



Seeking. Living. Sharing Christ

Christ Church Chronicle

Christ Episcopal Church
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For Your Calendar

Sunday, September 6

Blessing of backpacks in worship services – bring your backpacks to church

Wednesday, September 9: 4:30 p.m.

Singing School begins for formation of St. Agnes Choir in the choir room

Wednesday, September 9

Choir rehearsals begin - 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

Friday, September 11

Catskill Chamber Singers—7:00 p.m., St. Agnes Chapel

Sunday, September 13

Church School begins

Sunday, September 13

Potluck supper at the rectory - 6:00 p.m.



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MARK MICHAEL

“1..2..3..Let’s Go Saints!” As coach of the Saint James School Freshman Basketball Team, I led my boys in this cheer before every game. We all put our hands into the middle and shouted as loudly as we could. Where boys are concerned, a little yelling helps to get the adrenalin rushing, and may make the difference in the first play or two. But the exercise also helped to reinforce a lesson I taught them over and over again. Out on the court, we work together—like brothers. There are no stars. We are all a part of this team.

At Saint James the Saints were our school mascots, but “Let’s Go Saints” might also be a fitting summary of the service of institution that we will be celebrating together on August 30 at 4:30. The service does single me

out in my ministry as your new rector, but it also focuses over and over again on the work we do together. The collect read by the bishop asks for our whole parish “that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to [God] their gifts and talents” (BCP 560). As we begin our new life as rector and people, it reminds us that we are God’s servants together, each of us doing our part to build up Christ’s Kingdom.

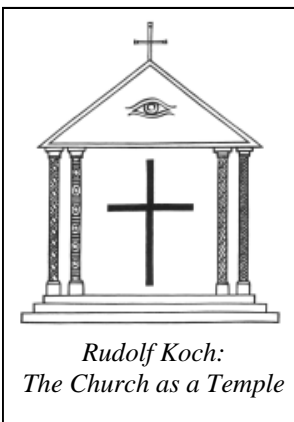
Services of Institution or “Celebrations of New Ministry” as they are called in the Book of Common Prayer, aren’t as ancient as many of our liturgies. They were developed out of a practical need in the Middle Ages, when there were often controversies between bishops and feudal lords over the loyalties of parish priests. Services were developed in which the parish rector formally pledged his fidelity to the Bishop, who in turn “instituted him” into his role, giving him official permission to preach and celebrate the Sacraments and to receive the benefits of his call.

After the Episcopal Church was founded, a new format for Institution service was developed in the Diocese of Connecticut in 1799. Though the Bishop still led the service and formally instituted the rector, the service became less legal and more devotional in its focus. A beautiful prayer of self-dedication was written by William Smith, rector at Norwich, Connecticut. Substantially unchanged in the current liturgy, in it the rector asks that God would “make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care.”

In the liturgy we use today, a series of symbolic gifts are presented by members of the congregation, the wider church and the community. Gifts like a Bible, a stole, the keys of the Church, cans from the Food Bank and others help to mark out the different roles of the rector, and to offer them up to God for His guidance and blessing. The symbolic gifts reinforce the important Biblical theme that all the people of God share in ministry together exercising their spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:4-31) and that leaders in the Church must work to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Eph. 4:12).

I hope that you will join us for this important celebration as we begin our work together. I am excited about our future as God’s team in this community—so “Let’s Go Saints.”

Father Mark+



THE INSTITUTION OF FATHER MARK A. MICHAEL

It is with joy and thanksgiving that the wardens and vestry of Christ Church invite you to the institution of Father Mark A. Michael as twenty-second rector of this parish on Sunday, August 30th at 4:30 p.m.

Bishop Love will preside, assisted by former rectors of Christ Church, Fr. Michael Fr. Samuel Abbott and Fr. Douglas Smith, and our former deacon-in-training Rev. Vicky Hunter. Fr. Ken Hunter of St James, Oneonta, will be the master of ceremonies, and other clergy, including Dean Dave Collum and our beloved Fr. Bill Day will be present to assist.

Fr. Michael has asked the Very Rev. Peet Dickinson, Dean of the Cathedral of Saint Luke and Saint Paul in Charleston, South Carolina, to preach. Fr. Dickinson is a seminary classmate of Fr. Mark’s, as is Deacon John Saunders, of St. Mary Magdalene’s, Louisville, Georgia, who will chant the Litany.

