



Seeking. Living. Sharing Christ

Christ Church Chronicle

Christ Episcopal Church
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For Your Calendar

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. - Blessing of the Palms and dramatic reading of the Passion

Monday, April 6: St. Agnes Chapel, 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer - 8:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Jesus is anointed

Tuesday, April 7: St. Agnes Chapel, 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer - 8:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Jesus cleanses the temple

Wednesday, April 8: St. Agnes Chapel, 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer - 8:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Judas betrays Jesus

Wednesday, April 8: 5:30 p.m., Evensong, "Are You Alive or Dead, Hot or Cold?" the letters to the Churches (Rev. 2&3)

Wednesday, April 8: 6:00 p.m., Potluck supper with dramatic reading, "A Time of Waiting"

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday, 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Holy Eucharist with rededication to servant ministries (optional foot washing)

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Reading of the agony in the garden and stripping of the altars (church)

Friday, April 10: Good Friday, 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer

Friday, April 10: Good Friday, 12:10 p.m., Noontime Ecumenical Service at First Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 10: Good Friday, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Christ Church open for prayer and meditation

Saturday, April 12: Holy Saturday, 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer

Saturday, April 12: 8:30 a.m., Proper Liturgy

Sunday, April 12: Easter Day, 8:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I with choir

Sunday, April 12: Easter Day, 9:00 a.m., Choir breakfast

Sunday, April 12: Easter Day, 10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

“Though [Christ] was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.” Philippians 2:5,6

One thing that will help to get Christ Church through this economic downturn is servant ministry. We must each examine and shrink the list of things we don't do for the church: pick up litter, turn down the thermostats, launder the kitchen potholders, speak to visitors, etc. If staff must be engaged for shorter hours in the future, then volunteers will be even more urgently needed.

Additionally, we all need to recommit to, and seek the Holy Spirit's help, with the ministries we are already engaged in.

With this need in mind our Maundy Thursday service will focus on renewal of servant ministries. During the prayers of the people, we will pray for the different areas of ministry - liturgical, educational, fellowship, outreach and stewardship - and invite those present who are engaged in these ministries to stand while prayer is offered. The occasion is appropriate because the Gospel reading is John 13 where Jesus, knowing what is about to happen, “loved [the disciples] to the end” and washed their feet, taking the form of a servant.

The choir will sing an anthem. Our deacon-in-training, Vicky Hunter, will preach. There will be an opportunity during communion for mutual footwashing for those for whom this is a helpful way to appropriate the example of Jesus.

So please plan to be with us at 7:00 p.m., April 9th, in the chapel as we seek God's renewal of our ministries in a time of need.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,

(the Rev.) Samuel B. Abbott, Rector

Thanks and Praise

We thank and praise the Lord for:

- a long winter drawing to an end and green shoots coming up in our flower beds;
- for Roberta Rowland-Raybold's uplifting Lenten concerts;
- for Alton VanCleeef causing the brass to shine on our church cross and candlesticks;

- for the generous gift in memory of Dick White which has enabled us to equip the Church School with a flat screen TV, DVD-VCR player and cassette tape recorder;
- for Ron Johnson procuring a Bunn coffee maker for the Lord's Table;
- for Edith Abbott's laundering the kitchen potholders;
- for the vestry's perseverance in the search process;
- for Mike Luby's offering of sacred music;
- for Vicky Hunter's acceptance as a candidate for ordination to the diaconate.

Morning Prayer Appeal

Did you know that Morning Prayer is said every day at Christ Church in St. Agnes Chapel? In addition to hearing two lessons and a psalm, and reciting three canticles, we remember saints' days, pray for the sick, pray through the parish directory (four families per day) and through the diocesan cycle of prayer, and thank God for each birthday and anniversary.

Is this an important undertaking for the spiritual health of the parish? You betcha! And it all takes place in twenty minutes. But - and here's the problem - this ministry rests on a few shoulders. F. Sam does five days per week, (with Sara Hall as a faithful substitute) and Eric Hill officiates on Sunday and Monday. What will happen when F. Sam retires and before the new rector arrives? Well, that depends on you. We are praying for two or three others to step forward, willing to participate and lead, so this vital ministry can continue. If interested, see F. Sam.

