



Christ Church Chronicle

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Following Jesus on the Way of the Cross This Lent



The Way of the Cross is the theme of this year's Lenten Program. Mason and Margaret Raffo, Julie and Steven Ratliff, Emily Odell and Anthony Birch are shown above painting images of the Stations of the Cross that will be hung in the Church to be used during our Friday evening celebrations of the Stations. Yolanda Sharpe and Joy White have been leading the artistic portion of this

program, which is held at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings.

The program will continue through the Wednesday of Holy Week (April 20). Each session begins with dinner with a "stone soup salad" (everyone brings a salad item to share). Shared devotions follow and a presentation about the Passion story and the places in Jerusalem associated with the day that led to the Cross. For this we are using a

video series called "24 Hours that Changed the World" based on a book of that title by Rev. Adam Hamilton. After the video, the children work on painting the stations while adults share in a time of Bible Study and reflection.

Our Lenten series has been quite a success so far, drawing together nearly 50 people of all ages to share fellowship and draw closer to our Lord. Come and join us this week.



From the Rector's Study

"Supposing him to be the gardener" John 20:15

It was heartening to see that the snowdrops in the little garden next to the Chapel have begun to poke up their tiny heads. This year, of course, they will make good on their name, pushing up through a blanket of snow to raise their blos-

soms, a herald of the spring to come. Of all years, we need to see them this year. It's been a hard, cold, dark winter. We long for the promise of new life, written deep into the cycle of nature's seasons.

One of those snowy days a few weeks ago, I was reading the "On Loving God" of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux.

The thirteenth century abbot reflects profoundly on the reasons why God is worthy of our love and ways that God draws us to love Him. In passing, Bernard offers this striking description of Christ's resurrection: "the signs of the resurrection are like the flowers of a new age, blooming in a new summer of grace; and their fruit will be the general resurrection which is to come at the last and will last forever...His flesh was sown in death; it flowered again in the resurrec-

Rector's Letter, cont.

tion. His fragrance makes the dry grass grow green again in the fields of our valley. What was cold becomes warm again. What was dead comes to life again."

When Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after he died on the Cross, He was revealing to us a powerful and beautiful truth: death is defeated, the life with God that we are promised will last forever. His own risen body, with its radiance and power is a sign of this new reality: it "flowers" as Bernard says, showing forth a splendor that comes only through God's renewing work.

But this flower is just the beginning of an even deeper reality, a resurrection to come that will bring great joy and fulfillment for all who trust in Christ. I've always found it striking that Jesus rose from death in a garden tomb, that when Mary Magdalene meets him on Easter

morning, she first mistakes him for the gardener. There's a sense in which Jesus is the gardener, the steward of new life. But he's even more than that. In Bernard's beautiful image, He is "the flower of the new age," but this flower isn't just for display. Like an apple blossom or the yellow flowers of a tomato plant, Jesus' resurrection points ahead to the fruit that will come. He points to the fruit, and He also enables it through the grace his resurrection has unleashed on the world. He enables the fruit of good works as His grace works in our lives. But even more He points to the great harvest of the resurrection that we will all experience at the end, as Christ calls us together into the blessed kingdom at the right hand of the Father.

Keep a holy Lent this year, but also take time to celebrate a truly joyful Easter. Smell the flowers of new life, and remember the great promise they contain. Christ is risen, and He shares His life with us.

Vestry Notes: February Meeting

At its February 14 meeting, the Vestry took the following actions:

- **Created an Assistant Priest Search Advisory Committee**, consisting of the following members: Bob Birch, Bob Johnson, Jean Johnson, Kai Mebust, Burr Southworth and Linda Van Cleef.
- **Nominated Emily Leonardy as an aspirant to Holy Orders**. Emily is a member of our parish, and is currently studying for the Master of Divinity degree at Duke Divinity School. The motion received the required 2/3rds majority.
- **Confirmed the appointment of Laurie Kearns to the Financial Planning Committee**. Laurie fills the unexpired term of Jim Polus, who has moved to New Hampshire.
- **Authorized the payment for repairs to the bumper of the Mike Page's truck in the amount of \$818**. The expense will be funded from the General Reserve Fund. Father Mark was responsible for the damage, as the truck slid off the road on a patch of ice while he was driving it while travelling from Oneonta after officiating at Roy Decker's funeral on January 18. Father Mark borrowed Mike's truck because the road conditions were too dangerous for him to travel to Oneonta in his own vehicle. Father Mark will make it a future policy that he will not travel out of Cooperstown on church business of any kind when he cannot reach the destination in his own vehicle.
- **Set a Parish Hall Rental Rate of 20% of receipts for the Zumba Class** conducted by Veronica Pokorny. The class will meet twice a week in the evenings, Mrs.

The tokens of the Passion are like last year's fruits, the fruits that is of all the time past which was spent under the dominion of sin and death. In the fulness of time they appear. But see, the signs of the resurrection are like the flowers of a new age, blooming in a new summer of grace; and their fruit will be the general resurrection which is to come at the last and will last forever. "Now," it says, "winter is over. The rain is past and gone. Flowers appear in our land" (Sg. 2:11-12). This means that summer has come, with him who changed the coldness of death into a warm spring of a new life. "Behold," he says, "I will make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). His flesh was sown in death; it flowered again in the resurrection. His fragrance makes the dry grass grow green again in the fields of our valley. What was cold becomes warm again. What was dead comes to life again. Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Loving God*.

Pokorny will be responsible for leaving the space as she found it, and the rental will have a six month trial period. Expected revenue for the Church is \$200 per month.

