

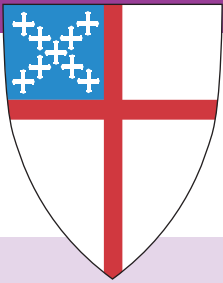
# The Vineyard



Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

January 2013

## Christmas 2012



### Mark Your Calendar

**January 1, 2013**

Office Closed

St. Marks Refuge  
Birdwatching Trip;  
Meet at church  
parking lot  
at 8:30 a.m. to caravan;  
picnic 12:30 p.m. at Picnic  
Pond; supper 6 p.m. at  
Spring Creek Restaurant

**January 5**

Epiphany Pageant  
Practice 3:00 p.m.

**January 6**

Epiphany Pageant  
during 9:30 a.m. service

**January 7**

Cafe Grace resumes  
meetings on Mondays at 8  
p.m. in Louttit Hall

**January 13**

Sunday School  
classes resume

**February 7-9**

Convention of the Diocese  
of Georgia in Tifton

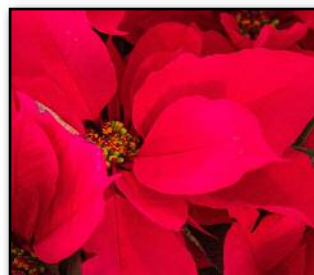
[www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)



The Reverend Deacon Nancy Sartin told the Christmas story of Mary and Joseph to children gathered at the altar at the 5:30 Christmas Eve service. This was the first of three services. The photographs below show the altar guild "greening" the church to prepare for the Christmas services. The music for the services captured the spirit with familiar hymns and carols. The St. Francis choir helped ring in the season at the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve and 10 a.m. Christmas Day services, while the St. Gregory choir performed at the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service along with two trumpeters and a trombone player. Steven Taylor accompanied two hymns on the cello.

Parishioners, friends, family, and guests heard the Gospel message to "be not afraid" and "tell others of this wonderful event that has meaning for our lives today."

continued on page 6



## The Vineyard On the Web

The Vineyard is posted to the Christ Church Web site in color at [www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org). Look in the "Publications" area to see this newsletter.

## The Vineyard Deadline

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send information to [juliacaraiail@bellsouth.net](mailto:juliacaraiail@bellsouth.net).

## Christ Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Scott A. Benhase,  
Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Joye Cantrell, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Assistant Rector  
The Rev. Jim Elliott, Assisting Priest  
The Rev. Deacon Stella Clark  
The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks  
Kim Dudley, Parish Administrator  
Stefani Carroll, Youth Director  
Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper  
Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist  
Kathy Armstrong, St. Gregory Choir Dir.  
Maggie Roberts, St. Francis Choir Leader  
Julia and Julius Ariail, Newsletter Editors

## Vestry Members

Clinton Beeland - '13	Jeff Hanson - '14
Stefani Carroll - '13	Will Hanson - '15
Robin Coleman - '14	Phyllis Hiers - '14
Sparky Greneker - '13	Steve Roberts - '13
Frances Guice - '15	Sandy Sandbach - '14
Karen Gunter - '15	Jeani Synyard - '14
Nancy Lutsko - '15	Lucy Tomberlin - '13
Larry Wisenbaker - '15	

## Telephone Numbers

Church Office	242-5115
The Rev. Cantrell	H-253-1003, C-803-873-1995
The Rev. Drazdowski	H-249-0895 C-229-630-1832
The Rev. Elliott	242-3333
The Rev. Dcn. Clark	559-6159
The Rev. Dcn. Marks	244-5159
Kim Dudley	242-5115

## Vestry Report from November 19, 2012

- Approved a donation to the Break Bread Together Program.
- Announced that Carolyn Eager will continue to serve as treasurer for 2013 and Bonnie Hanson will be the assistant treasurer.
- Reported on the repair of the exterior lights and the fountain.
- Elected Dr. Phyllis Holland as chair of the Search Committee and Jeani Synyard as the Vestry liaison.
- Asked for a list of names to be submitted to be considered for a balanced Search Committee.
- Announced the results of the 2013 Vestry election. The five new members are: Frances Guice, Karen Gunter, Will Hanson, Nancy Lutsko, and Larry Wisenbaker.
- Received reports on the Christ Church Preschool and Canterbury Club.