— The Morning Prayer Team

The Hunt for a New Rector



The search for the new rector has a more intensive phase in recent weeks. You may have noticed several clergy walking around the church campus recently. These are candidates for the job. Our schedule has been to have the candidate with his significant other visit our campus and meet with the search committee, church staff, Father Abbott, and have a tour of the rectory. We have been impressed with how well versed they seem to be in what we have to offer as a congregation and how thoroughly prepared they are for their visits. Likewise the candidates have expressed a singular admiration for our church and how we fulfill our mission. The questionnaire that our congregation answered has been of great value to them as they assess the needs and thoughts of Christ Church.

The next phase of the search will be sending representatives of the vestry to respective churches to interview officials of the candidate's church, hear him preach, and assess his background. Further another different background check is presently being done by the Albany diocese and these results will be forwarded to our committee. Remember that the Bishop of Albany has vetted all these candidates before we even read their resumes.

All of the above has been done under the steady guidance of Bob Birch. We expect to make a decision on schedule, prior to the annual meeting. Our committee has been meeting every Monday night for the past two months. Despite vacations and trips, all members have kept in touch and are current with the above data, even

Ashley Cooper who is in Greece at this writing. Realistically viewed, we are in the end phase of the search, and it is unlikely that any new candidates will be reviewed.

—Roger Macmillan

Editor's note: Since this update was written, Audrey Murray, Bob Birch, and Mike Miller have returned from a trip to a candidate's home church in Maryland. A similar trip to New York City is planned, as well as a phone interview with a third candidate.

Grandma! Grandpa! Mom! Dad! Aunts! Uncles!

Remember – lemonade? Swimming holes or pools? Lightning bugs? Remember: "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"? "This Little Light of Mine"? Remember all the fun things and good memories from your Vacation Bible School adventures? Wouldn't you like your children and grandchildren to have similar memories? Some things may have changed, but some are still the same. This is your invitation to join the Ecumenical Vacation Bible School – we need you to help plan, promote, teach or get involved in many ways. We look forward to you joining us on: April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church, our host for this year's school. Dig out your lanyards or macaroni necklaces and join us!

—Anita Born



Vestry Notes

FEBRUARY 9, 2009



Father Sam opened our February meetings with a prayer. Once again, the vestry attempted to expedite our meetings in order to permit the vestry at the conclusion of the meeting to excuse Father Sam and thereafter reopen as the "Search Committee" so we can continue our efforts to find a priest to succeed Father Sam.

After approval of the agenda and minutes of our January meeting, John Mason presented the January 2009 Treasurer's Report. John and Phil Holz have done a wonderful job making the Treasurer's Report more understandable. We are blessed to have these two volunteers; they spend a tremendous amount of time tracking our income, expenditures and balances, and they have fearlessly moved us into the computer age. By the way, I apologize for an error in my January Vestry Notes. As some of you may recall, I mentioned in my January notes that we had finished 2008 in the black and attributed that result to the vestry's frugal oversight and to the many volunteers at the church. However, I forgot to include our former Treasurer, Catherine Ellsworth as one of the individuals who had chosen to forego her salary while she served as our Treasurer during the early months of 2008.

Susan Snell reported that the Financial Planning Committee has suggested a surcharge in addition to our rental fee for groups using church facilities during the winter months. The issue was referred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for consideration. Susan also provided copies of the budget reports received from Outreach, Flower Committee, and Global Mission. Mike Page's report on Global Missions highlighted the work done on the new school in Las Flores, San Pedro de Macoris, undertaken during the January mission trip (i.e. sanding all cement work, priming and painting the entire exterior as well as some of the interior, installing new shelving, new swing sets and basketball hoop, etc.) He noted that the sum of \$5,985.93 had been spent on the project and for the purchase of supplies for various schools in the Dominican Republic. Michael also noted that \$5,200 was spent on scholarships for children in the DR last year. Finally he pointed out that our church has effectively built the two churches we now help support and that since 1993 approximately 100 different people have participated in mission trips to the DR. Many volunteers have gone more than once. We can all be proud of our mission work in the DR and Mike's leadership.

It was reported that the Newcomers Luncheon held on February 1st was well attended and seemed to be a success. Information concerning our church and our many and various offerings was provided.

