



Christ Church Chronicle

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October-November, 2011

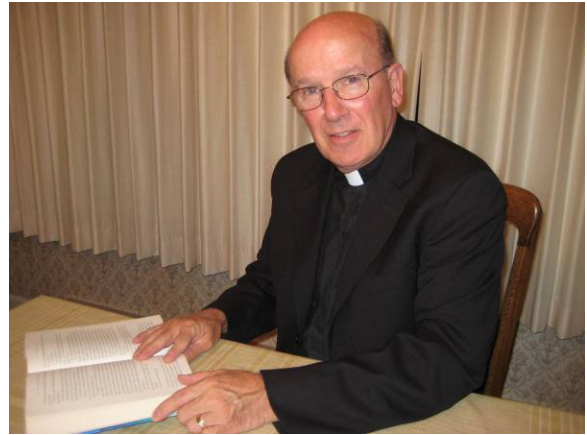
James Crouthamel to Serve as Assisting Pastor

We are delighted to welcome the Reverend James Crouthamel as assisting pastor in our Parish. Pastor Crouthamel was the unanimous choice of the Search Advisory Committee, and will assist Father Mark with pastoral visiting, preaching and teaching. His ministry with us will begin on Sunday, October 30.

“Pastor Jim,” as would like to be called, is a native of New Jersey, and the son of a Lutheran pastor. He met his wife, the former Mary Marlette of Hartwick, while studying at Hartwick College in Oneonta. He went on to Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, and then to serve two different Lutheran congregations in Vernon and Hackensack, New Jersey, for a total of thirty three years. While in Hackensack, he also assisted for a time at the local Episcopal church.

Pastor Jim retired in 2008, and he and Mary moved to the dairy farm where she was raised, where they now live with her mother, Diana Marlette. Since coming to our area, Pastor Crouthamel has served in an interim and supply capacity in churches of several denominations in our area. He was interim pastor at Zion Saint John’s Lutheran Church in Seward before Allison Michael was called to serve there. He enjoys boating and fishing on Otsego Lake in his leisure time, and is soon to become the grandfather of twins.

At Christ Church, Pastor Crouthamel will plan to work about ten hours a week at tasks which directly relieve Father Mark. He will make regular visits to the sick and shut-in, and will preach on Sundays and at midweek services once or twice a month. He will probably also assist



with teaching classes for adults.

Pastor Crouthamel’s job description is reduced from the twenty-five hour Parish Life Director position that the Search Advisory Committee had originally aimed to fill. They searched first for an Episcopal priest, and then, for a lay person to fill this post, which was to be more focused on leading programs and administrative tasks. It proved to be impossible to find a well-qualified applicant who was willing to work in this kind of larger position for the amount of compensation we were able to provide. The committee is very grateful for Pastor Crouthamel for his flexibility and creativity in assuming this call, as we continue to discern about the best ways to staff our growing parish.



From the Rector’s Study

“You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:19

The Feast of All Saints, the liturgical highlight of this season, offers us a striking reminder that the Christian faith is a communal experience. We celebrate those who

have been inspiring reminders of the call of Christ, holy people well known and unknown who serve as patterns and examples for us. This is also a season for remembering the dead, and giving thanks for Christ’s victory over death. The Church here on earth and in heaven are one, bound together in love and common worship of our Lord.

We need each other to be faithful. We learn from each other, and join together in ways of serving God that are enhanced by the different gifts we bring. We share our joys together, and lean on each other in difficult times, holding up each other through prayer and acts of encouragement.

This is the ideal, this is the life of

Continued on Page 2

Rector's Letter, cont.

faith as God intends it. But it doesn't always work out this way. People become estranged from the fellowship of the church. Sometimes a move or a change in work schedule disconnect them from those who gather for Sunday worship. Illness or a responsibility to care for someone can also make things difficult. Others become estranged because of a conflict within the congregation, or as part of an internal struggle with doubt.

Many of those who are faithful, committed Christians become inactive in church life for a time. Many of you have told me about your own times of inactivity, and the ways that these times proved to be very difficult for you. We have quite a few people on our active membership roster who probably have not worshipped with us at all in the past year. Some of these people are probably struggling, and could benefit from pastoral visits from me or other congregational leaders. Others might be open to a warm welcome and a willingness to listen to

their frustrations. Studies show that many of those who become inactive in church life would like to return again, but find it difficult to make the first step.