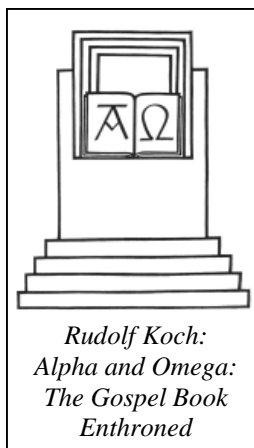
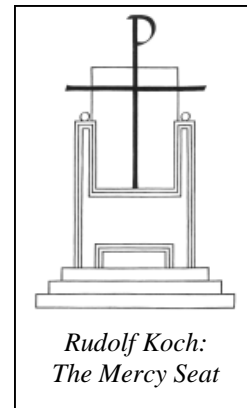
An afternoon service of institution is traditional in order to allow the attendance and participation of local and guest clergy. The order of service for “Celebration of a New Ministry” may be found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 559.

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Please join us as we welcome Fr. Michael and his family.
-- **Audrey Murray**

from *A PRIEST TO THE TEMPLE*

by George Herbert (1593-1633)

A Pastor is the Deputy of Christ for the reducing of Man to the Obedience of God. This definition is evident, and contains the direct steps of Pastoral Duty and Authority. For first, Man fell from God by disobedience. Secondly, Christ is the glorious instrument of God for the revoking of Man. Thirdly, Christ being not to continue on earth, but after hee had fulfilled the work of Reconciliation, to be received up into heaven, he constituted Deputies in his place, and these are Priests. And therefore St. *Paul* in the beginning of his Epistles, professeth this: and in the first [v.24] to the *Colossians* plainly avoucheth, that he *fills up that which is behinde of the afflictions of Christ in his flesh, for his Bodie's sake, which is the Church*. Wherein is contained the complete definition of a Minister. Out of this Chartre of the Priesthood may be plainly gathered both the Dignity thereof, and the Duty: The Dignity, in that a Priest may do that which Christ did, and by his aucturity, and as his Viceregent. The Duty, in that a Priest is to do that which Christ did, and after his manner, both for Doctrine and Life.



MUSIC NOTES

A BIG THANKS to those who have made possible our soloists from the Glimmerglass Young American Artists Program this summer. It is not only a privilege, but a blessing to have these wonderful young people be a part of our summer Sundays. If you have noticed on the opera programs, many of our soloists have had leads in the Glimmerglass performances. It's always a thrill to think that they have also been with us at Christ Church. Our appreciation to our own Michael Luby, a member of the Glimmerglass Chorus, for organizing this program and arriving in church early on Sundays to make our soloists feel welcome.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Now we are at the outset of another year with lots of good music in store. I would like to mention a few things that are of great importance to our music program. September 9th is the beginning of our choir programs. This fall we have two choral opportunities.

BRAND NEW: "Singing School"

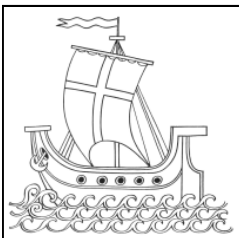
will be held every Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. This new program will kick off the reorganization of our former "St. Agnes" Choir for children. Children from first grade and beyond are welcome. We will meet in the Choir Room (basement) of the Parish House. Here your children will learn how to sing and make music to the Lord; my goal is to have this new group sing at the Family Service on Christmas Eve. At our first rehearsal I am asking that a parent come to our first get-together so you will understand our plans. We will finish promptly so you can get home for your evening meal. Every child attending will get a special sticker!

ADULT CHOIR will also begin on September 9th, but at 7 p.m. If you are a former choir member, I ask you to put this right on your calendar; if you are a person wishing you could sing with us, please join us. The opening rehearsal will be held in the Fellowship Room of the Parish House and you will be greeted with a table full of treats. Hope to see you there!

THE ANNUAL CATSKILL CHAMBER SINGERS' CONCERT is scheduled for September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Agnes Chapel. It's a relaxed and most enjoyable concert and as hosts we want to show our wholehearted support. Tickets may be purchased at the door. I thoroughly enjoyed last year's event and look forward to hearing them again. Come early for a good seat; please join me!

— **Roberta Rowland-Raybold**

Organist/Choirmaster



*Rudolf Koch:
The Church as Ship*

AUGUST VESTRY NOTES

Father Mark opened our August 10th meeting with a prayer followed by a short bible study on I Corinthians 3:1-11. In this passage Paul explains the work of leaders (rectors) in the church, and we discussed programs and ministries that Father Sam has “planted” which we would like to have Father Mark continue to “water.”

After approval of the agenda and minutes of our July meeting, John Mason presented the Treasurer’s report. Since this meeting was Father Mark’s first Vestry meeting, all committees made a brief report.

