



*Seeking. Living. Sharing Christ*

# Christ Church Chronicle

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
69 Fair Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326  
E-mail: [christchurch@ceccoop.net](mailto:christchurch@ceccoop.net)

October 2009  
Volume XV- Number 8  
Phone: 607-547-9555 / Fax 607-547-7414  
Website: [www.christchurchcooperstown.org](http://www.christchurchcooperstown.org)

## For Your Calendar

**October 2-3:** Fall Rummage Sale

**October 4:** Ecumenical Healing Service, 4:00

**October 9-10:** High School Lock-In, 8:00-8:00

**October 11:** St. Francis' Day Evening Prayer and Pet Blessing, 4:00

**October 18:** Family Service with Praise Band, 10:00

**October 18:** Choral Evensong, 4:00 p.m.

**October 18:** Tea at the Rectory, 5:00 p.m.

**October 25:** Fall Parish Work Day, after worship services.

**October 25:** Fall Deanery Convocation, Saint Paul 's Church, Sidney, 4:00

**October 30:** Games Night at the Rectory, 7:30 p.m.

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MARK MICHAEL

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you." I Timothy 1:6*

I was the only student in her class, but she prepared a new lesson for me every Sunday. We read the stories of the Bible and made terrariums in glass jars. She taught me to be an acolyte, challenged me with thoughtful questions, and showed me how to pray. For about three years, when I was the sole member of the primary class at Saint John's Church, Mrs. Truax shared her gifts and her love to fan my growing faith into a flame.

I have been blessed with many mentors along the road that leads me closer to God, but Dorothy Truax was probably the most devoted and powerful. She was to me like Paul was to Timothy, an experienced guide in

the spiritual life who showed me what it meant to follow Christ and supported and encouraged me along the way. Though I was only six when she became my teacher, she marked me out as a future pastor, and worked hard to equip me with knowledge and to strengthen the gifts I use every day in my call. Her dedication helped me to understand how deeply God loved me and how much He expected from me. Her support of me didn't end when I left her class, either. She encouraged me as I grew older and, eventually, went off to seminary. When I was ordained as a priest, she stood up to present me to the bishop. Though she's now well into her eighties; she still teaches the kids in the elementary class at Saint John's every Sunday, giving herself to helping form another generation of Christians in the ways of our Lord.

As our Sunday School year begins again at Christ Church, we are reminded of how richly God has blessed us with children and youth who want to learn how to follow Jesus. We won't have any classes with only one student; but like Mrs. Truax, our teachers also show great dedication to our children and the holy work of equipping them to confess the faith.

In the next few weeks, we will be introducing a number of new programs and activities that should complement their good work.

**On September 24 we will have a Family Fun Night at the Rectory**, with pizza and laser tag in Cooper Park. Sign up in the Parish Hall or call the Church Office.

**On October 9-10, our teens will gather for a Lock-In**, starting at 8:00, with teaching and worship time as well as lots of goofy activities, organized by our Confirmation teacher, Janet Rigby. We are hoping that a Youth Group might develop out of our conversations together at the Lock-In—watch this space for more details to come.

**On October 18, we will have our first Family Service at 10:00.** The service will be a condensed Eucharist, with music led by our Praise Band. Designed for children of all ages, it will feature an interactive sermon and child-friendly songs. There will be no Sunday School that day, and all children are especially encouraged to join us—wiggling is perfectly appropriate. We also will have **nursery care provided each Sunday** for preschool aged children. Contact Teri Barown if you would like to volunteer for this important ministry.

**Our Vestry has also approved the creation of a Children's Ministry Commission**, to evaluate our ministry to children and their families, and to strategize for the future. We anticipate that the group will meet 5-7 times over the next 6 months to study a book about children's ministry, to review the programs and activities we already have for helping our children, to learn more about fruitful children's ministries in other churches, and to develop a series of short and long term goals. Please consider a call to serving on this commission. We hope to include people with a variety of experiences and insights. Speak with Father Mark if you would like to serve.