We are trying to reach out to some of these people. A committee, led by John Mason, is working to contact many of our inactive members to listen to their concerns and struggles. We will also be inviting all of them to a Back to Church Sunday on All Saints Sunday, November 6. The services that day, when we give thanks for our bonds of fellowship in Christ, will feature special music, and there will be a brunch after the 10:00 service. We are also planning to prepare information to share with those who return about activities and upcoming events in our congregation.

Please join us in extending a warm (and not guilt-inducing) welcome to those who come "back to Church" that day. Also, invite your friends and neighbors who don't have a church home to join us for this special event. If you would like to help with any part of this project, contact John Mason or Father Mark.

Vestry Notes: August, September, October

At their August 8 Meeting, the Vestry spent an extended amount of time reviewing demographic profiles of our community as part of planning for mission. They discussed ways that our current programs and activities serve the kind of people that live in our community, and brainstormed about new programs and ways to improve existing programs based on this demographic research.

They also voted to **transfer the balance of the Bicentennial account (400) to the Capital Reserve.**

At their September 12 Meeting the Vestry took the following actions:

Amended the Building Use Policy to incorporate past revisions allowing use of the Parish Hall by for-profit organizations, with fees set by the Rector and Wardens on a case-by-case basis. Fees for community organizations were left unchanged, except the fee for the Glimmerglass Opera Guild, which was increased due to heavier use by this organization.

Approved the Oil Price Bid by Bruce Hall, Corporation of a locked price of \$3.529 per gallon for the 2011-2012 heating season.

Approved Emily Hylden's Candidacy for Priesthood in the Diocese of Albany. Approval was by the required 2/3rds majority.

At their October 10 Meeting, the Vestry took the following actions:

Approved the Report of the Audit Committee (John Clow and Richard Pfau). The committee approved of the

work of the treasurers in keeping accurate records and protecting church resources, as well as the decision to consolidate investment funds. Recommendations include increasing oversight by the treasurer and wardens of the Rector's Discretionary fund, improving filing systems in the treasurer's office, taking a property inventory for insurance purposes, preparing an annual balance sheet, and conducting a periodic review of recently bequests to ensure that they are being used in accordance with the wishes of the donors. The auditors did not have concern about malfeasance in any areas, but urged these reviews as appropriate recordkeeping for an organization of our kind. The Financial Planning Committee has already taken action on several of the recommendations

Moved 2012 Sunday Services to the Chapel from Epiphany (January 6) until Palm Sunday (April 1). There will be two Eucharists each week, and one of the 10:00 Eucharists each month will be a Family Service. Special educational and social activities will also be planned around the new schedule. A task force led by Kai Mebust will work out practical details of space use in the Chapel.

Staff salaries in 2012: The organist and sexton will receive a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment in 2012. The rate of pay will remain the same for all other employees.

The Rectory's Border and Flower Beds will be landscaped by Kanescapes for a total cost not to exceed \$1900, following the removal of the yew hedges. The project will be financed by individual donors and budgeted funds will not be needed.

Ecumenical Youth Serve in New York



Left: Emily Snell and Rebecca Odell hard at work. Center: the mission team at the Henry Street Settlement House
Right: Daniel Rudloff and Anthony Birch packing boxes at the Settlement House.

By Emily Hylden

“Which one is the Empire State Building?” The trip to New York City with the Cooperstown Ecumenical Youth group demanded a dizzying variety of skill sets, all of them with an opportunity to grow and to be blessed. After an energy-filled and exciting arrival at Penn Station and a taxi-trip to St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church on the Lower East Side, we enjoyed fellowship with the youth and members of the largest African-American Episcopal church in New York City, finding through our play that we have a lot in common with youth from other cultures and places. We ended the day on Thursday with Evening Prayer. On Friday we woke up early for a hot breakfast and Morning Prayer. We started our service at the Henry Street Settlement Good Companions program before 10 a.m.; we helped make lunch for the seniors, sorted magnifying reading glasses, constructed shelves for storage, moved files and boxes and helped with the administration of lunch—collecting money and tickets, distributing and collecting trays and cleaning up.

For lunch, we split up to savor different NYC delights—pizza and classic Asian fare in Chinatown. Our afternoon was spent at the Tenement Museum, hearing about

the changes in the neighborhood since major immigration started in the nineteenth century. We toured a tenement house set up to show life in the 1870s and in the 1930s (in different apartments), and heard about the stories of people who lived in that exact building during those times. Back at the church-homestead, we made tacos for dinner and then set out for Brooklyn! It was a pleasant night, and we traversed the Brooklyn Bridge, identifying famous buildings in the skyline (see above) and marveling at the fast-moving cars beneath our boardwalk-style pedestrian way. At the Brooklyn-end of our adventure, we were treated to ice cream cones by the East River. On our way to the subway (we couldn’t quite imagine turning around and walking the length we’d already come, and it was almost 11 p.m.!), we saw a church that had been invaluable to the underground railroad effort in the 1800s.