Steve Roberts  
2012 Senior Warden

Aaron Parten  
2012 Junior Warden

- Received reports on the upcoming Sister to Sister Summit, a visit by Deaconal Candidate Leann Culbreath, and an Icon writing class at Kanuga.
- Approved a donation to the Sister to Sister program.
- Received report on the upcoming Sunday School schedule for wreath making, and the children's Christmas party.
- Received report on the encroachment agreement on the alley.
- Asked for prayers for the Search Committee.
- Thanked the Hospitality Committee.
- Announced the HEP Christmas Party at the Sandbachs' on Dec. 23rd.



## 11:30 Advent Sunday Service

During the four Sundays of Advent, the 11:30 service was held in the chapel side of the church. The St. Francis choir played from the rear of the chapel. This service will return to the main sanctuary seating area after Christmas.

## Prayer for the Search Committee

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# *From the Interim Rector*



The Reverend Joye Cantrell

## **The Trinity**

The earliest symbol for the Trinity was the triangle. The three equal sides forming one complete whole capture some of what it means to be three in one. The Christian teaching of the Trinity is not an explanation of God; it is a description of what we know about God--- that God is known in three different ways.

The triangle or triangulation has a different meaning in the psychological world. It is most commonly used to express a situation in which one family member will not communicate directly with another family member, but will communicate with a third family member, which can lead to the third family member becoming part of the triangulation. Triangulation can also be used as a label for a form of "splitting" in which one person plays the third family member against one that he or she is upset about. This is playing the two people against each other, but usually the person doing the splitting will also engage in character assassination.

Those who study systems theory say that families, schools and churches all work the same way. There are healthy ways that we deal with each other and there are unhealthy ways. My grandfather and his two brothers had an argument and for the last twenty years of their lives two of them only "spoke" to each by way of the third brother. Now how ridiculous is that for three Presbyterian elders.

It is always best to speak directly to someone when you have a problem. My daughter's kindergarten teacher always said do not believe everything that your child says that we said here at school and we will not believe everything that she says you said! How teachers hate it when the principal gets a call about something that the parent has not addressed with the teacher first.

If you have a problem with something done at church, then make an appointment and go talk to the person. If you disagree with a sermon, then speak to the person who preached it. Often times what we think we heard was not what was said. Speak for yourself and speak directly to the person that you have a problem with. But for the sake of a healthy church, do not make triangles. Triangulation is not good in families, schools or in churches.

Joye+

---

## **Reflections on 2012**



The Reverend Tar Drazdowski

While trying to reflect on 2012, I realize this has been a year of many highs and lows for all of us. One of the questions I always try to ask myself, in good times and in more difficult times, is where is God in all of this. Sometimes the answer to that question comes easily. God's love and grace are always evident when we celebrate our lives together in Christ. In those more difficult times, due to the fallen world in which we live, God's love and grace may not be as apparent. We can be assured of His love, even though because we are human and hurting, we might not always be able to see it.

My greatest spiritual insight this year came in the middle of senseless tragedy.

While preparing the sermon for the Sunday evening Eucharist, Advent III, God's small still voice reminded me that we as Christians really do affect what happens in the world around us. Our behaviors, attitudes, and reactions are like the ripples we see when we cast a stone into water. If you watch, you can see the ripple form into concentric circles.

As Christians, the way we encounter and react to the world around us really matters. It matters to our families, it matters to our community, and it matters to the unsuspecting stranger who doesn't know who we profess to follow.

I hope that in the next year we can remember our Baptismal covenant to treat all of humanity with the respect that is worthy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tar+

## Senior Warden's Corner



Steve Roberts

### *Greetings.*

We now enter a new year, a new beginning, a year which will bring many exciting opportunities as we continue our transition. The search committee will be confirmed at January's vestry meeting (see details at the bottom of this page), and its serious work will immediately begin in earnest. I firmly believe active participation from the entire parish is critical as the process unfolds. There is no deadline to having our next rector in place. Let the prayers begin, and let them continue.

