



+ The +  
Essential  
Jesus  
+ CHALLENGE +

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

“No matter what you think about Jesus, there’s no denying he is the most influential person in all of human history. And what’s truly amazing is that his path to influence was so unlikely.

Jesus never became a political, military or government leader; he never wanted to. He never owned a multinational corporation or acquired any wealth to speak of; he didn’t need it. He never wrote a book, never staged a concert tour, never appeared on television and never had a radio talk show or even his own blog. He was born in a barn, grew up as a laborer, remained single and childless his entire life, and was executed at the age of thirty-three.

Yet somehow Jesus became the reference point for life ever since – we mark our calendars by his death. He has inspired some of the world’s greatest art, literature, music and architecture. His ethical teachings have been hailed as the world’s greatest – even by those who aren’t his followers. He’s been the subject of countless books, articles, television programs and movies. Today his church has more members than any other religion in the world – and persecution only makes it grow larger. Not only that, the book that gives us the most information about him – the Bible – has sold more copies than any volume ever printed. What’s so special about Jesus?

That’s what I hope you’ll discover in *The Essential Jesus*. We’ll take an honest look at what Jesus said and did so we can determine who he really was and is. To do this, we’ll read and reflect on one hundred carefully selected passages from the Bible. And we’ll approach our journey not as theological experts but as open-minded seekers who want to get a true understanding of the most influential person in history. Are you ready?”

(From the introduction to *The Essential Jesus*, by Whitney T. Kuniholm, pp. 11-12)

Our journey through *The Essential Jesus* will begin on Sunday, December 29 and end on Sunday, May 11. This study will be available to every member of our church through Cornerstone groups, Sunday sermons and study guides available through the Mustard Seed Bookstore. Bishop Love has commended this study to every member of the diocese of Albany and I personally commend it to every member of Christ Church. May our passion for Jesus be ignited as our knowledge of him grows.

I am essentially yours...

In Christ,



Brent +



# More blessed...

“Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is *more blessed* to give than to receive.’”

(Acts 20:35)

## NEW TESTAMENT GUIDELINES FOR GIVING

1. Give.
2. Give Generously
3. Give Regularly
4. Give Deliberately
5. Give Voluntarily
6. Give Sacrificially
7. Give Excellently
8. Give Cheerfully
9. Give Worshipfully
10. Give Proportionately
11. Give Quietly

In previous issues, we looked at the first five guidelines for giving. We continue with the sixth, seventh and eighth guidelines from the above list:

### 6. Give Sacrificially

*“There are three levels of giving – less than our ability, according to our ability, and beyond our ability... Sacrificial giving appears to be unreasonable. In reality, though, it’s perfectly reasonable. It brings God glory, meets others’ needs, and ensures us eternal rewards. And all the while God takes care of our immediate needs.”*

### 7. Give Excellently

*“Paul says, ‘See that you also excel in this grace of giving’ (2 Corinthians 8:7). Paul is not just speaking to individuals. The church is to work together corporately to excel in giving... If we want people to stretch themselves in their giving, the best way to model this is for the church to stretch itself in its giving.”*

### 8. Give Cheerfully

*“‘God loves a cheerful giver’ (2 Corinthians 9:7). Do we lack joy? It’s one of the great blessings of giving. Giving is becoming like our Father. It isn’t just God’s way of raising money – it’s his way of raising children... The path to cheerfulness is not by abstaining from giving, but giving even when we don’t feel like it. If we’re not cheerful, the problem is our heart, and the solution is redirecting our heart, not withholding our giving.”*

(Money, Possessions and Eternity, Randy Alcorn, pp. 202-206)

Each of these three guidelines for giving requires some stre-e-e-etching exercises: stretching our faith, stretching our standards and stretching our hearts. How about a new resolve to exercise your giving? In so doing you will be... more blessed.

In Christ,  
**Fr. Brad**

## December Birthdays

- 7 Torre Bissell
- 8 Redal Ram
- 9 Carol Herzog
- 10 Michelle Petersen
- 13 Tolani Osipitan
- 13 Jennifer Spooner
- 19 Siji Kandapallil
- 20 Doug Koch
- 21 Kristina Koch
- 24 Hilda Hardy
- 25 Eric Stearns
- 29 Tara Kavanagh
- 29 Debbie Preston
- 30 Mikayla Schoonmaker

## January Birthdays

- 1 Tom Carrubba
- 1 Theresa Rinaldo
- 3 Gil Bisner
- 3 Robin Klink
- 4 Agnes Vandeyar
- 6 Chris Dussault
- 6 Terry Hurlburt
- 9 Dave Dussault
- 9 Tommy Osipitan
- 9 Aden Santiago
- 12 Bridget Peters
- 13 Matt Popa
- 19 Ledane Ram
- 20 Thelma Stearns
- 24 Candace Foust

## Anniversaries

December 18  
Debra & Richard Gerlach

January 15  
Carol and Carl Baum

## Health Ministry

### Cold vs Flu:

*“Yet I said to myself, ‘This is my sickness, and I must endure it.’”*

*Jeremiah 10:19 NIV*

During this time of year we often wonder if the upper respiratory infection we have is a cold or the flu. Here is a chart to help determine which it is:

<b>Cold</b>	<b>Symptom</b>	<b>Flu</b>
Pretty rare	<b>Fever</b>	Usually present
Slight body aches & pains	<b>Aches</b>	Severe aches & pains
Uncommon	<b>Chills</b>	Fairly common
Fairly mild	<b>Fatigue</b>	Moderate to severe
Develop over a few days	<b>Sudden Symptoms</b>	Rapid onset of 3-6 hrs.
Hacking & productive	<b>Coughing</b>	Dry and nonproductive
Common	<b>Sneezing</b>	Uncommon
Common	<b>Stuffy Nose</b>	Uncommon
Mild to moderate	<b>Sore Throat</b>	Uncommon
Mild to moderate	<b>Chest Discomfort</b>	Often severe
Fairly uncommon	<b>Headache</b>	Very common

Unlike colds, flu can lead to complications like pneumonia, especially in the old, the young, and those with serious health issues. Viruses are transmitted by contact with objects that the infected person has touched after coughing or sneezing. Germs can be transmitted 1 day before symptoms appear and up to 5 days after getting sick.