On Saturday morning, we slept in a little longer, but were still able to see Ground Zero, Trinity Church Wall Street and St. Paul’s before we traveled uptown for the train and a stop by Times Square. We returned to Cooperstown on Saturday night and slept very, very well that night. For many youth, it was their first trip to New York City, and some were surprised at how bright Times Square was, others commented that

Cooperstown now seemed much smaller. We even found an apartment building on the Lower East Side that would probably fit our entire town inside it, population-wise!

Christ Church youth on the trip included: Anthony Birch, Luke Courter, Nate Miller, Becca Odell, Kristin Ratliff and Steve Ratliff. Thank you to our chaperones, Emily & Jordan Hylden, Emily Snell & Bob Birch.

Life Together this Fall

Join us for several exciting events for the whole Parish family this fall. These include:

Laser Tag and Pizza (October 21, 6:00-9:00). Back by popular request, a fun evening for kids of all ages playing laser tag in Cooper Park and enjoying Pizza at the Rectory. RSVP by October 19

Food for Comfort, Food for the Soul (Oct 29, 9:00-12:00): Join us for a time of Bible Study followed by a massive cooking session in the Parish Hall kitchen as we whip up casseroles for those in need of support

Flood Relief Day (?): Contact Fr. Mark if you can help plan a trip to work cleaning out homes in nearby communities

Marked as Christ's Own Forever



Ryan Tillapaugh (son of Andrew and Christie) (left) and Dunham Toulson (right) were baptized on July 16. These two grandsons of Martin and Meg Tillapaugh both wore a gown which has been passed down in the family for many generations.

THANKS!

We are grateful to all whose hard work and dedication are a blessing to our common life. At this time we especially thank:

- **Dennis and Kyle Tallman, Mike Page, Derek and Peter Hochbruecker** for removing the bushes at the Rectory and tree debris following the hurricane.
- **Alton Van Cleef** for serving as the new chair of the Outreach Committee
- **Richard Pfau and John Clow** for serving as our Audit Committee
- **Monica Stringer** for preparing refreshments for the St. Francis Day Service.
- **Kelly Segit and Mike Page** for leading the Dominican Republic Scholarship Drive
- **Kathy Jagels** and her many helpers for organizing our Rummage Sale, and **Laura Page** for organizing the Bake Sale
- **John Mason and Martin Tillapaugh** for leading our Inactive Member Outreach
- **Vivian Allison, Peg Odell, Meg Tillapaugh, and Patty Van Kampen**, our new Sunday School teachers

Feasting on Gratitude Campaign to Begin

By Teri Barown, Stewardship Chair

Starting Sunday, October 2, and for each Sunday through November 6, there will be a special insert included in your bulletin from the Episcopal Church Office of Stewardship. These reflections on stewardship are entitled "Feasting on Gratitude." These inserts will invite our congregation along with other Episcopal Church congregations to reflect and discuss stewardship principles and practices based on gospel readings from Matthew.

During this six week period we will be having speakers from our congregation speaking on their view of stewardship and gratitude for what Christ Church and its congregation has given to them.

On Saturday, October 29, there will be a potluck dinner in the Dining Hall at 6:00, followed by a showing of the film "Faith Like Potatoes." This film, which is also part of the Christianity in the Global South Course, centers on the story of a man who was blessed in turning over his financial situation, with his whole life, to Christ, and offers a thoughtful reflection on living a grateful life.

In addition, on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. there will be an Oktoberfest "Feast of Gratitude" to wrap up our stewardship program. This is meant to be a social event so that members from our congregation that attend different services can meet one another. We are planning an Oktoberfest theme with traditional German fare and may even have some live music. Please plan to join us on this festive evening.

In closing, I would ask that you please read and prayerfully consider the message in the inserts included in the weekly bulletin, especially the Reflection Questions included in each one, along with the testimony of individual speakers and most importantly what this Church and its programs mean to you when deciding on how you can best share the gifts given to you in the form of a pledge for next year. A bulletin board will be put up in the Dining Hall which will contain each of the weekly inserts and extra copies will be kept on the table in the Dining Hall in case you miss a week.

Please look for the pledge card mailing around October 31st and we look forward to the return of your pledge cards on Stewardship Sunday, November 13.

