tree. People hike into the forest to pick up, spin the rotary-dial and talk to lost loved ones. In the story a family gathered and spoke to a daughter who died as a child: The mother, father, brother each in turn speaking to the girl; articulating loss, confusion and love.

To be clear, nobody talks back, and no one claims they do.

That isn't the point.

Corey Dembeck, an artist dealing with his own loss, mounted the disconnected phone on the bole of this tree as a vehicle to articulate his own loss and so that others might do the same. He based the concept on a disconnected phonebooth on a hillside in Otsuchi, Japan. It was erected by Itaru Sasaki, a landscape designer who lost his cousin in the 2011 tsunami. Itaru named it the *Kaze no Denwa*, Phone of the Wind.

Survivors step into the booth and pick up the phone to speak into the wind, to address loved ones swept out to sea and never recovered. A means of closure where none was otherwise possible by a traditional funeral.

And not just death, but estrangement, conflict, soul-searching; all are cause to use the Phone of the Wind. Healing by putting it all into words; speaking to the wind and so, releasing the inexpressible now verbalized. It may never leave you, but roiling emotions are articulated, organized and, quite literally, addressed.

Watching this story, it struck me: In an increasingly secular world, our need for a connection to the unseen, the unknowable – a place to go when we are at the end of ourselves – has not been solved by consumerism, science or self-help. We still desperately need an act, a ritual to ease the paralyzing knowledge of our own limits;

to accept without despair our place in a world where we can exercise so little control.

Prayer can feel like that. A phone call to the wind, no answering voice on the other end. And to be sure, there is a component of prayer that serves a purpose very similar to the phone on a tree in the deep forest of the Pacific Northwest or a phonebooth on a hillside in Japan. We often need only articulate emotions we've never verbally expressed, speak directly to confusing issues and, in putting them into words, to move towards resolution. The answer often comes in the simple act of fully expressing the question.

But that's not all prayer is.

There's a traditional Gospel song, "Jesus on the Main Line" written sometime in the 1920's. The original writer took the then-newfangled technology of the telephone as a metaphor for prayer. "Jesus is on that mainline/ Tell Him what you want /Call Him up and tell Him what you want."

Our phone does not speak to the wind.

There is someone on the other end offering an answer. Not always "Yes," or even a clear "No." Sometimes it's "maybe" or simply, "Wait." Sometimes we're meant to hear the answer in the inverse of our own question, or in seeming happenstance days later, sometimes we are answered in silence and that is all a listening heart needs. Yet we can be confident that we are answered, that we are heard.

As the song says, "Well, the line ain't never busy/Tell Him what you want."

So, this Advent let's bear this closeness to our Lord at the front of our minds. Let's remember that since His Ascension, we live in a second Advent awaiting His return and, in the interim, the Holy Spirit guides us, fills us when we pray. Let that be the wind you speak to.

Well, if you want His kingdom

Tell Him what you want.

Amen. ✘

THE POETRY CORNER

A LIFETIME OF CHRISTMAS

BY CAMILLE CRANDALL

A child is born;
His parents gleam.
His first Christmas arrives
And joy fills their lives.

He looks around, but doesn't understand
The lights and the tree, but it seems oh so grand.
The sights around are so fascinating
For this little one, the world is waiting.

Time moves on; he grows so fast.
He's learned about Santa and toys for fun,
Christmas finds him toddling at last.
He steals your heart while on the run.

Time moves on; he begins to learn
Of life's lessons and starts to yearn
For meaning and answers that end in yes
As soon he approaches another Christmas.

The answer he discovers for all mankind
May be found in a bundle that is so defined
As the Christ child asleep in the hay
Who watches over us night and day.

For the real meaning of Christmas you see
Is what makes things wondrous for you and for me.
It makes our lives really worthwhile
It gives our lives a reason to smile.

Time moves on; he grows to adult hood
Tossing the bad; keeping the good
Things in life as he made his way
To celebrate each Christmas Day.

Time moves on; he becomes a Dad
Finding the joy his parents' had
When he was a baby ever so small
And conquered the happy hearts of all.

He learned so very long ago
The real meaning of Christmas and so
Will pass along the wonderment
To all his children to bring content.

For the real meaning of Christmas you see
Is what makes things wondrous for you and for me.
It makes our lives really worthwhile
It gives our lives a reason to smile.

Time moves on; he becomes a grandfather;
Still finding joy a new baby has to offer.
And when his life is over and done
He'll look forward to meeting the Holy One.

He'll remember Christmases of the past
And savor the moments in hopes they last.
The joy and wonderment of Christmas revelation
Will endure through years for many a generation.✘



BOOK CORNER

BY BEN

DANIEL TIGER'S 5 MINUTE STORIES



My grandfather bought me this book called Daniel Tiger's 5 Minute Stories. It has 12 stories about Daniel Tiger, and his friends Katerina, O the Owl, Prince Wednesday, and Miss Elaina. It also has stories about Daniel and his little sister, Margaret. My favorite story is about when Daniel plays at the castle with Prince Wednesday. I recommend this book because the stories are very nice. My little brother, Jake, likes this book too!

The Photo is of Ben with Grandma and Ben's favorite book.✂

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thanks to your loving generosity, 33 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were delivered to the collection site.