- **Authorized the purchase of a Digital Recorder at \$379 and a Wireless Router at \$40 for projects in the Church building**. The recorder will be used to record sermons for the website, and the wireless router will be used by Will Rigby to install a network for downloading the Sunday bulletin and other publications for use by ipads. Both purchases will be funded from the All Souls fund, which collects memorial donations for items to enhance worship in the Church building.
- **Organ motor repairs, which are estimated to cost \$2000 were authorized**, to be paid from the Organ Fund (a section of the endowment set aside to fund organ repairs and enhancements).

Holy Week at Christ Church

Christ has died. Christ is risen. This declaration lies at the very heart of our faith. It is source of the grace that has drawn us to God and sent us forth with hope and peace. Holy Week is the most solemn and holy part of the Christian year, because in its liturgies, these profound truths are shown as in no other way.

At Christ Church this year we have a variety of worship opportunities in Holy Week which help us to engage with the mystery of salvation.

Palm/Passion Sunday (April 17) begins the week with a festive reenactment of Our Lord Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem in triumph. Our **Ecumenical Liturgy of the Palms** will be held in the middle of Elm Street with members of Cooperstown's Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Quaker and Presbyterian Churches. We will gather at Christ Church at 10:15 to walk together to Elm Street, where the service will begin at 10:30. We will then process back, singing, to Christ Church for the second part of the service, the **Liturgy of the Passion**. This part of the service will include a dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel by several readers. Children will join in the Liturgy of the Palms, and then return for a special craft activity during the Liturgy of the Passion.

On **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week** (April 18-20) the Eucharist will be celebrated each day at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel. We will use the traditional Prayer Book readings this year, which rehearse the whole Passion story from a different Gospel each day. A **large scale Labyrinth** will also be available in the Saint Mary's Parish Center on Elm Street from Monday-Saturday of Holy Week from noon-7:00 p.m. (noon-6:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday). The event is sponsored by the Ecu-

menical Council. The Labyrinth is a maze for meditative walking, a devotion that encourages us to slow down and ponder God's purpose and love.

The Diocesan Chrism Mass, a time when the clergy and people gather with the bishop as Christ with his apostles, will be held at Saint James' Church, Oneonta, at 6:00 on Tuesday, March 30. The clergy will renew their vows of ordination and the holy oils for the coming year will be blessed.

Maundy Thursday (April 21) is the annual celebration of Jesus' Institution of the Holy Eucharist in the Upper Room with his disciples. This special service, which will begin in the Church at **7:30**, will include the washing of feet and the ceremonial Stripping of the Altar, which reminds us of Christ's own humiliation before his death. At the end of the service we will move to the Chapel, following Christ from the Upper Room into the Garden of Gethsemane. There our service will end with a **silent watch** in darkness before the Blessed Sacrament, as we remember Christ's agony and bloody sweat. The watch will have no set ending, and worshippers are encouraged to remain in prayer as long as they wish.

Good Friday (April 22) is the annual commemoration of Jesus' death on the Cross. **The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday will be celebrated in the Church at 3:00**, the traditional time of Christ's death. This features the reading of the Passion Gospel, special prayers for Christ's whole church, the Veneration of the Cross, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. There will also be an **Ecumenical Service of the Stations of the Cross** at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Elm Street. Each village congregation will be responsible for offering prayers and

readings at two stations and Tom Rhodes of the Presbyterian Church will offer an interpretive drama.

Holy Saturday (April 23) is the time for remembering Jesus' rest in the tomb and descent among the dead. A short service of the **Liturgy of the Word will be held at 8:30. A Joint Easter Vigil** will be held at Christ Church on **Easter Eve (April 23) at 8:00**. We will gather with the congregations of Saint James' Church, the Otsego County Lutheran Parish, and Zion Saint John's Lutheran Church, Seward. This special service symbolically reenacts Christ's defeat of death and rising from the tomb. The service begins in darkness at the Lych Gate with the blessing of the new fire, and continues with a series of readings from the long history of God's redemption of his people. It ends with a joyous celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter.

An Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, led by Rev. Sundar Samuel of the Cooperstown United Methodist Church will be held in Lakefront Park early on Easter morning (time still to be determined). This short, reflective service follows the women to the tomb and recalls their surprise and joy to find that Christ was risen.

The Easter Day Eucharists (April 24) are a joyous celebrations of our Lord's Resurrection, and will feature special music and floral decorations. The services will begin at the usual time of 8:00 and 10:00. There will be no Sunday School or Adult Education on Easter Day.

Holy Week is also a traditional time for seeking reconciliation with God. Father Mark will be available in the Chapel for **Confessions after the Good Friday Solemn Liturgy, from 9:00-10:00 on Holy Saturday morning after the Liturgy of the Word**, and at other times by appointment.



Preparing for Easter Together: Events in April

During the second part of Lent, our attention turns more closely toward preparing for Holy Week and Easter itself, the feast of feasts. In this latter part of the season, we will offer several special opportunities for renewal and service.

How to Help Your Kids Keep the Faith is the focus of an Ecumenical Parent Social that will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 2 at 7:30. Our Diocesan Youth Director, Fr. Tyler Slade, will speak. Fr. Slade travels around the diocese working closely with youth groups and directs Beaver Cross camp. He understands more directly the joys and challenges of living the faith as a child and teenager than most other adults, and will offer some helpful insights during this special time of fellowship. Please invite your friends from other churches to share in this special event



Experience Restoration as We Walk with Jesus is the theme of this year's Lenten Quiet Day, which will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 9:00-1:00 in the Chapel. Deacon Faye Vandermark will be this year's speaker. Deacon Faye has lived with cancer for many years, and offers a powerful testimony to Christ's healing and restoring

power. The Quiet Day will include a celebration of the Eucharist and participants are asked to bring a bagged lunch.