We may not all be able to chase two year olds around the nursery, to chaperone a middle school mission trip or to explain the doctrine of the Trinity to a tenth grader. But we can all pray for our youth and children and seek out opportunities to encourage them, to fan their gifts into a flame.

**Evening Prayer and Pet Blessing for St. Francis Day:** October 11, 4:00.

Join us for this special outdoor service in which we will give thanks for the witness of Francis of Assisi, the great friend of all God's creatures. Bring your pets (on a leash) to receive a special blessing and a Saint Francis collar medal. Pictures of pets that can't quite make the trip are also welcome. Weather permitting, we will gather outside behind the Chapel at 4:00 (or inside the Chapel if necessary).

## **WHY DO WE DO THAT? GENUFLECTION**

This is the first in a series of columns on the reasons behind various seasonal and liturgical practices used by people at Christ Church. Many traditional practices reinforce important teachings of our faith, and using them with understanding can draw us closer to God. See Father Mark to submit a question for a future column.



*The Pelican, a symbol of Christ's sacrificial death*

"What's with all the bowing and scraping in your Church?" was how a blunt friend once put it to me. The practice of genuflection, or bending the knee, as I told him, is a gesture of reverence and adoration to God, particularly to Jesus our Lord, as he is made known to us in His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. The most common position for praying in the Scriptures is actually standing, often with the arms extended (as in the position the priest uses at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer). But in the Old Testament, in especially solemn moments, worshippers knelt before God as a sign of humility and readiness to obey his will (see II Chron. 6:13, Dan. 6:10). Jesus himself knelt to pray in his Agony at Gethsemane (Luke 22:41), and the practice appears to have become even more common among his early disciples (Acts 7:59, 20:36). James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem, the early Church historian

Eusebius tells us, spent so much time kneeling in prayer that his knees were like those of a camel. Saint Paul also acclaims Jesus as the one before whom "every knee should bow," honoring Him as the Lord of all (Phil. 2:10).

Christians have long been "bending the knee" to our Lord in a variety of ways. We kneel for prayer, we make a profound, or deep bow, especially before the Altar, the earthly representation of God's heavenly throne. And some Christians also genuflect, or go from a standing position down onto one knee, sometimes also making the sign of the Cross. The action, which dates back to the 15th century, is traditionally considered the most solemn form of kneeling, and is especially associated with the consecrated bread and wine in the Eucharist. Some people, like me, genuflect when they pass before the Tabernacle in which the Sacrament is reserved (watch for a lighted candle as the sign of reservation). A double genuflection by the priest is also traditional when the bread and wine are consecrated, or made sacred, changed into Christ's Body and Blood. To genuflect is to confess that this Bread and Wine are not ordinary food, but that Christ himself, in all his divine power, has become present in them to bring us His saving grace. To genuflect is to acknowledge His glory and to confess our need for the forgiveness and new life He brings.

## DENIAL

-- *George Herbert (1593 -1633)*

When my devotions could not pierce Thy silent ears,  
Then was my heart broken, as was my verse;  
My breast was full of fears And disorder.

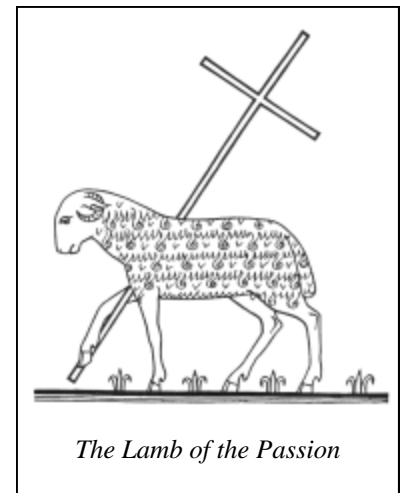
My bent thoughts, like a brittle bow, Did fly asunder:  
Each took his way; some would to pleasures go,  
Some to the wars and thunder Of alarms.

"As good go anywhere," they say, "As to benumb  
Both knees and heart, in crying night and day,  
Come, come, my God, O come! But no hearing."