Financial Planning – Susan Snell reported that soon an Audit Committee will begin reviewing the 2008 financial records. Christ Church has received notice that Ed Tipple and Fred Doolittle made a bequest to the church in their wills. The 2010 budget process will begin in September and it is anticipated that the decline in the stock market will reduce the endowment withdrawal by about \$25,000 compared to last year.

Executive Committee- Susan Snell reviewed the “to-do” list and discussed opportunities that will be available for Father Mark to meet parishioners through home visits and special events.

Christian Education – Derek Ratliff reported that Christ Church hosted an ecumenical Vacation Bible School from August 3-7. Sunday School will begin Sept 20. Sunday School teachers for the next year will be Janet Rigby, Mike Miller, Derek Ratliff, Bob Birch, Anita Born, and Liz Lohan. There will be a kick-off pool party at the Clark Sports Center on September 25. Volunteers to cover the nursery are needed.

Congregational Life – Monica Stringer reported that this committee is responsible for organizing volunteers for Sunday Social Hours, funeral receptions, potlucks, Koininia and “Friends in Need.”

Stewardship- Bob Birch reported that soon this committee will begin planning the Fall Stewardship campaign.

Music – Susan Snell reported that Roberta is planning to begin a children’s choir or “singing school” for children from elementary school through early middle school.

Buildings and Grounds – Dennis Tallman reported that proposals from potential oil suppliers are being gathered. He also noted that the asphalt sidewalk from Church Street to the front of the church and the drive from the church to the Lych Gate have holes and broken areas that have become a safety issue. The cost to repave this is about \$5600.

Outreach – Audrey Murray reported that Outreach expenditures approved at the last Vestry meeting have been made.

Stephen Ministry – Roxie Hansel reported that we have 9 Stephen caregivers who meet every two weeks. There are currently 7 care receivers.

Prayer Table – Roxie Hansel reported that the Prayer Table is continuing this summer on Saturday mornings. It is set up on either River Street or Fair Street and offers prayers and cross necklaces to passers-by.

Bi-Centennial – Janet Rigby reported that plans are being laid for our Bicentennial Weekend (July 8-11, 2010). Additional efforts during the year include publication of a book updating the history of Christ Church from 1960-2010, developing a “Hall of Fame” to honor the lives of 12-18 people who have had a positive impact on this church, having an anthem composed and developing an archive room on the second floor to supplement the documents stored in the safe.

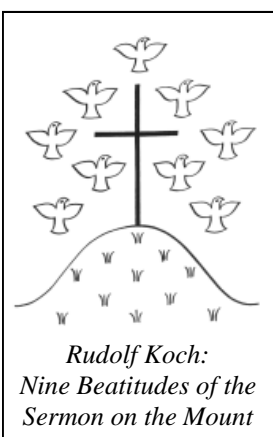
Columbarium – Bob Birch reported that Roger MacMillan has agreed to continue to serve on the Columbarium committee. No niches have been sold this year, but all time payments are up to date. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 following a closing prayer.

-- *Susan Snell, Warden*

CHRIST CHURCH HISTORY: REMARKABLE TIES

Father Michael has invited his friend the Very Reverend R. Peet Dickinson, IV to celebrate and speak at his institution on August 30th. The Reverend Dickinson is Dean of the Diocese of South Carolina and Rector of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul in Charleston, South Carolina. Remarkably, this is not the first tie between these two churches. The Reverend William Wilberforce Lord, our rector from 1876 – 1882, served in Vicksburg, Mississippi during the Civil War. At the conclusion of that conflict, he served as rector at St Paul’s Church in Charleston (1865 – 1868) before he returned to Vicksburg on a journey that eventually led him to Cooperstown. St Paul’s became the Cathedral of St Luke and St Paul in the 1940’s. By further coincidence the cathedral will celebrate its bicentennial in 2009-10. It is, indeed, a small world.

-- *David Svahn*



ST. MARGARET’S GUILD TO START SIXTH YEAR

With its next meeting on Monday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m., the St. Margaret’s Guild of Christ Church will begin its sixth year of service to Christ Church and the community. The September meeting, to be held in the first floor lounge in the Parish House, will be the Guild’s annual planning meeting for the upcoming year.

This past year the group continued to make heart pillows for the cardiac patients at Bassett Healthcare, worked on various hand projects including baptismal towels and stole protectors, and knitted shawls for those in need of comfort. The group also undertook a project to provide warm hats and mittens to the head start program located at Cooperstown Central School. Hand knitted and hand sewn polar fleece hat and mitten sets were made by guild members. This past June St Margaret’s Guild was awarded a “Head Start Volunteer Award” for outstanding service to the Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. Head Start Program during the past year. St. Margaret’s Guild also undertook the oversight of the church’s UTO In-gathering in May.