A deadline that is more pressing is setting a budget for 2013. The finance committee, led by treasurer Carolyn Eager, met in late December but didn't finalize a budget because not enough pledge cards had been received. The good news is the average pledge has increased to almost \$3100 a year. The bad news is, at that time, we had not heard from more than 30 pledging units. To hire a new rector and pay the suggested diocesan salary minimum, our pledge income, which was almost \$319,000 (based on 107 pledging units) in 2012, needs to be a minimum of \$350,000. In late December, we were \$130,000 short of that mark. If you're still on the sideline, please consider coming onto the playing field with your time, talent and treasure. Peace.

Steve

## High Schoolers are busy Elves

This is always a busy time of year no matter what your age, but add on top of the excitement of the Christmas season semester exams and college applications, and one can quickly get overwhelmed. Thank goodness we celebrate Advent! We are all easily distracted this time of year and Dr. Dan and Father Jim reminded them to stay focused on the task at hand, whether tests, work, driving or shopping, and to be there for each other.

After helping with our Annual Advent Wreath Making Event many of our young people will be helping with the Youth Christmas Party and Lock-In and serving for our Christmas services. We want to give our CONGRATULATIONS to Holly Querin for being accepted to Davidson College, to Katie Wisenbaker for being a part of the Lowndes High Dance Team that marched in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago and to Carter Elliott for being a part of Valwood's State Championship Football Team! In case you didn't know it, OUR YOUTH ROCK!! We wish everyone a peaceful and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### **January - March 2013 High School EYC Schedule**

**January** – 2 – No Meeting; 9 – Elliotts;  
16 – Church; 23 – Querins; 30 – Church  
**February** – 6 – Elliotts; 13 – Querins  
20 – Church; 27 – Church – Valwood on Class Trips  
**March** – 6 – Elliotts; 13 – Church  
20 – Querins; 27 – Church

**Note:** Elliott - 1112 Cloverhill Drive, Valdosta GA 31602;  
Querins - 1120 North Lakeshore Drive, Valdosta GA 31605

## Search Committee Information

Phyllis Holland, who has been confirmed as chair of the search committee, postponed selection of the full committee until early January because of the time crunch of busy holiday schedules. She has called a January 3 meeting of the selection committee to choose the five parishioners to join her and vestry liaison Jeani Synyard on the search committee. That list will be presented to the vestry at its January 21 meeting for approval or rejection. Keep in mind, the work of the committee will be intensive. The first task will be to prepare a descriptive booklet about our parish called a Parish Profile. Quoting the diocesan transition handbook: "The profile is used to introduce prospective candidates to the parish and the local community. Topics addressed may include mission or identity statement, a history of the parish, a description of the Diocese of Georgia, the community where the parish is located, parish programs, distinctive features of the parish, finances and stewardship, facilities, staffing, key statistics (membership, worship attendance, etc.) goals, and desired characteristics of the next rector." As you can see, the work of the committee will be intensive and time consuming. Support from the entire parish is critical. Please be involved, respond positively when called upon, offer constructive suggestions and criticism, and keep the committee in your daily prayers. – Steve Roberts.

*The Vineyard*, p. 4, January 2013



## Youth News

by Stefani Carroll

### January Sunday School Schedule

**January 5:** Epiphany pageant practice,  
3 p.m. in Parish Hall

**January 6:** No Sunday School (Epiphany pageant  
during 9:30 a.m. service)

**January 13:** Sunday School resumes

Many, many thanks to the following people for their help with the Christmas party and Lock-In: Mimi Allen, Judy DeMott, Tanner Fudge, Diane Halim, Phyllis Hiers, Karen May, Lauren Sandbach, Jennifer and David Singleton, Julie Van Ham, Beverly Williamson, Elizabeth Wisenbaker, and Nikki Yarbrough.

Your dedication to the youth of our church is inspiring!



About 40 young people enjoyed a Christmas party at the church on Friday, December 21. Activities for everyone included paper crafts, baking and decorating sugar cookies, singing Christmas hymns, listening to Christmas stories, and even throwing "snowballs" in the parish hall (ask your young person about that!) The older youth enjoyed a campfire outside and then spent the night in sleeping bags inside the Gabard Building with adult chaperones.