A Spring Bake Sale will be held after services on April 10. The sale is a longtime Christ Church tradition, and has usually been held on Palm Sunday in the past. This year we are moving it a week early because of the later time for the Palm Sunday service. Cakes, pies and baked goods of all kinds are welcome, and all funds raised will be used to support the *maternal* (preschool) at *Iglesia Christo Salvador* in the Dominican Republic, a church with a long connection to our parish. Linda Van Cleef and Laura Page are coordinating this event. Speak with them if you have questions.

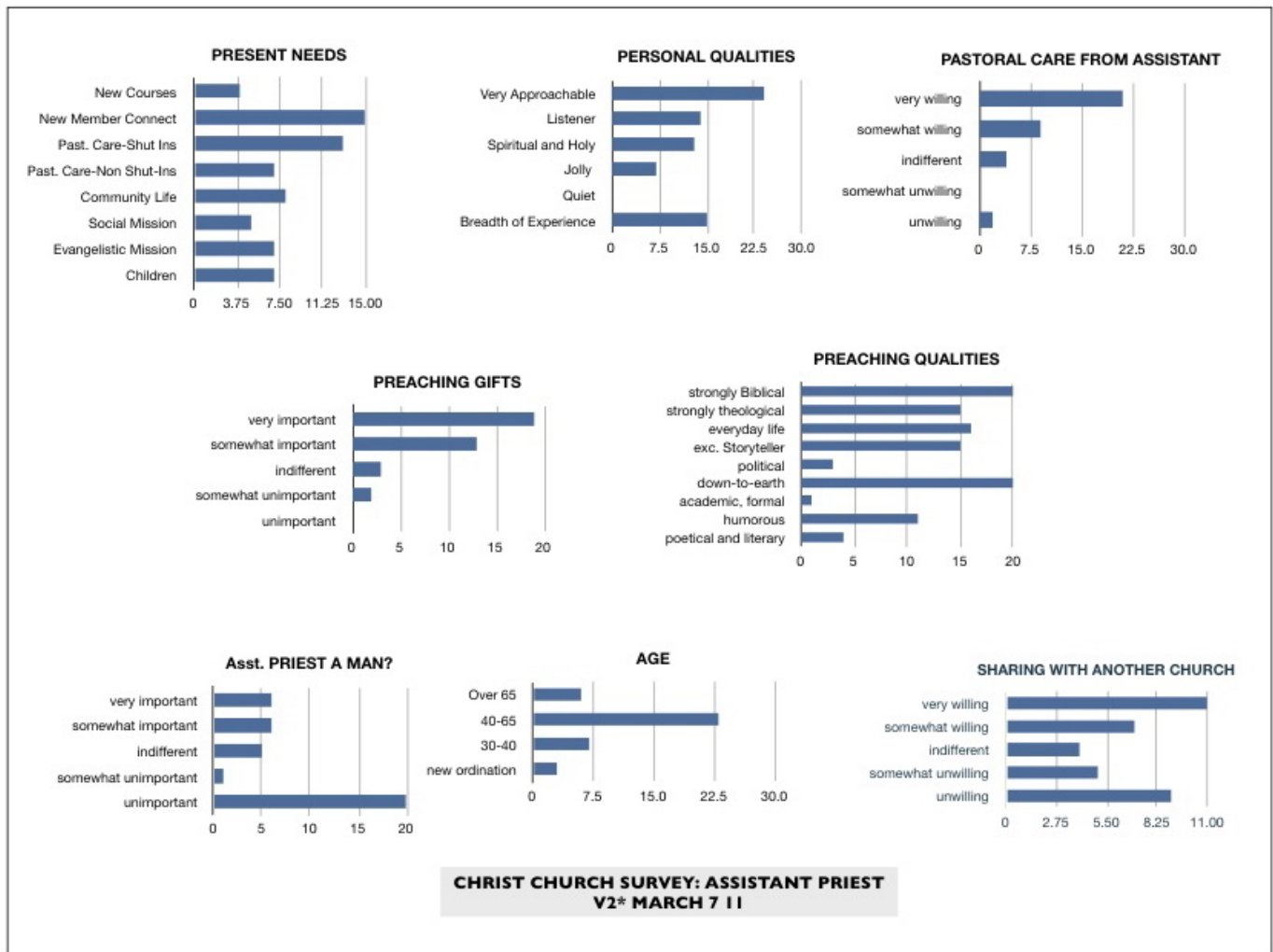
The Parish Spring Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 8:00-12:00. This time focuses on cleaning the interior of the Church for the Easter celebration. Help is needed to clean cushions and vents, to polish brass and furniture and to help with many other tasks. Mike Page will be organizing the event. See him if you have questions.