O that thou shouldst give dust a tongue To cry to thee,  
And then not hear it crying! All day long  
My heart was in my knee, But no hearing.

Therefore my soul lay out of sight, Untuned, unstrung:  
My feeble spirit, unable to look right,  
Like a nipped blossom, hung Discontented.

O cheer and tune my heartless breast, Defer no time;  
That so thy favors granting my request,  
They and my mind may chime, And mend my rhyme.



*The Lamb of the Passion*

*In the parish library:*

## **A REVIEW OF BOOKS OF OUR FAITH**

**The Rev'd Albert K Jungers**



*The Power of Darkness,  
Vanquished by Jesus Christ*

*As our children and youth return to another year of school, adults should also consider taking some time to learn more about the faith. The Canon French Library contains a wealth of excellent books and pamphlets to help you grow in spiritual life. Rev. Al Jungers, a member of our Parish, has volunteered to write a series of reviews of books from our Library. This is the first of his selections:*

Marianne H. Micks, *The Future Present: The Phenomenon of Christian Worship* (New York: The Seabury Press, 1970)

A M. Allchin, *The World Is A Wedding: Explorations in Christian Spirituality* (New York: Oxford University Press and London: Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd.)

Both of these books examine issues central to our faith and practice as Anglicans from a phenomenological standpoint. Marianne Micks wrote while on sabbatical leave from her post as Dean of Western College for Women, Oxford, Ohio at The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California in 1968 to 1969. A. M. Allchin was Canon Residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral, and his book was collected from lectures originally delivered at General Theological Seminary in New York, and papers published in *Sobernost*, *Christian Theology*, *Cistercian Studies*, and *Communion*.

Dr. Micks' book is the simpler of the two, dealing with our common worship in historical context. She points to the roots of our worship in Temple and synagogue. The early Christians never saw the Sunday service as a Sabbath observance, but as the First day or Eighth day, marking the Resurrection, a day of celebration. Sabbatarianism only gained ascendancy in the sixth century. It was also not the passive "sermon listening" of the post-reformation. The Liturgy is seen as participatory, containing elements of play and dance. Doing otherwise denigrates the liturgy to a kind of idolatry. For Dean Micks the Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of Heaven, a means of summoning the future.

Canon Allchin deals with the continuity of the Church and the Scriptures in much the same way, but his work is more complex, exploring non-Christian sources as well. Fr. Allchin shows the comprehensive genius of Anglican theology, pointing to our Celtic and Orthodox roots. He sees our prayer and worship as a celebration of our encounter with God, a wedding that opens a window into Heaven. A. M. Allchin draws on sources as rich and varied as modern poets, Hasidic Rabbis, Sufi mystics, and saints as diverse as Seraphim of Sarov, Francis of Assisi, and Thomas Merton, as well as secular writers like Alexander Solzhenitzyn. His work on the Welsh poets and T. S. Eliot is particularly good. Christian spirituality is the transfiguration of creation. In Canon Allchin's writing we find the depth and breadth of the Church's history and tradition.

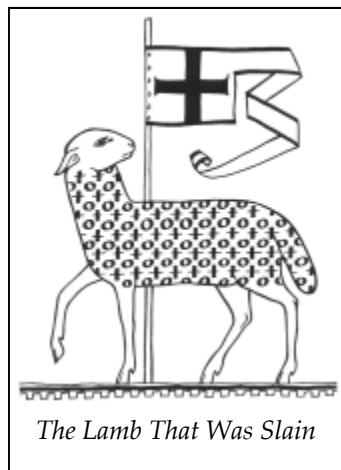
### **VESTRY NOTES: September 14, 2009**

Father Mark opened our September meeting with a prayer followed by a short bible study of Acts 16:1-5 and II Timothy 1:2-7. In these passages, Paul helps Timothy grow in His relationship with God and with His ministry. This example serves as a model of how we can minister to children in our Parish and our community.