BRIGHT SPOT

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

CHRIST CHURCH ORGAN

A LONG HISTORY

BY STEVE SCHRADE



F. Lüngen and Co.

RD 2
Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043
518-234-3974

April 1985

Christ Episcopal Church
Duanesburg, N.Y.

The Augustine Backus Organ c. 1840

Single Manual 54 Key
Voices 3, Ranks 3, Stops 4, Pipes 144
8' Stop Diapason 54
8' Open Diapason 36
4' Principal 54

The A. Backus 3-rank pipe organ now in place in the front of the Christ Episcopal Church in Duanesburg, N.Y. was originally installed in this church about 1840, according to church records. It was built by Augustine Backus of Troy, N.Y. There is a name plate on the front of the organ bearing his name and some of the metal pipes have his signature scratched on them.

Little is known about the man, A. Backus. I believe he was Dutch. The workmanship on the chest and internal parts show European Craftsmanship neatly done.

The case is typical of small organs of the period, having somewhat of a modified Baroque look - note this case had a centerpiece at one time that could have been a full or broken arch or similar decoration, that was removed when the organ was placed under the balcony and since has been lost. The case is handgrained to look like expensive hard wood, but in fact, is pine and poplar.

The false pipes were originally gold-leafed and later painted gold. All the case is original with the exception of the air gage which was replaced during the rebuilding of the organ. I would like to note here ... as you look at the back of the organ, you will find many initials, names, and dates of people who have pumped this organ during its lifetime. Some have been carved in with a knife (I assume during the sermon) and many are in pencil. The more you look, the more you find.

The rebuilding was done by E. Lüngen & Co. consisting of E.H. Lüngen and his son, E.J. Lüngen. The organ was completely disassembled, cleaned, all old leather removed, the parts repaired, new leather and felt installed to match the original building by Backus.

The rebuilding went one step further by installing a blower inside the case and valving - so the organ can be pumped as originally designed, or, played under power supplied by the electric blower.

A light was also installed over the music rack. All the pipe work is the original. All the metal pipes have been reworked and tuning sleeves installed as the pipes were badly damaged at their tops. All wood pipes were repaired and all pipes voiced and tuned to A440.

I feel this organ represents the typical small church organ and is a good example of craftsmanship of the period. I also, feel the committee responsible for its restoration should be commended for preserving a piece of Americana for future generations to enjoy.



Edward H. Lungen
Organ Builder



Christmas  Services

Christ Episcopal Church
Duaneburg, N.Y.

Sunday, December 19
Lessons and Carols
7 p.m.

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve Concert
Performed by Margaret Jean Bernstein
6.30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Eucharist
7 p.m.

❖ DECEMBER 2021 ❖
 BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Billy Chandler, Phil Sayles	2  Linda MacDougall, Patrick McHugh	3	4  Barbara Greer
5 ADVENT 2 Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am	6  Steve Schrade	7	8	9	10	11
12 ADVENT 3 Holy Eucharist - 10am	13  Zachary Sayles, Katherine LaMere- Fortman	14  Rick Lucia, Nancy Vogel	15 Vestry Mtg at 7pm  Kevin & Nora Barker	16	17	18
19 ADVENT 4 Holy Eucharist - 10am Family Sunday Lessons & Carols - 7pm	20	21	22  Quinn Walsh	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Concert at 6:30pm Service at 7pm  George Featherstonhaugh	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  John Iseman
26 CHRISTMAS 1 Holy Eucharist - 10am	27	28	29  Jill Brandoline	30	31 New Year's Eve  Brendan Walsh, Leeann Hammond	

✘ JANUARY 2022 ✘

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 CHRISTMAS 2 Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am	3	4	5  Doug & Katherine Fortman	6 EPIPHANY  Wyatt Moller	7	8  Elaina Denny
9 EPIPHANY 1 Holy Eucharist - 10am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 EPIPHANY 2 Holy Eucharist - 10am Family Sunday	17  Judith Doell, Sasha Elliott	18	19 Vestry Mtg at 7pm	20	21	22
23 EPIPHANY 3 Holy Eucharist - 10am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 EPIPHANY 4 Holy Eucharist - 10am	31					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the church service on **December 12th** to help write Christmas cards to all members of in the parish. Cards, stamps, and addresses will be provided.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

On **December 19th**, please stay after the church service to help with the annual Greening of the Church. Many hands make for light work!

Our Lessons & Carols service will be held later that evening at 7pm. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the church decorated for the Christmas season. ✕

LADIES AUXILIARY PAINT N' SNACK

Here are a few photos from the event.



*Christ Church is a worshiping community of friends, joyfully serving,
encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.*

The parish is located at:
132 Duanesburg Churches Rd,
Duanesburg, NY, on the corner of
Rt. 20 and Duanesburg Churches Rd.

Rector:

Fr. Alistair Morrison
revajmorrison@gmail.com

Deacon:

Debbie Beach (518) 372-1352
or (518) 332-6825 (TEMP)
dbeach21@verizon.net

Vestry members:

John Weiler – Sr. Warden
Phil Sayles – Jr. Warden
Judy Breitenstein
Cindy Creasy
Tim Fischer
Laura Lucia
Nancy Palluti
Andrea Salisbury
Steven Schrade

Treasurer:

Laura Lucia

Parish Hall Ph.: (518) 895-2383

Christ Church
P.O. Box 92
Duanesburg, New York 12056-0092