Global South Christianity Course Begins

Did you know that the world's largest church building is in the African nation of Ivory Coast (with a seating capacity twice that of Westminster Abbey)? Did you know that the largest congregation in the world is the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea? About 560,000 people worship there every Sunday (that's 80 times the Sunday attendance of the whole Diocese of Albany). Did you know that last Sunday, probably more people attended church services in China than in all of Europe—and that Europe's largest single congregation is in Kiev, Ukraine, and pastored by a Nigerian Pentecostal? Did you know that the average Anglican is an African woman under thirty, who supports at least three children on an income of less than two dollars a day?



Welcome to the new Christian world you probably didn't know much about! This is the Church in the Global South, a region where vibrant, enthusiastic, miraculous Christianity is growing dramatically. Many of the Christians of Latin America, Asia and Africa are among the world's poorest people. We don't hear about their stories of life-changing conversion, exuberant worship, and deadly persecution on the evening news. But as the church in their part of the world grows (and as it continues to decline in much of our part of the world), their ways of serving God and teaching the faith will become the norm. Theirs is, as one book title has it, the "next Christendom."

We will be exploring the Church in the Global South throughout October, November and part of December in a six week course with some additional opportunities for learning and reflection. Father Mark will teach most of the sessions, which will consider issues like how Global

South Christians read the Bible, the place of miracles and mission in their life, and their frequently confrontational relationships with other faiths. The course will be held on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in October, November and December, beginning on October 9. The same sessions will also be taught on successive Thursdays at 12:15, beginning on October 13.

In addition to Father Mark's presentations, several other speakers who have spent extensive time among Christians in the Global South will share reflections on their experience. Kevin Steckline, the husband of Deacon Donna Steckline, will talk about the Episcopal Diocese of Maridi in Sudan on Sunday, October 30 at 11:30, during coffee hour. Kevin has visited Maridi several times as a member of mission teams sent from our Diocese. Mike Page will reflect on 15 years of ministry by our Parish in the Dominican Republic at the course sessions on November 10 and 13. James Ault, an award-winning author and documentary filmmaker will also be coming to present an Advent Study Day on his research and work among African Christians. This will be presented on December 3, and more details will follow in the next issue of the Chronicle.

We will also have a film night on October 29, starting with a potluck supper at 6:00. We plan to watch "Faith Like Potatoes," a South African film about farmer turned evangelist Angus Buchan. The English-language movie describes Buchan's trust in God and the transformation of his life, and has been a box office hit throughout Christian Africa.

Plan to be a part of this exciting series, and learn more about our brothers and sisters in this fascinating and challenging part of the world. They have much to teach us, if we will listen to them.

Join Us This Thanksgiving!

Are you uncertain what to do for Thanksgiving this year and don't want to cook a whole meal? Will your own gathering be very small? Then please plan to spend Thanks-giving with a group of folks from the community who have discovered the fun of sharing their favorite dish with others at a friendly gathering in the parish hall dining room of Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown. We meet at 1:00pm Thanksgiving Day for a meal of everything that we all bring for the buffet plus turkeys, hams, stuffing, beverages and gravy prepared by some of the group. We'll even have leftovers for those who would like them.

There is no charge (just that favorite dish to pass); we provide dishes and table service; and those who can are encouraged to either help set up the day before, or to help clean up after the meal and conversation are over.

Come join us for an old fashioned community feast and fun, reminiscent of the first Thanksgiving! If you would like to volunteer, or to let us know that you are planning to come, please call the Van Cleef's at 547-8756 for details. If you will need transportation and you are within five miles of Cooperstown, please let us know so we can get a ride for you. See you at the Feast!

Christ Church will also host our Cooperstown's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on November 20 at 7:00. Local clergy and choirs will lead worship at this annual celebration.