Vestry Notes for March

At its March 14 meeting, the Vestry took the following actions

- **Authorized an additional repair of the wheel of the sexton's truck** damaged while the rector was driving to a funeral on January 18. Damages are estimated at \$290. Repair costs will be paid from the General Reserve Fund.
- **Approved Accident Report forms** for staff and members and guests. The forms will be circulated to staff and church school teachers and used to record future accidents.
- **Elected Gabrielle Tafuro as the new Parish Clerk.** Gabrielle, the former Assistant Clerk, replaces Suzanne Ross, who recently moved to Maryland
- **Elected Susan Henderson as the new Parish Treasurer.** Sue will assume office on April 1. Sue will assume all the responsibilities formerly performed by John Mason and Phil Holz except bill paying, which will be done by the Assistant Treasurer, Gerry Wilson. \$150 was also authorized as wages to be paid to her during her training in March. The training wage costs will be paid from the General Reserve Fund.
- **Revised the 2011 Budget to reflect the new division of labor** between the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. For the remaining nine months of 2011, the Treasurer will be paid \$2500 and the Assistant Treasurer will be paid \$1950.
- **Appointed a Nominating Committee** of Michael Miller, Roxie Hansel, Monica Stringer and Dennis Tallman to nominate candidates for election at the Annual Meeting on March 15. Candidates will be needed for warden, three vestry members (three year terms) and two delegates to Diocesan Convention. Bob Birch, Ashley Cooper, Derek Ratliff and Janet Rigby's terms will expire at the Annual Meeting.
- **The Rummage Sale fund, which totalled \$490, was transferred to the Outreach Fund and eliminated.** The funds will be divided in two and paid out to the Sisters of Saint Margaret for mission work in Haiti, and to Episcopal Relief and Development for earthquake and tsunami relief in Japan. In the future, monies raised at Rummage Sales will be paid out directly to charitable groups after the sale, without holding revenue in a fund from year to year.
- **The Balance of the 2008-2009 Carryover (\$858) was transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund,** to be used to fund capital projects costing over \$1000. The current balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is \$5558.

Search Advisory Committee Studies Parish Surveys



By Linda Van Cleef

An Assisting Priest Selection Committee Meeting which was held on March 6, 2011 in the Library following the 10:00am service. Following an opening prayer by Fr. Mark Michael the committee, which consists of Robert Birch- Warden, Burr Southworth, Bob Johnson, Jean Johnson, Kai Mebust and Linda Van Cleef, reviewed the results of the Assisting Priest Forum Surveys in chart format. We also reviewed the Draft Position Description of an Assistant Priest, the Diocesan Community Portfolio Data form which Fr. Mark was completing for the Office of Transition Ministry of the Episcopal

Church, and the written comments which were compiled from the individual surveys and from several additional letters and notes from members of the congregation. (Confidentiality was kept.)

There were 40 surveys turned in. The survey results are summarized in the graphs above. The consensus was that members of the congregation would prefer a priest who:

- can connect well with new members
- can do pastoral care for shut-ins
- is very approachable
- has breadth of experience
- can preach

- has a strong Biblical background
- is down-to-earth
- is between 40-65

It was also important to many that he or she be a good listener, spiritual and holy, and able to relate to everyday life. Seventeen were either very willing or somewhat willing to share him with another parish while the rest were indifferent, somewhat unwilling or unwilling to share his services.

Continued on Page 6

Search Comm., cont.

Four people said that they would prefer a woman in this position. Five asked if we really need an assistant priest and are we moving too fast. It was recommended that we only sign a one year, renewable contract. Many other topics were also brought out and were discussed by the committee.

The compensation available for this part time position has been clarified as \$19,500.00 per annum, if the priest hired is below retirement age. If the priest is retired, and pension payments are not necessary, then the cash compensation will be \$23,000. Other expenses associated with the position include disability and workers' compensation insurance. The position does not include health insurance and employer Social Security payments are not made for members of the clergy.

The advertising for this position will be done online for the most part. Running an ad in the *Living Church* magazine will be discussed further at the April 3, 2011 meeting.

The Committee will also take a look at the current contract for Fr. Mark and compare that to the proposed job description for the Assistant Priest. Fr. Mark was also asked to revisit his weekly work hours to re-evaluate the time being given to the new position. All of this is to ensure that we approach this with reality and consistency.

The members of this committee want to assure the general congregation that we are accountable. To this end our photos and names will be posted in the dining room of the parish hall until this task is completed. Anyone who has any questions is invited to call or see us about your concerns. Communication is one of the most difficult things we all do. It is up to all of us to help open the avenues and to pass on reliable, accurate information. We can't fix what we don't know is broken. It is time to get on with things and try to resolve the issues at hand. Please pray for this committee, for the church and especially for Fr. Mark during this time of transition and change. Thank you and God bless you all.

Meet Your New Treasurer



Greetings from the treasurer's office! My name is Susan Henderson and I am the new treasurer for Christ Church. I have worked at various cultural and business organizations in Cooperstown for well over fifteen years. I have a certificate in arts management from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I look forward to the challenges of serving as your new treasurer and promise to be a good steward of the funds for which I am entrusted. I would also like to thank the outgoing treasurers John Mason and Phil Holtz for their service and assistance.

Sue was elected as treasurer at the March 14 vestry meeting, and will assume the office on April 1.

Ministry of Healing Begins Again This Spring

"Have Mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled." Psalm 6:2

By Roxie Hansel

How are you troubled? What type of hearing would you like? Do you have a physical disease or disability? Is someone you love troubled by depression? Is a problem of any kind interfering with your enjoyment and abundance in life?

Jesus came to heal the world, and His gift of healing is ours for the asking some 2000+ years later. Sunday, April 3 is the start of our monthly "Healing Services" in the Christ Church

Chapel. This is an ecumenical healing service and everyone is welcome. On April 3, at 4:00 pm Reverend David Born will give the homily in April and anointing and healing teams will be available. On May 1 at 4:00 Reverend Betsy Jay, Chaplain at Bassett Hospital, will give the homily.

You may wonder what exactly happens at a healing service? You pray, and sing, you hear testimonies of healing, you listen to an inspiring homily. If you choose, you can be anointed with holy oil and sit with a healing team who will pray with you. If you prefer to stay in your seat and pray, that is fine. If you don't care to verbalize the details of your problem, that is

fine too. God knows all about it.