All of these projects from the last year will be reviewed and decisions will be made concerning projects for the upcoming year. Anyone with ideas about projects that could be added this year is encouraged to attend. The Guild is open to all members of the parish as well as anyone from the community who is interested in the work being done.

For more information, please contact Catherine Ellsworth by telephone at 607-547-8124 or by e-mail at: cellsworth1@stny.rr.com.

-- *Cathe Ellsworth*



Rudolf Koch:
*The Vine and the
Branches*

STEPHEN MINISTRY: TEARS AT THE TABLE

A talk with my sister started me thinking about how blessed I am for being a Stephen Minister. Recently my sister was having lunch with a group of women friends when one of the women burst into tears; no one knew what to do. Some of her friends questioned her and offered advice. Others who had heard her problems before told her that she just had to move forward, that she really needed to socialize more. A few of the women were embarrassed and said nothing. My sister asked me what I thought; I said that a Stephen Minister might be able to help her friend.

Stephen Ministers are trained to give quality Christian care to those people who are hurting and have found that friends just don't seem to help. It doesn't matter if they are men or women, young or old. It is for anyone who has reached a point in life where a problem seems too big to handle. These problems can range from problems with your teenage children to work related problems to terminal illness. If you or someone you know has such a difficulty, contact one of our Stephen Leaders, Mary Bellew 547-7202 or Anita High 547-9825. There is help.

— **Anita High**

STEWARDSHIP: REVERSE COMMUNION

September, summer is basically over, school is starting and the vestry will begin work on next year's budget. I take a look at what I pledged for 2009 and what I have done to fulfill that pledge and wonder how I will be able to do the same or more in 2010. Then I remember what happens each Sunday. We walk to the Altar and receive Communion. We receive the sacraments of the body and blood of our risen Lord. To remember that God gave his son and He gave us the ultimate gift! How do I repay that?

There is time to meditate and pray about this prior to our pledge drive in November. I believe that we all should attempt to comprehend what has been given to us and what we have given back to Him.

-- **Jim High**



Rudolf Koch: *Jesus
Christ Conquers*

THE PEARL

This poem, in which the speaker climbs to God on a silken thread led down from heaven, is by the metaphysical poet and priest, George Herbert (1593-1633). Herbert relinquished posts as orator of Cambridge and representative to Parliament in order to take holy orders and become a country rector. He preached, wrote poetry, and restored his church. On his deathbed from consumption, he passed the manuscript of *The Temple* to a close friend, saying that it should only be published if it could encourage some dejected soul. The book went through many early printings and remains a landmark in the history of English poetry; many of the poems are texts in our hymnal.

*The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man,
seeking goodly pearls; who, when he had found one,
sold all that he had and bought it.—Matthew 13.45*

I know the ways of Learning; both the head
And pipes that feed the press, and make it run;
What reason hath from nature borrowed,
Or of itself, like a good huswife, spun
In laws and policy; what the stars conspire,

What willing nature speaks, what forced by fire;
Both th' old discoveries, and the new-found seas,
The stock and surplus, cause and history:
All these stand open, or I have the keys:
Yet I love thee.

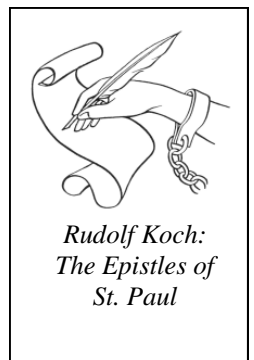
I know the ways of Honour, what maintains
The quick returns of courtesy and wit:
In vies of favours whether party gains,
When glory swells the heart, and moldeth it
To all expressions both of hand and eye,
Which on the world a true-love-knot may tie,
And bear the bundle, wheresoe'er it goes:
How many drams of spirit there must be
To sell my life unto my friends or foes:
Yet I love thee.

I know the ways of Pleasure, the sweet strains,
The lullings and the relishes of it;
The propositions of hot blood and brains;
What mirth and music mean; what love and wit
Have done these twenty hundred years, and more:
I know the projects of unbridled store:
My stuff is flesh, not brass; my senses live,
And grumble oft, that they have more in me
Than he that curbs them, being but one to five:
Yet I love thee.

I know all these, and have them in my hand:
Therefore not sealed, but with open eyes
I fly to thee, and fully understand
Both the main sale, and the commodities;
And at what rate and price I have thy love;
With all the circumstances that may move:
Yet through these labyrinths, not my grovelling wit,
But thy silk twist let down from heav'n to me,
Did both conduct and teach me, how by it
To climb to thee.