October/November 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 2 Pentecost XVI 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Family Eucharist 10-Choral Eucharist 4-St. Francis Pet Blessing Service | 3 George Bell 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Financial Plan-Service | 4 8-Morning Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class 7-Prayer Group | 5 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30-Eucharist 7-Choir Rehearsal | 6 8-Morning Prayer 7-Stephen Ministers | 7 Henry Muhlenberg Rummage Sale 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class | 8 Rummage Sale 9-Building and Grounds Comm. 11-Milo Stewart Funeral |
| 9 Pentecost XVII 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Global Christianity Class begins 10-Choral Eucharist | 10 Columbus Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Vestry Meeting | 11 8-Morning Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class 7-Prayer Group | 12 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30-Eucharist 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal | 13 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Global Christianity Class begins 7-Praise Band Rehearsal 7-Praying the Psalms | 14 SJ Schereschewsky 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class | 15 10-Peter Michael's Baptism, Zion St. John's Lutheran Church, Seward |
| 16 Pentecost XVIII 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Bible Study 10-Choral Eucharist 4-Piano Recital | 17 Ignatius 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer | 18 St. Luke 8-Morning Prayer 5:30: Healing Eucharist 5:45-Zumba Class | 19 Henry Martyn 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30-Eucharist 12:30-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal | 20 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Global Christianity Class 7-Stephen Ministers | 21 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class | 22 |
| 23 Pentecost XIX 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Global Christianity Class 10-Choral Eucharist 11:15-Kevin Steckline Pt. | 24 St. James of Jerusalem 8-Morning Prayer 12-Eucharist 2-Eucharist, Thanksgiving Home | 25 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Prayer Grp. 5:45-Zumba Class | 26 Alfred the Great 6-Men's Group 8-MP 8:30 Eucharist 12:30-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal | 27 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Global Christianity Class 7-Praise Band Rehearsal | 28 SS Simon & Jude 8-Morning Prayer 12-Eucharist 5:30-Evening Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class | 29 9-Food for Comfort, Food for the Soul 6-Potluck and "Faith Like Potatoes" Movie Night |
| 30 Pentecost XX <i>Fall Cleanup Day</i> 7:30-Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Global Christianity Class 10-Choral Eucharist 11:15-Cancer Support Gr 4-Deanery Convocation, St. John's, Delhi | 31 Sasaki & Tsien 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer | 1 All Saints 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Prayer Grp 5:45-Zumba Class | 2 All Souls 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30 Eucharist 12:30-Sisters in Christ 2-Eucharist, Woodside 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal | 3 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Global Christianity Class 7-Stephen Ministers | 4 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 5:45-Zumba Class | 5 9-Building and Groups Comm. 10-Deanery Healing Service with Fr. Mumford, St. Matthew's, Unadilla |

November 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>6 All Saints Sunday 7:30—Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Family Eucharist 10-Choral Eucharist</p> | <p>7 Willibrord 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Financial Planning</p> | <p>8 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Prayer Group 5:45-Zumba Class</p> | <p>9 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30- Eucharist 12:30-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>10 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Global Christianity Class 7-Praise Band Rehearsal</p> | <p>11 Martin 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer</p> | <p>12 6-Oktoberfest "Feast of Gratitude"</p> |
| <p>13 Pentecost XXII Stewardship Ingathering 7:30— Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Global Christianity Class 10-Family Eucharist 5-Fall Organ Concert</p> | <p>14 Samuel Seabury Veteran's Day <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Chronicle Articles Due</i> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer</p> | <p>15 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Prayer Group 5:45-Zumba Class</p> | <p>16 Margaret 6-Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30 Eucharist 12:30 Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>17 8-Morning Prayer 12:15-Global Christianity Class 7-Stephen Ministers</p> | <p>18 Hilda 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer</p> | <p>19 3-Sanford-Couplind Wedding 4-7-Chicken BBQ for DR</p> |
| <p>20 Christ the King 7:30-Morning Prayer 8—Eucharist 9-Family Eucharist 10—Choral Eucharist 7— Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Church</p> | <p>21 Byrd, Merbecke & Tallis <i>Chronicle Articles Due</i> 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer</p> | <p>22 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Prayer Group 5:45-Zumba Class</p> | <p>23 Clement 6- Men's Group 8:30-Morning Prayer 12:30-Sisters in Christ 5:30-Evening Prayer 7-Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>24 Thanksgiving <i>Church Office Closed</i> 8-Morning Prayer 1-Thanksgiving Dinner</p> | <p>25 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>27 Advent I 7:30—Morning Prayer 8-Eucharist 9-Global Christianity Class 10-Choral Eucharist 11:15-Advent Wreath Making 5-Advent Lessons and Carols and Potluck</p> | <p>28 Kamehameha & Emma 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Evening Prayer</p> | <p>29 8-Morning Prayer 5:30-Prayer Group 5:45-Zumba Class</p> | <p>30 St. Andrew 6- Men's Group 8-Morning Prayer 8:30 Eucharist 5:30-Advent Evening Prayer and Potluck</p> | <p>1 8-Morning Prayer 7-Stephen Ministers</p> | <p>2 Channing Moore Williams 8-Morning Prayer</p> | <p>3 10-Advent Study Day with Jim Ault</p> |

Review: Jim Atwell's "Wobbling Home"

Many of us have come to know and love local Quaker minister, Jim Atwell, over the years. We look forward to his Thursday columns in the Cooperstown Crier for their eloquence, candor and profundity. He must be our community's best storyteller, with an eye for the telling detail, and a kindly and patient heart. He is, of course, also a dear friend to many of us, and we know that his columns, for all their power, reveal only the tip of his gentle spirit and deep Christian faith.