Will you find instant healing? Perhaps, but God's will works in the way He deems best for us, and in His time. However, you will know that you have turned the issue over to the Lord, and your faith and trust in Him has made your spirit whole. Come, touch the hem of His garment and see the miracles Jesus can perform in your life. "Jesus saw her and He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter, your faith has made you well." Matthew 9:22

If you have further questions about the Healing Service, please call 607 547 9555

A Celebration for Grace



Long-time parish leader Grace Welsh was honored at a special Women's Fellowship Brunch that was held on March 12. The event, organized by Georgia Meeter, gathered several dozen women (and Gerry Wilson) for a time of good food, conversation and thanksgiving to God for his faithful servant Grace. Several of those present offered special tributes to Grace, and former rectors Doug Smith and Sam Abbott sent the following greetings from afar: *Father Doug wrote:* "Loyalty, devotion, and dependability define you Grace. You are one of the most remarkable women I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Your dedication to the altar guild has really been loyalty and dedication to Christ himself. Yours has always been a labor of deep love. You have handled God's "Holy Hardware" with tenderness, polished the silver and brass prayerfully and took immense pride in what you have done. Grace, you NEVER sought the spotlight and I am sure that you are embarrassed by the attention you are now getting. Working behind the scenes in the quiet of the sanctuary is what you seemed to love most. You combine the best of Martha and the best of Mary in your work as you did what needed to be done with an attentiveness to the presence of the Lord and it showed in the beauty that is the altar at Christ Church. Perhaps you are the most aptly

named person I know, but I would add and adjective before your name...Amazing Grace... how s w e e t t h e s o u n d . *Father Sam wrote:* "You have been the heart and soul of Christ Church for 25 years and we regret sharing only five of them with you. We remember . . . you helping Dorothy Chase down off the altar to keep her on the Altar Guild when her eyes had failed, getting chocolate on your blouse at the Wednesday social hour and laughing about it, packing up boxes of candle stubs for use in the rectory (we're still burning them!), sitting through Outreach committee meetings to keep the DR ministries going, presiding at the door of rummage sales and steering the rector to sportcoat bargains, showing up (one of just three regulars) for the 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer service on Sunday mornings, keeping Eric Hill and Jerry Wilson at bay, and generally being what Mike Page calls "Amazing Grace."

Oswald Chambers, a great Christian teacher, once wrote, "The thing that tells in the long run for God and for men is the steady persevering work in the unseen, and the only way to keep life uncrushed is to live looking to God. Ask God to keep the eyes of your spirit open to the Risen Christ, and it will be impossible for drudgery to damp you." You have and He has. Thank you, Grace.

New Course Focuses on English Bible

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the Authorized, or King James translation of the Bible. The anniversary is being marked by a series of conferences around the world, as well as the publication of books, articles and programs focusing on the translation and its wide-ranging influence.

As a part of this, Father Mark will offer a five-week course on the fascinating history of the English Bible, beginning on May 12 (no class will be held on May 26). The course will be held in the Parish Hall from 12:15-1:00 on Thursdays. Coffee and tea will be provided, and participants are encouraged to bring a bagged lunch.

We will discuss the way Bible translators began their work in the early days of the Church and the beginnings of English translations of the Bible in the late Middle Ages. The struggle for an accessible translation during the English Reformation will be studied, as well as the political tensions that led to the King James translation, one of the most successful ecumenical projects in Church history. The association of Bible translation with the missionary movement will be discussed in later sessions, as well as the explosion of new translations over the past twenty five years. It's quite a remarkable story, with its share of cloak-and-dagger intrigue, and political maneuvering, as well as wonderful examples of faithful Christian service and profound insight.

The course will also include discussion of the theological rationale for Bible translation, a survey of the influence of the translation on classic English literature, and a comparison of various translations of the Bible. Several beautiful historic Bibles from Christ Church's own collection will be showcased, and the study will close with a method for discerning which Bible translation will work best for you. Consider joining us for this fascinating course. No advanced Bible knowledge is necessary, just a desire to learn and grow closer to God by engaging with His Word.

Why Do We Do That?: Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is a dramatic and festive service that celebrates the whole history of salvation that led up to Christ's great resurrection from the dead. Traditionally it is the most important service of the Church Year, the celebration of that great act of God on which our life in Christ is based.

The word vigil comes from a Latin term meaning "watchfulness" and the term can be used for any extended service of readings and prayers that takes place at night. Vigils arose in the early history of the Church (indeed, the all night service in Acts 20 may be an early example of this kind of service). Accompanied by a strict fast, they were times of reading Scripture, praying and singing hymns of praise to God (indeed, some of the earliest Christian hymns were written specifically to be sung at vigils). The night before great feasts of the Church year were marked by such services, with the watching and praying often lasting until dawn. In the church today, this practice survives only in two widespread observances, the Midnight Mass of Christmas and the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil service, as we have it today, is closely based on liturgies from the earliest days of the Church. We know that a service much like it was celebrated at Rome from 215. It was the one occasion in the year when the faithful were baptized, as it brought to life so powerfully the great message of Christ's death and resurrection in which all the faithful share through baptism into Him (Romans 6).

The service is found in the Book of Common Prayer on pages 284-295. It begins in darkness, as a fire is kindled and the great Paschal Candle, which symbolizes the Risen Christ is blessed and then lit. We will begin outside at 8:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday, gathered together around the Lych Gate.

From there we will process to the

Chapel for the second part of the service. An ancient hymn of praise to the risen Christ called the Exsultet is then sung. A series of readings follows, interspersed by psalms and hymns. These trace the story of God's saving work from creation down to the close of the Old Testament. Many scholars have remarked on the similarity between this part of the service and the Jewish Passover ritual, which comes at the same time of the year. The Christian feast of the Resurrection is actually called by the same name as the Jewish Passover in most languages (English is a notable exception) because of the way in which Christ's death and resurrection complete the purposes of God begun long before in his salvation of the Jewish people.