Stay healthy by eating well, exercising regularly, getting plenty of rest, and practicing good hand washing. If you have a cold or the flu, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or elbow when coughing/sneezing, avoid people while ill, wash your hands after coughing/sneezing, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

If you are ill stay home; don't share your germs. Treat your symptoms by hydrating yourself, getting plenty of rest, gargling to moisten a sore throat, drinking hot liquids to relieve nasal congestion, taking a steamy shower to clear nasal passages, applying hot or cold packs to congested sinuses, using an extra pillow when sleeping to relieve congestion, and avoiding travel by air. If you are healthy, share Jesus' love by taking the sick one the standard chicken soup or fluids and caring for the children. *(Source: Mayo Clinic, [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com))*

Sheila Smith, Vivette Ram, & Chris Dussault



# *Christmas Services*

**December 24**

**7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**

**December 29**

**8:00 am Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 am Lessons & Carols**



## *Christmas Offerings*

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount for Christmas Offering:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount for Christmas Flowers:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Memory:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Honor:* \_\_\_\_\_

*You may cut and mail this in with your check or we have envelopes at the Welcome Tables at the entrance to the sanctuary.*

## *The King's Party*

The King's Party  
 Tuesday, December 31  
 Undercroft  
 6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

Looking for a nice place to go on New Year's Eve, make plans to come to The King's Party.

After dinner, we will move into a time of worship, followed by a Watch of the LORD – that is to spend some time in refection and prayer before the King. Feel free to stay as little or as long as you like.

Plan to come and be strengthened by spending time with the Lord and brethren. Look for the sign-up sheet on December 22. See Louise for more information

## *Spreading the Fire*

JEHOVAH-SHALOM--THE LORD IS PEACE

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ this season, consider this--HE is our peace. This Name (which is one of His many, many names) says so. Jehovah-Shalom means the LORD IS our peace--no wonder He is called the Prince of Peace in Isaiah 9:6. Through His sacrifice, He has accomplished that peace for each one of us. All we who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ may come before Him with boldness in the full assurance of perfect reconciliation and peace.

When I contemplate this Name, I find it helpful to look at what peace is not. Peace is NOT fear, anxiety, doubt and worry, to name a few. All these are not of God and rob us of our peace. The Lord wants us to find our rest, wellness, stillness and prosperity in Him, especially in the days to come. Let's ask Him to shine His light on each of us and grant us His peace.

**Louise Popa**

## *Annual Parish Meeting*

**Sunday, January 26, 2014**

**9:30am Combined Worship Service**

**11:00am Annual Meeting**

**12:00pm Parish Lunch**

## *Budget Summary*

<b>INCOME</b>	2013 Actual YTD As of 10/31/10	Budgeted YTD As of 10/31/13
Tithe Income	\$ 137,020.79	\$ 156,000.00
Plate Income	5,302.55	3,333.30
Rent Income	13,597.15	10,833.30
Misc. Income	1,769.88	1,359.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157,690.37</b>	<b>171,525.80</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	2013 Actual YTD As of 10/31/13	Budgeted YTD As of 10/31/13
Pastoral Care <sup>1</sup>	\$ 76,679.24	\$ 81,119.90
Worship <sup>2</sup>	1,331.38	2,124.90
Youth Ministry <sup>3</sup>	344.87	1,957.70
Administration <sup>4</sup>	23,258.52	25,074.20
Building and Grounds <sup>5</sup>	23,539.14	25,373.20
Rectory and Grounds <sup>6</sup>	9,158.92	8,391.70
Outreach <sup>7</sup>	6,279.18	6,250.00
Other Expenses <sup>8</sup>	19,496.47	21,252.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160,087.72</b>	<b>171,544.10</b>

### **Notes**

1. Includes Rector's Salary, SECA, Health/Dental Ins., Pension, Workman's Comp, Continuing Ed, Expense Reimburse
2. Includes Advertising, Altar Guild, Worship Music, Instrument & Sound Equipment Repair
3. Includes Youth Program, Nursery Personnel & Supplies, Christian Education
4. Includes Parish Administrator & Sexton's Wages, Office Business Expenses and Hospitality
5. Includes Church maintenance, Insurance, Utilities, etc.
6. Includes all Rectory Maintenance and utilities.
7. Includes Mission & Outreach Committee and Neighborhood Meal
8. Includes Diocesan Assessment, DDF Loan, Diocesan Convention, etc.





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## *The Christ Life*

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[ccoffice@christchurchschenectady.org](mailto:ccoffice@christchurchschenectady.org)  
[www.christchurchschenectady.org](http://www.christchurchschenectady.org)

2013  
Ph (518) 374-3064  
Fx (518) 374-3071