Jim has Parkinson's Disease, and has discussed the progress of his disease with honesty and power in his weekly columns over the last few years. He recently published a book, Wobbling Home: A Spiritual Walk with Parkinson's, which includes many of them together with new material. In addition to chapters that touch directly on his disease, the collection also includes several moving tributes to local people, stories of his travels and some rollickingly funny observations on community life.

Though much of the book is about illness, it's a not at all a depressing read. Jim's deep hopefulness and his gratitude for God's blessings in all of life pervade the work. He makes us smile with his descriptions of the way Parkinson's has affected his walking, and given him "mice under the sheets" (uncontrolled movement of his toes). He moves us to tears with his description of the pain of not being able to cry, and his moving thanksgivings for the love and support of his wife, his doctors, and members of the larger community. The last chapter is particularly poignant, one intended to be published after his disease has rendered him unable to communicate. Here he reflects on the power of joining the ranks of those whose whole existence is devoted to the praise of God.

Jim's book will be a wonderful encouragement to those who suffer from Parkinson's and other similar diseases, and to those who care for them. But his grace-filled reflections on life can guide all of us as we seek to be faithful in the situations where God has placed us. The following is typical of the book's power and eloquence: "I dread the half light just this side of darkness, a time of confusion, of loss of words and memories, a time when I may not know my dear Anne's name...A time of living in gray fog but still knowing that my most personal human needs are now tended to by others. I do recoil from all that. But I accept it in words as old as Christianity: Thy will be done."

Copies of the book are available in local bookstores, and also one copy is available for loan on the Stephen Ministry bookcart.

Cancer Support Group Forming

By Mary Bellew

Cancer becomes more than a cute little ribbon when you hear the words, "you have cancer". It is devastating. I know. I've heard it three times now. It doesn't get any easier. Even after the surgery and treatments are behind you, the emotional and physical scars remain and the fear of recurrence is always present. Cancer can take many things from us, but we are usually stronger than we think. It is a long frightening and often difficult journey, but we don't have to travel it alone.

I've always found strength through God's love and especially through my cancer journey. I believe that if we unite to support each other and share God's love, we will be stronger and more powerful to fight this disease. So much of our care is out of our control, left to the surgeons, doctors, nurses and technicians. But we can control our attitude. Cancer survivors all share similar experiences as well as many different ones. By sharing with one another, we can offer support, compassion, insight and even some laughs.

Whether you are newly diagnosed or a long term survivor, I invite you join a new group at Christ Church, the Cancer Survivors' Support Group. This group is strictly a Survivor-to-Survivor gathering. Long term survivors help bring hope to those newly diagnosed and those for whom treatment seems endless. Over the years, I have spoken with many of you, walked with many of you and cried with many of you. Because I sense a need for this program, I have volunteered to facilitate the group. We can bring hope to each other through prayer and positive attitudes. I have found that part of my strength has come while sharing my hope with others, praying together, listening to their concerns and being able to understand when non-cancer patients cannot.

Our first meeting will be held following the 10:00 service on **Sunday, October 30th at 11:30** in the "old book store" on the first floor of the parish house. We will meet for about 45 minutes, plenty of time for you to join the "Fall Clean-Up" that will be in progress, or a place to wait while you family works. The plan is to meet once each month, on a Sunday following the 10am service. Please consider joining us. This will be Our Time for Our Cure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mary L. Bellew, Cancer Survivor

Sharing Grace Behind Bars

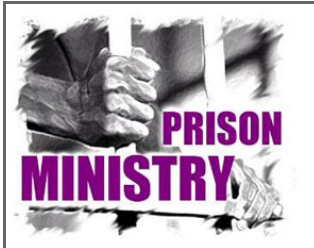
By Kelly Segit

I can't exactly explain my draw to and my heart for prison ministry but it's been present in my life for the past couple of years, and this summer I finally acted on that desire and I became a part of the jail ministry at the Otsego County Jail. As much as I had thought that I knew for sure what I had gotten myself into, nothing could really have prepared me for my adventures at the jail this summer.

My initial reaction upon my first time entering the jail, was to turn around and run right back out. I don't know what exactly I had been thinking, but I certainly was not prepared for a real jail, with real inmates, in real jumpsuits, and real handcuffs, and real jail cells. It was a tad bit overwhelming. So for anyone possibly interested in joining this ministry in the future- be prepared. It's real. But what's also real is the connection you create with the inmates, and the love and compassion you feel for them, and the influence you have on their lives. Not to sound like a total cheese ball or anything, but it's true. After just one night I was already talking about the women like they were my friends.