*The Vineyard*, p. 5, January 2013



# Christmas 2012



More bell staffs than ever rang at the 5:30 Christmas Eve service. Children carried the creche pieces to the manger and placed lighted candles in the tray before the altar. Red poinsettias and green wreaths made the church very festive. After the Christmas Day service, more than 70 people shared dinner bringing side dishes to accompany the delicious meat cooked by Wayne Ellerbee.





## Advent Wreathmaking on December 2

Thanks to the Elliott family for providing all the materials to make Advent wreaths on the first Sunday of Advent. They brought wreath forms, several kinds of greenery, pins, and candles. It was a festive intergenerational event enjoyed by many.

Photographs by Phyllis Hiers





# SPECIAL DAYS

## JANUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 Ken Ricket<br>David Sandbach, Jr.              | 16 Holly Querin<br>Tim Teasley                      |
| 3 Brooks Lovelace                                | 17 Mimi Allen<br>Tyler Johnson                      |
| 4 Brighton Prine<br>Ethan Warrick                | Brian Nelson  |
| 5 Sarah Parrish                                  | 18 Saber Simmoms                                    |
| 6 Chase Adams<br>Claire Holland                  | 19 Laura Copeland                                   |
| 7 Sparky Greneker                                | 20 Kate Hanson<br>Kimberly Waters                   |
| 9 Carmen Boatwright<br>Laura Paine<br>Ann Sumner | 21 Robert Church                                    |
| 10 Henry Parrish                                 | 22 Carolyn Eager<br>Emory Warrick, III              |
| 11 Emily Macheski-Preston                        | 25 Madison Jackson                                  |
| 12 Carol Roberts                                 | 27 Ralph Jackson<br>Leigh Long<br>Stephanie Tillman |
| 13 Shayla Bajalia<br>Joshua Hanson               | 28 Ann Burnette<br>Tyler Croft<br>Gene Seago        |
| 14 Richard Coleman<br>Grif Griffin               | 29 Anna Coggins<br>Savannah-Jane Gilchrist          |
| 15 Kathy Armstrong                               | 30 Clinton Beeland                                  |
| 16 Cindy Foster<br>Stephen Manning               |   |



### BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5 Richard Coleman<br>Rick Coleman              | 13 Nathaniel Balanis<br>Michael Holt<br>Rosanne Rumstay |
| 6 Stephen Sandbach                             | 14 Lindsey Wisenbaker                                   |
| 9 Judy DeMott<br>Robin Guice<br>Danielle Pitts | 15 Jack Warren  |
| 11 Meg Hiers                                   | 21 Phyllis Holland                                      |
| 12 Sandra Fletcher<br>Laura Sartin             | 22 Gnann Moser  |
|  | 25 Robert Tillman                                       |
|  | 26 Pat Armstrong  |
|  | 29 Lauren Sandbach                                      |

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6 Trent & Anna Coggins             | 23 Ed Preston & Ginger<br>Macheski |
| 12 Larry & Elizabeth<br>Wisenbaker | 30 Walter & Gail Hobgood           |

If your special day is not included in our calendar, please call the church office at 242-5115 to let us know.



### Cafe Grace

Cafe Grace continues to grow! It is designed for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. A gathering in a casual setting to share thoughts, find God in everyday life, and discuss theology,

Cafe Grace is sponsored by Christ Church but is open to all. After a December break, on January 7th it resumes meeting every Monday night at 8 p.m. in Louttit Hall. The photos below are from the Cafe Grace Christmas Party at the home of Brenda Keller.



### Grace Notes

Jesus comes to us in the birth event as a vulnerable child who is born in the direst of circumstances. May we accept the grace of the love of God by humbling ourselves and allowing ourselves to become as vulnerable as a babe in a manger. May we always seek God's guidance in every aspect of our lives so that we may seek to serve our neighbors as ourselves by being mindful and responsive to the needs of others. Amen. Tar+





## Christmas Dinner

This was the first year Christ Church has sponsored a Christmas Dinner. All of our family and friends were invited to come and share the Christmas Dinner with the Christ Church family. Once again Wayne Ellerbee prepared a delicious variety of meats, and everyone else brought their very favorite side dishes. More than 70 people attended. Thanks to all who helped make this a very special occasion.