Father Sam reported that the library organization is going well. He proposed a rededication of the library when the work is done. He also noted that the Methodist Church has asked us to host Vacation Bible School this summer. The vestry agreed and Anita Born has volunteered to oversee the program. Again we are blessed with capable volunteers! Father also reviewed the many Lenten programs provided at Christ Church this Lenten season.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm following a closing prayer.

—Martin Tillapaugh, Senior Warden

MARCH 2009

The meeting of the vestry was opened with a prayer offered by Father Sam.

Phil Holz, one of our redoubtable Treasurers, presented the February Treasurer's Report. Phil noted that income is down slightly from last year but that it is far too early to draw any general conclusions. Phil also noted that because fuel oil prices are much lower than we anticipated in the fall, our monthly budget payments to our fuel oil supplier may have overpaid our obligation.



Susan Snell reported on behalf of the Financial Planning Committee that we had received our new insurance appraisal figures and our buildings and personal property are valued much higher than anticipated. As a result, Susan noted that we will have to budget for a premium increase in next year's budget. Susan also indicated that because our endowment principal and income will be down this year, the Financial Planning Committee will commence preparing the 2010 budget as soon as possible so that the vestry has plenty of time to make hard choices next year.

It was reported that the new computer donated by Jim Polus has been installed in Rosemarie's office and is, after a few false starts, up and running.

Teri Barown reported that the Building and Grounds Committee has reviewed a number of capital and energy savings improvements. The Committee recommended that the church walkways be repaired, that the exterior window trim of the Rectory be repainted and that the window glazing at the Rectory be redone. Alton Van Cleef and Mike Page are reviewing the projects and obtaining proposals. Also the Committee suggested budgeting to reconnect the two church furnaces so that they work more efficiently and as originally designed. It was also suggested that the steam pipes in the basement of the Rectory be insulated. An "energy work day" will be scheduled later this year, prior to the start of the 2009 heating season. Finally the Committee recommended, and the vestry adopted, a \$50.00 surcharge for the use of the church facilities for special events between December 1 and March 31.

Audrey Murray reported on behalf of the Outreach Committee that a Rummage Sale has been scheduled for the first weekend in May. Now is the time to begin "piling up" your rummage sale items!

Janet Rigby presented some exciting news; the Bicentennial Committee is planning to oversee the publication of a supplement updating our existing printed church history. The work will be entitled "Telling our Story: Christ Church, 1960-2010." Marly Youmans Miller will serve as Editor of the publication and Karin Svahn and Michael Miller will be Managing Editors. A number of people have volunteered to contribute to the publication under five broad topic areas: "The Rectors," "Restoration and Renovation," "Parish Life," "Worship"

and "Outreach." The vestry enthusiastically endorsed this bicentennial project.

Bringing up the "rear" once again was Father Sam who presented the Rector's Report. He noted that we currently have about 25 children a week attending church school, and we have had 15 or so involved in our Anglican Faith and Practice class. Nineteen people participated in the Lenten Quiet Day, and 8 or 9 have been attending Vicky Hunter's examination of Handel's Messiah and its relationship to various Biblical passages.

At the conclusion of his Report, Father closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

—Martin Tillapaugh, Senior Warden



Music Notes

A Big Note of Appreciation!

Many of you were able to attend our Wednesday Lenten Concert Series, making them a huge success. Each week brought a totally different musical offering which was an inspiration during this season of preparation for Easter. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the sponsors who so generously supported this first annual concert season; your generosity made it possible for this new idea to "get off the ground." To each of you who gave and were able to attend, my thanks.

We hope to continue this Lenten Series next year. There have been several requests for me to repeat my organ recital for those who were not able to attend the Wednesday concert; I will be doing this after coffee hour on Sunday, May 3rd for those who would like to hear it for the first time—or again!

Rededication of Historic Organ

I have been asked to give an organ recital rededicating a historic pipe organ built by John Marklove (c.1883) Op. 139 on April 26th at 4:00. This will take place at the Presbyterian Church in Whitesboro, New York, near Utica. The organ has been recently restored by Kerner and Merchant Pipe Organ Co. in Syracuse. Since this organ was included in research done on John Marklove organs, it is a special opportunity to showcase this wonderful old tracker instrument. Whitesboro Presbyterian Church welcomes you to attend this special dedication.