**Treasurer's Report**- John Mason presented the Treasurer's report. Income and expenses are in line with our budget.

**Rector's Report**- Father Mark reported on plans to reach out to our children and their families. A family service will be offered each month. Approximately half of these services will be a shortened, child-friendly 10:00 a.m. Sunday service, with the Praise Band. The choir will offer a Choral Evensong in the evening on these Sundays. On alternate months, a new family service will take place on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. This is a

trial schedule and will be re-evaluated after 4-6 months. In addition, a "lock-in" is scheduled for high school youth on October 9-10. In the nursery, Teri Barown will coordinate the schedule for volunteers. Father Mark recommended the formation of a Children's Ministry Commission of 6-8 people to meet with him for about six months to study, strategize and plan for our ministries to our children.



**Executive Committee:** Susan Snell reviewed the "to-do" list. Father Mark continues to meet parishioners through home visits and events at the rectory. He is also reviewing our procedures for notifications through mail and e-mail and will work with Jim High and others on coordination of Chronicle efforts and our website. An updated Parish Directory is available through the parish office.

**Audit Committee:** Susan Snell reported that an Audit Committee consisting of John Clow, Terry Alessandri and Doug Walrath is working on a review of our 2008 financial records.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Dennis Tallman reported on four quotes received for oil delivery for this winter and on prices for energy conservation efforts for the church furnaces and insulation for heat piping in the rectory. Building and Grounds recommends the removal of shrubs on both sides of the church door because they are trapping moisture and damaging the brickwork. The repaving project has been funded by private donors and will proceed in September.

**Financial Planning:** Susan Snell reported that our property/liability insurance will cost \$2000 more next year due to the significant increase in the appraisal of our properties. 2010 budget requests are due Oct. 5.

**Stewardship:** Bob Birch reported that the Stewardship Committee has met and determined that the goal for 2010 will be \$40,000 higher than current pledges. This increase will enable us to replace the support previously provided by endowment income and the Brady gift. The Stewardship effort will focus on what God is calling us to do and compare our pledging to our potential for pledging and that of similar congregations.

**Vestry Authorizations:**

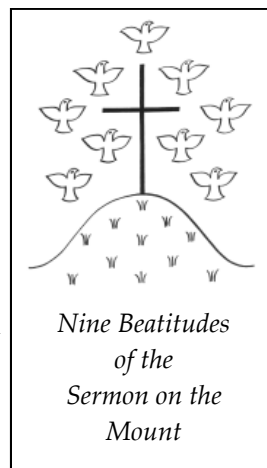
1. The fee for use of our buildings for practices, performance, and reception by the Voices of Cooperstown will be \$650. As a music ministry to the community, Voices will be supported by \$150 from outreach funds.
2. The proposal from Bruce Hall for heating oil and service contracts for the 2009-2010 season was approved.
3. Expenditures of \$650 for reconnection of the two church furnaces and \$1800 for pipe insulation material were approved. Payments for these expenses will come from the utilities budget line item.
4. The formation of a Children's Ministry Commission was approved.
5. Removal of shrubs in front of the church door was approved.
6. A service contract for our office computers was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm following a closing prayer by Father Mark.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Snell, Senior Warden

**MUSIC NOTES**

**COME AUTUMN TIME**, an organ composition by Leo Sowerby always comes to mind during this season of color and crisp fall air. Composers through the ages have been inspired by Scripture, emotion, and the beauty of the world around them to write beautiful and expressive music. Please remember this as you listen to our music in worship.



**SINGING SCHOOL** is in full swing; it is proving to be an exciting project balancing our younger youth, teens, and even adults who are interested in learning how to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Of course, we also have "Joyful Noise," our praise band, should you be interested in working with that group. The meeting time for Singing School has been changed by 15 minutes; it now will meet from 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. to accomodate school conflicts and will be specifically for grade school children. Middle School and High School age youth are considering their own special group. Some adults have shown interest as well; there will be a special adult program in the future. Please see our organist/choirmaster for information.

**ORGAN CRAWL** . . . what is it? On October 10 our local chapter, American Guild of Organists, will travel to Norwich to visit the organs of St. Paul's, St. Bartholomew's, the Episcopal and United Church of Christ in Norwich. If you are interested in organs and church history and would like to attend this event, please call Roberta at the church office to get details and make a reservation.