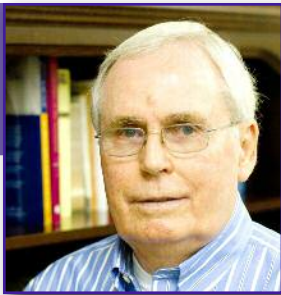


## Let's Play!

Thanks to the generous contribution of several parishioners, our children have new playground equipment on the Gabard building patio. In addition to ladders and a slide, there is a drum set, bells, and other musical instruments. The children who attend Christ Church Preschool and Parents' Morning Out as well as those who come to Sunday School can enjoy the colorful new playground. In the spring an awning will be constructed over the slide and climbing house.







# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

**W**e learned in the December *Vineyard* that the source of the \$15,000.00 loan Christ Church used to pay for building the Parish Hall was a “Mrs. Simpson,” who is not further identified in the Vestry Minute Book. No additional information about her has turned up. Zoë Coburn, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese of Georgia, deposited the proceeds of the Simpson loan in the Citizens and Southern National Bank in Savannah on March 8, 1949. A copy of the deposit slip remains attached to a letter from Miss Coburn in the Vestry Minute Book.

On March 11, 1949, Senior Warden Jerome Tillman received a letter from Bishop Middleton Barnwell about a five-thousand-dollar gift the national church had extended to Christ Church. Barnwell said that the offer had come in a letter from a Dr. Wieland and asserted, “I think the safest thing to do is to accept this gift. . . .” He wrote, “I quite agree with Dr. Wieland that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, but I await your instructions before replying.” For whatever reason, Mr. Tillman delayed his response until March 28, 1949, when he informed Barnwell that he “had shown your letter to most of the Vestry here and they have agreed to follow your suggestion and accept the gift from the National Council.” Tillman said also, “We are most grateful for any and all help we can get, and hope that you will express to Dr. Wieland our

sincerest appreciation of the interest he has shown in our behalf.” The Bishop responded tersely on March 30, 1949, “I have written Dr. Wieland for the \$5,000. . . .” Christ Church’s Vestry later used the gift, actually slightly less than \$5,000, to accelerate repayment of the loan from Mrs. Simpson.

About a year later, in the Vestry meeting on February 5, 1950, Mr. Tillman declared that he had asked for “the remittance of the \$5,000.00 (approximately) obtained through the Bishop – to be applied, if possible, in the reduction of the principal, if such a course [is] acceptable to the mortgagor [Mrs. Simpson].” He said that, in any case, Christ Church had to pay the specified amount due in 1950. If the “extra payment” were not satisfactory to Mrs. Simpson, he would explore means of investing the \$5,000.00 “and report to the Vestry, with his recommendations, for action by the Vestry as a whole.”

Mrs. Simpson obviously considered the additional payment acceptable. According to the Vestry’s financial report of February 28, 1950, the five thousand dollars turned out to be \$4,956.28. With that sum added to the amount already due on the principal, Christ Church paid Mrs. Simpson \$7,555.56, as Treasurer Noah Fry disclosed to the Vestry on March 4, 1950. Mr. Fry noted, “Future payments have so been arranged as to clean up the balance of the obligation [in] four years.” And he added,

“Present funds are a bit on the low side, but it is felt that generally

speaking, the entire financial situation is in fair shape.”

Just after Christ Church made the first large payment on the mortgage a seeming complication occurred. In a called Vestry meeting on March 25, 1950, Mr. Tillman requested action on a letter from Bishop Barnwell, who asked that “the Vestry furnish him with proper evidence of the obligation on the mortgage to be used by him in backing up his unsecured obligation to the Diocese.” Vestry then approved a motion that the President and the Treasurer of the Christ Church corporation, meaning the Senior Warden and the Treasurer [Mr. Tillman and Mr. Fry], “be empowered to prepare and submit to the Bishop the proper papers in such form as would be correct and suitable.”