We will move to the Baptistry at the back of the church for the next part of the liturgy. The readings are followed by Baptism or a renewal of Baptismal vows, as we confess the faith, and renew our own commitment to the risen Christ while receiving the promise of His grace.

From there, we will process to the front of the church while singing the Te Deum, an ancient hymn of praise, while the church bells ring out in celebration. The Easter Gospel will follow, accompanied by the joyous declaration that "Christ is Risen." A festive celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter will come after this.

This year, we will share in this special service with the congregations of Saint James Church, Oneonta, the Otsego County Lutheran Parish, and Zion Saint John's Lutheran Church in Seward. The clergy from all the churches will share together in the liturgy, and we will follow the service with a festive champagne reception in the Parish Hall. Consider making this powerful and moving service a central part of your celebration of Easter this year.



Music Notes

By Roberta Rowland-Raybold

A special evening service based on the meditative singing of the French Taize community will be held in our church on Sunday, March 27, at 5:00 p.m. led by our Adult Choir. Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship; it expresses the reality of faith and allows everyone to take part in worship together. Nothing can replace the beauty of the human voice in song. It can silence our fragmented hearts, give us a sense of rest, and inspire us with inner joy! During this season on Lent, we invite you to join us in the quietness of song and meditation as we sing the simple "songs of Taize."

During Lent we invite you to join our choir on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 to joyfully prepare for the special upcoming services. It is important that you comfortably prepare our special music with us. You will note that we are singing the "Lord's Prayer" at our 10:00 traditional services; we hope you enjoy this change in our liturgy for this special season. On Paul Sunday children will join the adult choir for a festive anthem. The Choir will bring us special music in our Maundy Thursday service as well as the Easter Vigil. On Easter Sunday morning Mike Luby will be our special soloist and the service will conclude with Handel's "Hallelujah" from MESSIAH.

Our third annual Spring Concert Series will be held on the four Fridays following Easter at 12:15 p.m. in our church. Please join us for these wonderful musical presentations as a way to celebrate our long-awaited Spring season. The concerts are underwritten by our friends of music.

- April 29: Organ, Roberta Rowland-Raybold
- May 6: Women's Vocal Ensemble, Sweet Adelines
- May 13: Classical Piano and Cello, Bruce Harris and David Gibson
- May 20: Concert harp, Hannah Lamont

Feasting for A Good Cause



This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was the largest in recent memory. Hundreds came to dine and to bid on items in the Silent Auction. Over \$3000 was raised to support the McCarty family's medical expenses. Thanks to all.

The Grace to Share His Love

By Mary Bellew, Stephen Leader

Ten years ago when I was undergoing treatment for cancer, I prayed a lot and I thanked God for the blessings of a good prognosis, skilled and compassionate medical care, for my family and friends, but most of all, for the blessing of Life. Like a psalmist, I kept pleading with God to tell me what I could do to repay such blessings. I knew He didn't expect repayment, but I needed to do it. Finally, the answer I heard was, "*Make a Difference; Be a Conduit of My Love*". At that time, Christ Church was just beginning its Stephen Ministry program. I was intrigued by the concept of Lay Christian Caregiving and I listened with interest to the presentations. One Sunday, Betty Currier sat down in the pew next to me and asked me if I'd consider training to be a Stephen Minister; I knew in that moment that this was my opportunity. I answered, "YES".

Talking with anyone who is experiencing life's changes and chances can be difficult, but with Stephen Ministry training, I've found it a lot easier. I've learned how to listen with an open heart and to rely on God to provide the healing and to guide me with prayer. I'm no different from any of you; I have no special powers or spiri-

tual insights. What I *have* are skills learned during Stephen Ministry training, the support of other Stephen Ministers and most importantly, God's love.

Please, prayerfully examine your own life. Are there blessings you have received that you could share with someone? Care Receivers sit and walk among us. They are our fellow parishioners who could use a Stephen Minister to walk in Christian love with them as they experience a difficult time. Over the years, I've spoken with many of you about Stephen Ministry. Is it your time to *Make a Difference and be a Conduit of God's love*? I'll be honest; the training is intense and requires a serious commitment. But remember, there are those among us who are quietly suffering, waiting for that hand to be extended in love and care. The rewards are far greater than you can ever imagine, just ask any Stephen Minister.

We hope to start a new training class in 2011. Applications forms are available from the tract rack at the Fair Street entrance to the parish house. Thanks be to God for our many Blessings and for the Grace to share his Love.

New Member: Caspar Ewig



On Sunday, March 6, we welcomed **Caspar Ewig** into the fellowship of our congregation. Caspar has visited with us at Christ Church for years, as his daughter and her family live near Milford. He is now almost completely resettled to our area, as he prepares to retire from his long career as a shipping lawyer in New York City. A native of Germany, Caspar has lived in northern New Jersey for most of his life. Very active as a leader at Saint Paul's Church, Morris Plains, New Jersey (a parish that Burr and Carrie Southworth also once called home), he has already begun to serve as a Lay Reader and Lay Eucharistic Minister. We hear that he is also a wonderful cook. Welcome, Caspar, into your new parish family!

Into a dark world
A snowdrop comes,
A blessing
Of hope and peace,
Carrying within it
A green heart,
Symbol of God's
renewing love.



Come to inhabit our darkness,
Lord Christ,
For dark and light
Are alike to you.

May nature's white candles of hope
Remind us of your birth
And lighten our journey
Through Lent and beyond.