Interest in the world's oldest keyboard instrument — the organ — strikes a chord among fans all over the world. Originating in ancient Egypt as a mechanical flute-playing instrument, the organ has been used in gladiatorial games, given as gifts by heads of state, and heard in churches and at baseball games. The "modern" organ, with all of its sound effects, was first described in a work entitled *Mirror of the Organbuilder and Organist* written in 1511 by Arnolt Schlick of Heidelberg, Germany. Google "pipe organ" and you will be surprised what you can find!

—Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Christ Church History: "Joe Tom" Husbands

A recent inquiry from a woman in Tennessee about her great-great grandfather has prompted a close look at one of the most interesting men in the history of our village and of our church. The ensuing exchange of notes has begun to flesh out our knowledge of Joseph Thomas Husbands, an African-American born 1808 who came to Cooperstown from Barbados as a child with his parents, slaves belonging to the white Joseph Dottin Husbands family who became members of Christ Church.

Most black residents from the early years of our village, no matter how important to "their" families, do not figure large in records of the time; Joe Tom is an exception. As an adult he became the village's general factotum taking residents by boat to Three Mile Point where he cooked their picnic fare. En route he would call forth echoes from the surrounding hills by shouting "Natty Bumpo."

In 1837 he was appointed Sexton at Christ Church; he served until 1861. Vestry minutes of April 1847 note that his duties included "ring(ing) the bell, sweeping the church, working the organ, sawing wood, keeping (the) fire" all for \$35 per year. He died in 1881.

Signs of his important role in the village include his inclusion of Minot's classic 1850 painting "Three Mile Point" where he is shown in the right corner tending the fire. Birdsall's 1917 History devotes several paragraphs to Joe Tom, and a photo of is part of our archives.

—David Svahn

Stephen Ministry in Action



I feel very blessed that I have become a part of Stephen Ministry and have had the training it requires. Jim and I were recently away on a vacation and I was privileged to have an encounter that reminded me of how much that training has added to my life. We were walking around the deck of our cruise ship when I noticed a woman painting. The next time around I suddenly felt that I had to stop and tell her how beautiful her watercolor was. The talk, starting with a compliment, turned into a lengthy conversation. I listened to her problem with her grown daughters and granddaughters. As she began explaining complicated issues, it became clear to her how she could make a difference in her daughters' lives. As any Stephen minister will tell you, he or she feels that they get more from the ministry than they give to it.

—Anita High

The many Ways God Heals

I stand here today not as a testament for self-aggrandizement, but as a testimony of God's healing love and to praise Him to you for all He has done for my healing through Jesus Christ. Many of you have known me for years and some of you may not think of me as having received healing from God. I began going to healing services shortly after Fr. Doug Smith started them here over 10 years ago and have been a faithful attendee.

At first I prayed for healing for the pain in my back caused by degenerative arthritis. Then for healing in my knees from the same cause. Then healing for congestive heart failure and sleep apnea.

When I started asking for prayers at the monthly healing service for God's instant healing of my back, nothing happened - I thought. But, over a matter of time, I discovered that while I still had the back pain, I had been given the strength to withstand the pain. Then God gave me the earthly help I needed to get rid of this pain - this was done through the physiatry clinic at Bassett Hospital. The series of shots helped me get through the next 2 years practically pain free.

Next I started praying for the pain in my knees (again at the healing service). Again while God didn't give me the instant healing I prayed for, He gave me the strength to withstand the pain until I could be diagnosed as a candidate for knee replacements. I had the appointment to have bilateral knee replacements a year ago last March. A week before the surgery was scheduled, I was told the surgery was cancelled due to a condition called congestive heart failure (fluid around the heart), and sleep apnea (a problem whereby you stop breathing for short periods of time during sleep). Again, I started praying that God would (as Jesus had prayed) take this cup from me.

This time, when I went to healing service, I stood up in front of the people there and explained the situation to them all and asked them to pray for me also. Usually I just would ask the people on the pray team at the service to pray with me. Again, God didn't give me the instant healing, but gave me the strength to start a salt-free diet and to lose enough weight to reverse the problem of the congestive heart failure. (Sleep apnea is still up for grabs, but each night I pray that God will keep me safe. Another prayer answered).

On May 19 of last year, I was able to have 1 knee repaired. I had the surgeon and anesthesiologist I wanted (neither of whom were available for the original surgery). They both were willing to pray with me prior to being taken into surgery.