The same issue arose again at the next regular Vestry session on April 14, 1950. This time, Mr. Tillman informed Vestry that, “so far as the Diocese was concerned, the obligation of the Vestry, as regards the mortgage, was improperly worded and that the Bishop requested a duplicate of the note to Mrs. Simpson with the payments as made – signed by the corporation,” meaning, presumably, the Christ Church corporation. Vestry thereupon approved a motion to prepare and to submit the requested papers to Bishop Barnwell, with Mr. Tillman and Mr. Fry handling the process. Mr. Fry, as Treasurer, duly reported to Vestry on May 7, 1950, that “the papers requested by the Bishop, in reference to the mortgage, had been executed and delivered.”



## Thanksgiving Service and Luncheon



Thanks to all who helped with the Christ Church Thanksgiving Dinner! We had an amazing feast. Wayne Ellerbee cooked all of the meat, and the fabulous cooks of Christ Church brought all the side dishes. The unofficial count was about 100 people. All were filled to the brim with good eats and wonderful fellowship. -Tar+

Photographs by Brenda Keller



## The Church Bookshelf

by Patricia Marks

*Knit One, Purl a Prayer: A Spirituality of Knitting*  
by Peggy Rosenthal. Paraclete Press, 2011



"Since we are created in the image of our Creator, it follows that we humans are created to create!" That is the thesis of this inspiring book, written by a self-professed skeptic of the prayer shawl ministry who herself became "blessed by the love knit into every stitch" of a shawl given to her at a difficult time. Rosenthal's insights speak not

only to knitters but to all creative people – woodworkers, cooks, painters, basketweavers – you name it. In fact, anyone who puts a hand out to wash the dishes, untangle the threads of a misunderstanding, or sweep away a pile of resentment will appreciate the central thesis of this book. Knitting is the author's metaphor for dealing with the problems of the day, for prayer, for inward peace. It is an act that requires focus and care, a quiet attention to creating something of use and yes, of beauty, no matter how simple the pattern. Men and women, desert fathers and mothers, veterans and housekeepers of all walks share their wisdom in this book; we hear from Episcopal priests and Sufi masters, from a 4th century b.c. Taoist and those grieving for dear ones. Threaded throughout are poems, prayers, and contemplative guidelines, all creatively knit together.



Deacon Patricia Marks





Congratulations to Julius and Julia Ariail who have been nominated for "The Excellence in Servanthood Award" sponsored by the Deacons of the Diocese of Georgia. Julia and Julius were nominated by Michael Wood of Statesboro, and endorsed by The Reverend

Robert Stevens, Executive Director of the Dominican Development Group, and from our diocese by The Reverends David Somerville and Tar Drazdowski. Mr. Wood nominated Julia and Julius for their tireless efforts in creating information so that new short term missionaries may understand what to expect when joining a mission team. They were also recognized for their work in promoting the Dominican Development Group. Their graphic and editorial skills gave a new face to the DDG newsletter, which has a circulation of 1,200 recipients. Julia and Julius also share their talents with Christ Church Valdosta and the Diocese of Georgia. They are excellent examples of servants! We wish them the best of luck.

The winners of the award will be announced at the February 2013 Convention of the Diocese of Georgia in Tifton.  
Tar+



## Dominican Mission Trip Plans

Get ready, get set; it's almost time to go again! The dates have been set for the mission trip to the Dominican Republic: June 15 - 22, 2013. I am asking that if you are remotely interested in going this year, please let me know by January 31st. I will be going to the Dominican Republic in mid-February, along with Julia and Julius Ariail and Jim Drazdowski, to attend the Dominican Development Group meeting in Santo Domingo and then to spend a few days in El Pedregal to discuss this year's mission. It will be helpful to know who is interested so that we can plan the work for the summer. All are welcome to join us. If you are under eighteen and would like to go with us, you will need to bring your parent.

Tar+

## Join us for Regular Services

**Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion**

**11:30 a.m. Holy Communion\***

**9:30 a.m. Holy Communion\***

**6:00 p.m. Vespers**

**\*Nursery Available**

**10:45 a.m. Christian Education\***

**8:00 p.m. Holy Communion**

**Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.\***

**Thursday: 7:00 a.m.**

*Christ Episcopal Church*  
1521 N. Patterson Street • Valdosta, GA 31602

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 8  
Valdosta, GA

Return Service Requested