Invocation for Lent, The Iona Community
(shared by Kathy Lloyd)

Eastertide Events

During Eastertide, the fifty days after the great feast of the Resurrection, we give thanks for Christ's victory over sin and death. As the natural world comes to life again after the winter cold, we lift our hearts our voices in praise to God for the renewing power of his love. Easter will bring a variety of celebrations to Christ Church this year. These include the following.

Easter Praise Service:

This special service will be held on Saturday of Easter Week, April 30, and will feature music led by the Joyful Noise Praise Band as well as readings and prayers that celebrate the new life and hope that come to us through the Resurrection. The service will begin at 5:30 and a potluck supper will follow.



The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on May 6 and 7 in the Parish Hall. Donations are welcome from April 15 for this much-loved local event, which raises funds for Global Missions Projects. Volunteers are needed to sort and price donations and to sell items. Please speak with Mike Page or Kathy Jagels if you would like to volunteer.

An Evening for Preschoolers and their Families will be held in the Rectory on Saturday, May 7, starting at 5:30. We will share dinner and there will be fun for the kids and a chance for the parents to relax.

A Preconvention Meeting will be held in the Church on May 11 at 7:00 to distribute information to Episcopalians throughout our region about the Diocesan Convention, which will be held June 10-12 at

Camp of the Woods in Speculator. If you are interested in serving as a delegate or learning more about our Diocese, you should plan to attend. Conference delegates will be elected at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 15, the Fourth Sunday in Eastertide, in the Parish Hall at 11:30. Father Mark will offer the Rector's address as his sermon at both morning services. We will gather for a potluck lunch and will elect new vestry members and review the past year. Your participation is important in discerning

God's vision for our common life. Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to the Church Office by May 2, and these should be available for review by the worship services on May 8.

The Regional Confirmation for the Susquehanna Deanery will be held at Christ Church on Sunday, May 22 at 4:00. We currently have a class of twelve preparing for confirmation and reception, and they will renew their commitment to Christ and receive strengthening by the Holy Spirit together with other candidates from across Delaware and Otsego Counties. Bishop William Love will be with us as the celebrant and preacher, and the event will be followed by a Deanery Picnic at Three Mile Point. All who attend are invited to bring a dish to pass.

Rogation Sunday, May 29, is a traditional time for praying for God's blessing upon the created order, especially for crops planted in the spring. On Rogation Sunday, the 10:00 service will end with a procession out into the

New Confirmands Prepare



Twelve people are currently preparing for confirmation and reception into the Communion of this Church. Members of the class, which meets on Wednesdays at 6:30, are pictured here (from left): Dara Yastrzemski, Dawn and Karl Siebuhr, Nicole Barown, Georgia Meeter, John Raymond, Brian and Melissa Williams, and Erik Mebust. Stephen Cadwalader, Jaclyn Courter and Todd Dibble are also preparing. The Regional Confirmation will be May 22. All are welcome to join in this time of learning and growth.

Churchyard to bless the gardens around the Chapel. You are also invited to bring seeds and plants and tools from your own gardens to have them blessed. After the worship service, we will have a **Parish Hike to Star Field** to say a prayer for God's blessing on our whole community. Mike Miller and Bob Birch will lead the outing, and those who would like to hike are invited to come to church in hiking clothes, and to stay after services for a simple lunch before driving over to the base of the trail.

Ascension Day, June 2, celebrates Christ's return in glory to the Father, forty days after his resurrection from the dead. We will celebrate the day, one of the principal festivals of the Church Year, with a Eucharist services in the Chapel at 8:30 and 5:30 p.m. The latter will be followed by a potluck supper with strawberries and cream in the Rectory.