I went through the surgery with flying colors, was taken to the place I wanted to go for rehab and went through that also with flying colors. I won't say it didn't hurt, but I also know that it would have hurt much worse if I hadn't had many many people praying for my healing. Three weeks after the surgery, I was able to come to church and sing in the choir. (No, I didn't drive myself). What a blessed healing that was. I am looking forward to having my other knee done this year. I know that I will have just as many prayers for healing this time as the last.

When I went in to see my cardiologist several months ago, I was told I should have a defibrillator installed. Several days later I again prayed for healing, though not to not need the defibrillator but strength to get through the surgery and recovery. Six weeks later I was given an appointment to have this done. I was in the surgical room all ready except to be washed down and sedated when the cardiac surgeon came into the room and told me I didn't need to have the defibrillator installed. The function of my heart had improved from 35% to 45 % and I was no longer a candidate for this appliance. This was definitely a Godly healing. I hadn't even prayed for this healing. Others may have without my knowledge however.

I don't know the exact number of ways God heals people, but I know that I have received what many people would call miraculous healings. I know also that I have received many Godly healings through earthly intervention. I will tell you this, I know that every time I prayed I have received strength to withstand pain, and received peace from the knowledge that people were praying for me and with me, I received God's healing touch. I can't urge you enough to come to the healing services. You don't have to go up for prayers if you don't want to. If you do, do so with the assurance that, as AA says, what is said in this room stays in this room. It is all confidential. It is a peaceful service and even if you don't ask for prayer for healing for yourself or others, you can definitely feel the prayers of others (yes, even prayers for you) while you are there. I pray we will see you the first Sunday of the month in St. Agnes Chapel.

May God bless you, give you strength and peace, and heal you of any problems, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

Amen

My Stewardship Easter Basket

It's not the same old stuff, it's my Stewardship Easter Basket. It includes: a flock of chicks from Heifer International instead of "peeps"; a donation to the local food bank to share the bounty of my cupboard; some of my time and talents, to help fill a need or two at Christ Church. Happy Easter Stewardship!



IMAGES in this issue courtesy of
<http://www.cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/>.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Craig
- 2 Grace Welsh
Ruth Stewart
- 3 Jim High
- 4 Nicole Lionetti
Greg Lippitt
- 6 Don Folts
Nancy Kelly
- 7 Doris Blomquist
Nicole Barown
- 8 Arika Morin
- 13 Glenn Hubbell
- 14 Betty Currier
- 15 Amanda Stevens
- 16 Kathryn Busse
Dierk VanCleaf
Leah Willcox
Kaylee Croft
- 17 Burr Southworth
Mike Miller
Teri Barown
- 18 Carrie Southworth
- 19 McKenzie Coleman
- 21 Emerson Toulson
- 22 Bruce Grover
Catherine Black
Jenny Potrikus
Gerry Wilson
- 23 Douglas Welsh
- 25 Kevin Hochbrueckner
- 26 Janice Brenner
- 28 Laura Page
Roy Decker
Roger Smith
- 29 Josh Brigham
Allison Richman
- 30 Alice Eckler
Kathy Lloyd
Erica Johnson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Anita & Jim High
- 4 Mandy & George Mahoney
- 15 Debbie & Jim Dow

APRIL MEMORIAL FLOWERS

- 5 PALM SUNDAY
- 12 EASTER
- 19 **OPEN**
- 26 Earl Grover
Paul J. Webber

APRIL CANDLE MEMORIALS

- 5 Douglas Alan Lamberson
- 12 Joseph A. Randall
Mary Randall Stewart
- 19 David Welsh, Sr.
- 26 John Earl Casey

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

- Michael LeBron
William Mason Sanford
Eric Liston
Will MacMillan
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

- Jonathan Birch - Brazil
Anna Snell - Peru

LET US PRAY FOR

- Frances Randall
* Grace Welsh
Doris Blomquist
* Priscilla Thomassen
Elna Dickison
Matthew Pollock
Carol Niedzialkowski
Carol Brown
Lisa
Gertrude Worrall
Don
Betty Kukenberger
George Murray
* Dorothy Chase
Jim Atwell
Catherine Black
* Joanne
Joan Winhold
Kathy Lloyd
* Colleen
* Richard Clark
Joyce
* Vivian
* Leia Bailey and her family