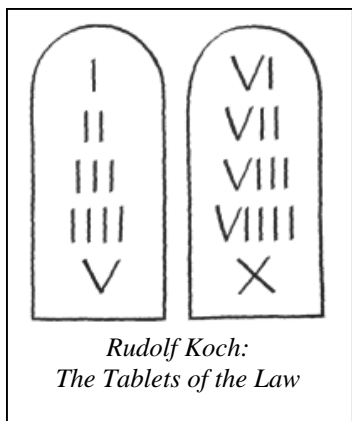
FROM THE EDITOR

October will be my last issue of *The Christ Church Chronicle*. I send out grateful thanks to the many people who have written for the newsletter over the last seven and a half years. I look forward to working with many of you on the Bicentennial history update.
--Marly Y. Miller



GOD TEXTS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

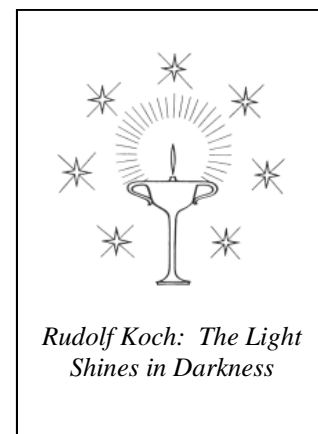
This little list, credited to one Jaimie Quatro, comes to us courtesy of Bassett Chaplain Betsy Jay, who has often preached at Christ Church. Check out your web lingo, or ask a teen.



1. n01 b4 me. srsly.
2. dnt wrshp pix/idols
3. no omg's
4. no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun 18r)
5. pos ok - ur m&d r cool
6. dnt kill ppl
7. :-Xonly w/ m8
8. dnt steal
9. dnt lie re: bf
10. dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob.
M, pis rite on tabs & giv 2 ppl.
ttyl, JHWH.
ps. wwjd?

IMAGES IN THIS ISSUE

were drawn by artist Rudolf Koch (1876-1934) and published in the book *Christian Symbols*, translated by Kevin Ahern (San Francisco: Arion Press, 1996). All 158 images "may be used freely and without further permission," but the book continues to be available from Arion Press (<http://www.arionpress.com>)



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Derek Busse
- 3 Naomi Wightman
- 4 Elizabeth Richman
- 6 Wanda Richards
- 7 Matthew Lionetti
- 8 Peter King
- 9 Irene Parker
- 11 Allan Guiney
Lindsey Potrikus
- 13 Bill Lange
- 14 Jim Polus
- 15 Katie Sanford
- 17 Brian Segit
- 18 Noah Lifgren
- 22 Sandy Thorne
- 27 Dorothy Chase
- 28 Monica Stringer
Anthony Birch
Shelby Cooper
- 29 Scott Stevens
Rusty Striesse
- 30 Genevieve Smith
Alexander Johannesen

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Cheryl & Peter Wright
Linda & Alton VanCleaf
Nadene & Keith Willcox
- 6 Beth & Charles See
Karin & David Svahn
- 9 Liz & John Lohan
- 10 Barbara & Chris Henkels
- 12 Janet & Derek Ratliff
Nancy & Richard Pfau
- 15 Ann & Rich Brown
Genevieve & Leland Smith
- 16 Beth & Charles See
Ellen & Bob Dauchy
Laura & Mike Page
- 21 Ann & Robert Johnson
JudeAnn & David Tooley

SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

- 6 Cynthia Stewart
- 13 OPEN
- 20 OPEN
- 27 OPEN

SEPTEMBER CANDLE MEMORIALS

- 6 Edna Chase
- 13 Pearl & Harry Campbell
William R.P. Heller
- 20 Isabella & Martin Smith
- 27 OPEN

LET US PRAY FOR

- Frances Randall
- * Patricia Buckland
- Doris Blomquist
- * Ruth Druse
- Elna Dickison
Tom
- Carol Brown
Lisa
- Gertrude Worrall
Don
- Betty Kukenberger
- * Chris Pohl
- * Dorothy Chase
Jim Atwell
Andrew
Joanne
Ilsa Dohner
Kathy Lloyd
Colleen
- * Ed Clow
Joyce
Sarah
- * Leia Bailey and her family
- * Mary Clark
- * Elsie Hinkson
- * Helen Decker and family
- * Ashton Babcock

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- Mariah Courter - Mexico
- Emily Davidson - Belgium