BIRTHDAYS		BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
David Craig	1-Apr	Laura Page	28-Apr	James & Anita High	2-Apr
Ruth Steward	2-Apr	Roger Smith	28-Apr	Frank & Stacy Ward	3-Apr
Grace Welsh	2-Apr	Joshua Brigham	29-Apr	Amanda Mahoney	4-Apr
James High	3-Apr	Alice Eckler	30-Apr	Elso & Terry Allesandri	10-Apr
Ava Hill-Edgar	4-Apr	Erica Johnson	30-Apr	Aline Heller	13-Apr
Kamryn Koffer	4-Apr	Katharine Lloyd	30-Apr	Debra Dow	15-Apr
Nicole Lionetti	4-Apr	Dean Robinson	30-Apr	Pat Buckland	23-Apr
Gregory Lippett	4-Apr	Evan Johnson	1-May	George Wyckoff	29-Apr
Thomas Craig	6-Apr	Kevin Segit	2-May	Matt & Katherine Janson	1-May
Donald Folts	6-Apr	David Born	3-May	Janet Rigby	2-May
Ellen Giron	6-Apr	Margaret Odell	3-May	Philip & Patricia Mower	5-May
Nancy Kelly	6-Apr	Tyler Koffer	4-May	Craig Morrow	6-May
Nicole Barown	7-Apr	Sarah Jane Morosko	4-May	Dennis & Nancy Tallman	8-May
Doris Blomquist	7-Apr	Emma Yasterzemski	4-May	Wayne & Peggy Hymers	9-May
Susan Melchior	7-Apr	Gleford Hubbell	5-May	Keith Lambertson	15-May
Jane Huntington	9-Apr	Dorothy Smith	5-May	Bruce & Tiffany Grover	20-May
Arika Morin	8-Apr	Martha Toulson	5-May	Richard & Kathryn Busse	24-May
Lynn Jones	10-Apr	David Morin	6-May	Katherine Murphy	24-May
Sarah Hutcherson	11-Apr	Natasha Thorne	6-May	Ryan & Caitlin Miosek	25-May
Elliott See	11-Apr	Todd Dibble	7-May	Brian Murphy	25-May
Griffin Williams	12-Apr	Brendan Lahan	8-May	John & Margaret Odell	30-May
Glenn Hubbell	13-Apr	Madilyn Miosek	8-May	Douglas & Peggyann Wilson	30-May
Elizabeth Currier	14-Apr	Corinne Smith	8-May	FLOWER MEMORIALS	
Scott Folts	15-Apr	Earl Buffett	9-May	Douglas Alan Lamberson	6-Apr
Audrey Ashley	16-Apr	Raymond McPhail	9-May	Florence H. Plumb, Charles L. Plumb	11-Apr
Kathryn Busse	16-Apr	Rebecca Odell	9-May	Joseph A. Randall, Mary Randall Stewart	13-Apr
Kaylee Croft	16-Apr	Patricia Weyland	9-May	David Welsh, Sr.,	22-Apr
Leah Willcox	16-Apr	Flannery Wright	9-May	John Earl Casey	27-Apr
Teri Barown	17-Apr	Emily Odell	10-May	Dorothy Cavanagh	29-Apr
Michael Miller	17-Apr	Bonnie Segit	10-May	Dorothy C. Tipple, Ruth Myers Tipple	4-May
Burnett Southworth	17-Apr	Emma Johnson	11-May	Annie Dickson Welsh	4-May
Carrie Southworth	18-Apr	Robert Weidman	12-May	Dorothy C. Tipple, Ruth Myers Tipple,	6-May
McKenzie Coleman	19-Apr	Matthew Barown	14-May	Florence H. Plumb, Charles L. Plumb	13-May
Henry Ramsey	19-Apr	Peter Matson	15-May	Raymond A. Lamberson, Robert K. Robertson	20-May
Georgia Meeter	20-Apr	Alyse Andresen	16-May	Gertrude Smith Buckland	27-May
Kendall Ryland	21-Apr	Alexander Constanzo	17-May	CANDLE MEMORIALS	
Emerson Toulson	21-Apr	Roxanne Hansel	18-May	Douglas Alan Lamberson	6-Apr
Mary Deringer	22-Apr	Katherine Snell	18-May	Florence H. Plumb, Charles L. Plumb	11-Apr
William Deringer	22-Apr	Erin Dauchy	19-May	Joseph A. Randall, Mary Randall Stewart	13-Apr
Bruce Grover	22-Apr	Pat Jungers	19-May	David Welsh, Sr.,	23-Apr
Jenny Potrikus	22-Apr	S. Charles Constanzo	21-May	John Earl Casey	27-Apr
Gerard Wilson	22-Apr	Michael Croft	21-May	Dorothy Cavanagh	29-Apr
Douglas Welsh	23-Apr	Benjamin Pierson	21-May	Dorothy C. Tipple, Ruth Myers Tipple	4-May
Joseph Acanfora	25-Apr	Mary Jane Wilson	22-May	Annie Dickson Welsh	4-May
Kevin Hochbrueckner	25-Apr	Deborah Croft	25-May	Dorothy C. Tipple, Ruth Myers Tipple,	6-May
Janice Brenner	26-Apr	Lucas Grover	26-May	Florence H. Plumb, Charles L. Plumb	13-May
Justin Ross	26-Apr	Emily Deringer	28-May	Raymond A. Lamberson, Robert K. Robertson	20-May
		Nathaniel Miller	31-May	Gertrude Smith Buckland	27-May

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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We Give Thanks

We thank all who have shared their gifts to enrich our common life, especially at this time:

- **Mike Page, Dennis Tallman and Eric Hill** who prepared a wonderful breakfast for our Acolytes as part of the renewal of their vows on Candlemas.
- **Georgia Meeter, Rosemarie Koenig and others** for working so hard to host the special Women's Fellowship Brunch on March 10.
- **Georgia Meeter, Kathy Lloyd and Mike Page** who organized the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Silent Auction, a wonderful event that provided support for the McCarty family. Thanks also to all who helped to prepare and serve the supper.
- **Susan Snell, Veronica Gifford, Nadene Willcox, Ann E. McMahon and Audrey Murray** who have provided delicious suppers for the Christianity Explored class
- **Yolanda Sharpe and Joy White** who have organized and led the Stations of the Cross art project at the center of this year's Lenten Program
- **Janet Rigby, Carrie Southworth, Mary Raffo and Anita Born** who have helped to provide suppers for our Lenten Program.
- **Roxie Hansel, Sue Henderson and Linda Van Cleef** for reorganizing and seeking wider ecumenical support for our monthly Healing Services.

Holy Week Schedule

April 17-**Palm Sunday**: Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and Ecumenical Liturgy of Palms at 10:30 (gather at 10:15), followed by Holy Eucharist

April 18-23: Labyrinth for Meditation at Saint Mary's Parish Center, 12-7, (12-6 on Maundy Thursday)

April 18-20-**Holy Monday-Holy Wednesday**: Holy Eucharist at 8:30 in Chapel

April 21-**Maundy Thursday**, Eucharist of the Lord's Supper with Passion Watch at 7:30 in Church

April 22-**Good Friday**, Solemn Liturgy at 3:00 in Church. Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at 7:00 at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church

April 23-**Holy Saturday**, Solemn Liturgy at 8:30 in Chapel, Confessions at 9:00.

April 23-**Easter Eve**, Great Vigil at 8:00 p.m. (gather at Lych Gate)

April 24-**Easter Day**-Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00

April 30-**Easter Saturday**-Easter Praise Service in Chapel and Potluck at 5:30