For the 5 weeks that I was there, I led a 12- step recovery program where the women and I examined our relationships with God and how to turn to him instead of trying to manage our own lives. Because I'm sure we all know that when we try to do life on our own, we always screw it up pretty bad. During my time with them, the number one thing that I encouraged was their honesty. I wanted them to be completely honest about their relationship with God and where they stood with them, so that then I could speak truth into their lives. By the last couple of weeks everyone became more comfortable and really opened up so we made great pro-

gress! There was even a girl who didn't believe at all in God. She referred to herself as an "earthy tree hugger". I'm not sure exactly what that means, but she kept coming back each week because she wanted to learn! I loved that!



What struck me the most though about my experience was the way that these women had absolutely no idea that there are people on this earth that care about them. During my first

night, one woman asked me why I was even there, because she couldn't understand that anyone would care enough to take the time to go visit her. How heartbreaking to think that anyone on this earth would ever feel that way. Now I'm sure we all are at least somewhat familiar with Matthew 25: 34-40: "Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."... "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

I didn't just put that in there because I want to throw Bible verses at you, but just simply as a reminder that even people in jail are still people, they're still loved by God, and they're still our brothers and sisters in Christ and we have been called to love everyone, but especially them, especially those that don't already know the love of God. We're called to share the love that we already have and know. The love that gives us peace and freedom. So if you feel at all like you have a heart for this ministry the way I do, I would encourage you to go for it! It's life changing on both sides.



Music Notes

There have been so many wonderful reports of the special musical events that have focused on the events during the 10th year after 9/11. In Ontario an original work titled "Celtic Mass" paid honor to the victims of 9/11 in a very special day. Making music is an exciting and at the same time a humbling experience. Our Chancel Choir contributes to our morning worship in the same way; please take time to thank members of the choir for their faithfulness in presenting beautiful music. If you would enjoy singing with us, please see our organist after church on Sunday mornings.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 13, 5:00 p.m. "Autumn Reflections," a special concert of seasonal music on the organ by Roberta Rowland-Raybold, which will include such music as Vivaldi's "Autumn" from *Four Seasons*, Clarke's *Partita on Ein feste Burg*, *A Thanksgiving Triptych* by John Ferguson, J.S. Bach's *Fantasia, BWV 572*, and a jazz finale, "*Bossa Nova on God Himself is Present*" by contemporary German composer, Johannes Michel

BE A PART OF OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR CONCERT!

If you have been shy about committing to sing in our Chancel Choir on a permanent basis, let me suggest that you join in the fun of singing the wonderful sounds of Christmas which we will be preparing for the choir's Christmas Eve Concert that is presented one half hour prior to the late Christmas Eve service. The "kick-off" for this cantata will take place on Saturday, November 5th from 10 until noon . . . we are calling it "50 DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS!" If you would like to sing with us, you must be at this rehearsal; regular rehearsals will follow on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Join us for special holiday inspiration.

How May We Pray For You?



By Roxie Hansel

Every Saturday, from Memorial Day to October, from 10 to noon, you will find the Prayer Table set up on either Fair Street or River Street. As people pass by we ask how we may pray for them, and they are invited to sit at the table while we say prayers together. For the rest of the week, Father Mark and the Prayer Table volunteers continue to pray for their concerns. They are also offered the free "Second Chance" crosses that are hand-carved from discarded wood in North Carolina.

In addition to our regular volunteers – Anita and David Born, Elna Dickison, Roxie Hansel, Irene Parker, Carrie Southworth and Linda Van Cleef, we have welcomed three new members – Karen Graham, Kathy Lloyd and Joy White. This Summer we had 68 people stop by the table; we were asked to pray for 89 people, and we gave out 48 crosses. We are forever grateful to Dr. Mike Miller for purchasing the Healing Ministry T-shirts for all the volunteers!

It is a privilege to take God's ministry to the street and to realize just how many people need and acknowledge the Lord's love and healing.

Don't Forget: Fall Clean-Up Day, October 30. Wear work clothes and join in a variety of outdoor tasks. Lunch supplied.

New Stephen Leader Commissioned



Current and Retired Stephen Ministers joined on August 21 to celebrate the commissioning of David Vaules as a Stephen Leader and to recognize David Svahn's Stephen Ministry as part of the ten year celebration of this ministry in our Parish.