**CHORAL EVENSONG** will be held on Sunday, October 18 at Christ Church at 4:00 p.m. If you find special enjoyment in the music by our choir, please support this service. The quiet music and sung Psalm is an inspirational and intimate setting in which to end the day.

--Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Organist/Choirmaster

### "HE'S A FORCE IN YOUR LIFE"

"Healing services . . . one of my most important experiences . . . getting to talk about God with people my own age . . . making friends with Campbell and Liz and Morgan and Emily and Caroline . . ."

Since Beaver Cross moved from Otsego Lake to the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich, attendance by children from Cooperstown has declined dramatically. But those few who do make the journey often look forward to being campers again the following year. This year a small number of children from our congregation attended—including Rebecca Miller, who completed her eleventh year at Beaver Cross and plans to apply for a return as a counselor—but it would be wonderful to see a larger number of children from Christ Church there next summer. Some fall day, drop by <http://www.christ-the-king-center.org/BeaverCross/> and think about how camp might fit into next summer's plans.

It's fairly clear what younger children have to gain from camp—to live for a short while in a fun social realm where the worldview is Christian. That's something not available in many places in our culture. But what do young men and young women gain from Beaver Cross? After all, fewer teens attend camp than younger children. One answer from a teen: "It's definitely a spiritual experience. When you're having these really fun experiences, and mixed in with that is God . . . It meant a lot to me, especially the first time I had healing service. That was one of the few times I had a real religious experience. I've been to four healing services, and each time it was different and had something different to give. Once it was inward and contemplative, and another time it was really euphoric, and the first time it was so unexpected . . . It's amazing when you get to live in a situation where you get to live and breathe that with other people who want to live and breathe the same thing. Beaver Cross is such a healthy mixture. For a long time I was just used to the theory of God. I was kind of in touch, but not really. The healing service meshed the intellectual with the emotional. Beaver Cross made me feel more serious about God, which is funny because He is talked about in seemingly un-serious terms at camp." Basically it made me feel like God isn't just some entity; he's a force in your life."



## JORDAN (I)

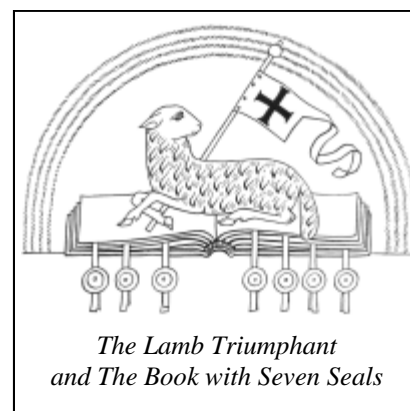
George Herbert



Who says that fictions only and false hair  
Become a verse? Is there in truth no beauty?  
Is all good structure in a winding stair?  
May no lines pass, except they do their duty  
Not to a true, but painted chair?

Is it no verse, except enchanted groves  
And sudden arbours shadow coarse-spun lines?  
Must purling streams refresh a lover's loves?  
Must all be veil'd, while he that reads, divines,  
Catching the sense at two removes?

Shepherds are honest people; let them sing;  
Riddle who list, for me, and pull for prime;  
I envy no man's nightingale or spring;  
Nor let them punish me with loss of rhyme,  
Who plainly say, my God, my King.



## THE AFTER PEOPLE

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"

One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are "the after people."

Stephen Ministers are there:

After the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

After the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

After the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

After the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

After the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

After the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

After the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

After the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

After you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

After your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the after people. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long after as is needed. If this description sounds like you or someone you know, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders:

— Mary Bellew 547-7207; Anita High 547-9825

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

I went to the mailbox and collected our mail yesterday. I grabbed the 8 pieces of mail and looked at them as I walked back to the house — Hmmm: 3 bills and 5 different organizations asking for donations. Each of the letters asking for a donation basically said the same thing — talking about the economy, shrinking donations and how their cause helped. All were good causes; they ranged from local to national charities, and I would like to support them all.