Melissa Hochbruecker, Mike Page and Derek Hochbruecker present their dog to receive a special blessing on St. Francis' Day

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Rocky & Elizabeth Abondondolo | 10/02 |
| Gary & Laurie Kearns | 10/04 |
| Kurt Ofer & Teresa Drerup | 10/07 |
| Javier & Heather Pleitez | 10/09 |
| Richard & Pamela Scurry | 10/11 |
| Glenn & Cindy Hubbell | 10/14 |
| David & Lori Ryland | 10/21 |
| Jon & Angela Leinhart | 10/23 |
| Michael & Beth Ann Hutcherson | 11/01 |
| Ken Higgins & Patricia Weyland | 11/03 |
| Richard & Abra Anderson | 11/20 |
| Tony & Julia Constanzo | 11/21 |
| Harvey & Alice Eckler III | 11/21 |

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Felicia Blum | 10/02 |
| Alexander Shields | 10/02 |
| Jacqueline Spooner | 10/02 |
| Abra Anderson | 10/04 |
| Jennifer Hubbell | 10/04 |
| Margaret Schwarzhans | 10/04 |
| John Freehafer | 10/07 |
| Carla MacMillan | 10/08 |
| Craig Morrow | 10/09 |
| Marley Wright | 10/09 |
| Justin Hobbie | 10/11 |
| Rebecca Miller | 10/11 |
| Julia Constanzo | 10/12 |
| Victoria Hobbie | 10/12 |
| Helen Decker | 10/13 |
| Kurt Ofer | 10/13 |
| Teresa Drerup | 10/14 |
| Alicia Johnson | 10/14 |
| Erik Mebust | 10/14 |
| Tier French | 10/15 |
| Margaret Walrath | 10/16 |
| Trent Cooper | 10/17 |
| Peter Hochbrueckner | 10/17 |
| Mary Hunt | 10/17 |
| Keith Lamberson | 10/18 |
| Nancy Pfau | 10/18 |
| Mary Cooper | 10/19 |
| Alton Pleitez | 10/19 |

birthdays continued.....

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Archer Williams | 10/19 |
| Caitlin Polus | 10/20 |
| Heather Pleitez | 10/21 |
| Marshall Thorne | 10/23 |
| Jeanne Clow | 10/25 |
| Elliot Higgins | 10/28 |
| Amanda Lionetti | 10/28 |
| Emily Tillapaugh | 10/28 |
| Daniel Ralston | 10/30 |
| Stephanie Rich | 11/01 |
| Payton Whiteman | 11/02 |
| Freddie Schwarzhans | 11/04 |
| George Landon | 11/06 |
| Jay Niedzialkowski III | 11/06 |
| Charles See | 11/06 |
| Peter Wright | 11/06 |
| Janet Rigby | 11/07 |
| Roger MacMillan II | 11/08 |
| Daniel Spooner | 11/08 |
| Derek Hochbrueckner | 11/11 |
| Elizabeth Matson | 11/11 |
| Elna Dickison | 11/12 |
| Bunny Hamilton | 11/13 |
| Juliet Ratliff | 11/13 |
| Tess Henigan | 11/15 |
| Vivian Allison | 11/16 |
| Brian Williams | 11/16 |
| Harvey Eckler III | 11/18 |
| Suzanne Ross | 11/20 |
| Ann Brown | 11/21 |
| Evan Guiney | 11/21 |
| Ted Mebust | 11/22 |
| Marly Miller | 11/22 |
| Ralph Snell | 11/23 |
| Henry Cooper Jr. | 11/24 |
| Brenda Hotaling | 11/24 |
| Kristen Busse | 11/25 |
| James Matson | 11/25 |
| Daphne Banfield | 11/27 |
| Margaret Tillapaugh | 11/29 |
| Martin Tillapaugh | 11/29 |
| Kyleigh Wentworth | 11/30 |

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Senior Warden: Michael Miller
Junior Warden: Teri Barown
Clerk: Gabrielle Tafuro
Treasurers: Susan Henderson, Gerard Wilson
Vestry: Roxanne Hansel, Robert Johnson,
Ron Johnson, Kai Mebust, Derek Ratliff,
Janet Rigby, Monica Stringer,
Dennis Tallman, JeJe Viek

On the web:

www.christchurchcooperstown.org

Celebrating Saint Francis



Emily Tooley (left) presents her cats and Roger Macmillan (right) his dogs to receive a blessing as part of our celebration of the Feast of Saint Francis., patron of all God's creatures. A special service of Evening Prayer with the blessing of pets was held in front of the Church on October 2, a beautiful afternoon.