Soon a pledge letter from Christ Church will join the others. If I only had the means to support them all but how? The obvious answer is I can't, but how do I pick? The answer is, in my opinion, pray, prioritize and then pledge.

Pledging helps our church put together its budget because, with pledges, we have a good idea about income. Pledging helps our church keep our endowment fund even when the economy of our country is questionable because the more we are able to pledge, the less we have to take from the endowment. Pledging helps us keep a handle on what Christ Church can and cannot do when it comes to programs and outreach because as good as our giving of time and talents are, it's the treasure that keeps it all going.

Thank you.  
Jim High, Stewardship Committee



**ABOUT THIS ISSUE**

IMAGES IN THIS ISSUE are drawn from the work of Rudolf Koch (1876-1934) as published in the book Christian Symbols (trans. Kevin Ahern; San Francisco: Arion Press, 1996). It was the wish of the artist that these images be available for public use. Grateful acknowledgment is made to the publisher of Arion Press, Andrew Hoyem, and to the estate of Rudolf Koch for these lovely animal symbols inspired by the New Testament.

THE EDITOR thanks past and present contributors for their work with her over the years and refers those who are interested in working on future issues of The Christ Church Chronicle to Father Mark Michael.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Stephanie Christensen
- 2 Alexander Shields
- 3 Felicia Blum
- 4 Jennifer Hubbell
- 5 Mike Dauchy
- 7 John Freehafer
- 8 Carla MacMillan
- 9 Marly Wright
- 11 Justin Hobbie  
Rebecca Miller
- 12 Julie Costanzo
- 13 Helen Decker
- 14 Teresa Drerup  
Abra Striese  
Alicia Johnson  
Erik Mebust
- 15 Jenny Richman
- 16 Peg Walrath  
Jack Odell
- 17 Peter Hochbrueckner  
Trenton Cooper
- 18 Nancy Pfau  
Keith Lamberson
- 19 Alton Pleitez  
Mary Cooper
- 20 Caitlin Polus
- 21 Heather Pleitez
- 22 Amy VanKampen
- 23 Marshall Thorne
- 25 Jeanne Clow
- 28 Amanda Lionetti  
Elliot Higgins

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Laurie & Gary Kearns
- 7 Teresa & Kurt Ofer
- 8 Susan & Robert Schneider
- 9 Heather & Javier Pleitez
- 11 Pamela & Richaard Scurrey
- 14 Cindy & Glenn Hubbell

### OCTOBER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

- 4 Lidie Mackie  
Robert Mackie  
Charlotte Adams
- 11 Laurel Murphy
- 18 Arch G. Richaardson
- 25 George Hyde Clarke

### OCTOBER CANDLE MEMORIALS

- 4 Agnes C. Lamberson
- 11 OPEN
- 18 Miriam Roth  
Jules Roth
- 25 Wayne Eric Kukenberger  
Pauline C. Geurtze

### LET US PRAY FOR

- Doris Blomquist  
\* Ruth Druse  
Elna Dickison  
\* Rachel  
Carol Niedzialkowski  
Lisa  
Gertrude Worrall  
Don  
Betty Kukenberger  
\* Chris Pohl  
\* Dorothy Chase  
Jim Atwell  
Andrew  
Kathy Lloyd  
\* Pat Jungers  
Joyce  
Sarah  
\* Leia Bailey and her family  
\* Ashton Babcock  
\* Elsie Hinkson  
\* Helen Decker and family  
\* Rick  
\* Matt Sohns  
• Lashawn  
• Emily

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

- Michael LeBron  
William Mason Sanford  
Eric Liston  
Will Rigby  
Esmeralda LeBron  
Travis Buck  
Matthew Cummings  
Drew Jones  
Morgan Buckland  
Theodore Staubly  
Daniel Hodd  
Suzanne V. Demirel  
Gregory Eaton  
Scott Dunn

### OUR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- Mariah Courter - Mexico  
Emily Davidson - Belgium