



Seeking. Living. Sharing Christ

Christ Church Chronicle

Christ Episcopal Church
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For Your Calendar

Sunday, March 1: 11:45 a.m. - "The Bible and Handel's Messiah" meets in the library, taught by Vicky Hunter our deacon-in-training. It will continue through April 5.

Wednesday, March 4: 8:30 a.m.- Preaching series begins at the midweek eucharist on Paul's letter to the Philippians, "Living in the Peace of Christ." It will continue through April 1.

Wednesday, March 4: 12:15 p.m. - Lenten concerts begin in the church with an all Bach program by Roberta Rowland-Raybold. Additional concerts March 11, 18, & 25. See flyer for details.

Wednesday, March 4: 5:30 p.m. - Evensong in the chapel. Fr. Sam will preach on "What Does Christ Think of Our Church?", a series based on the letter to the seven churches in Revelation 2 & 3.

Wednesday, March 4: 6:00 p.m. - Potluck supper in the dining room. Dramatic reading by the Parish Players "A Time of Waiting". This program continues through April 8.

Thursday, March 5: 7:30 p.m. - Fr. Sam's course, Anglican Faith and Practice: An Instruction continues in the library (first meeting 2/19).

Saturday, March 7: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - Lenten Quiet Day in the church, led by F. Peter Pierson, "Echoes of the Cross".

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this, Lent will have begun. But it is not too late to stop, look and listen to prepare yourselves for keeping a good Lent. A good Lent requires you to pause and give yourself a spiritual exam. You have an annual physical, I hope. Why not an annual spiritual? Is your soul as important to you as your body? It should be.

This exam and its results are between you and the Great Physician (I'm talking about our Lord Jesus). If there is any way that I can help, please let me know. Here are some questions to ask about your spiritual life:

1. Do you know the story? Are you a person of the Book? Is regular Bible reading and study a part of your life? If not, what is your authority in spiritual matters? Jesus defeated the tempter with the Word of God. Could you?
2. Do you share the journey? Are there other Christians with whom you meet on a regular basis to share your lives, to support and encourage one another? If not, why not?
3. Are you in ministry for God? Ministry is what you do for God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that continues the work of Jesus. Do you have a ministry or ministries?
4. Are you an inviting Christian? That is, one who on occasion tells people about your faith in Jesus and suggests that He could help them too? If not, which of the four C's do you lack: Confidence, Compassion, Content, or Contact?
5. Whose life are you living? Do you own yourself or are you steward for another? How do your actions reflect your stewardship.

I have asked these questions for four years. I think they are worth repeating annually, but only if you will take this season to pause, reflect and examine yourself prayerfully.

Faithfully,
Rev. Sam Abbott

Thanks and Praise

Almighty and Merciful God, we thank you and praise you

- for the hard work of the vestry as search committee and for Beth Strickland, their consultant;
- for volunteers to organize the parish library;
- for the Newcomers' luncheon on February 1st and a good attendance;
- for the return of Helen Decker to Cooperstown;
- for our Praise Band and the joyful worship in which they lead us.

Lenten Quiet Day

Join us on March 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as F. Peter Pierson helps us hear the echoes from the cross in Scripture. There will be four meditations with time for silent reflection. The day concludes with Eucharist. Bring a brown bag lunch (we provide coffee, tea, and cider), a Bible, notebook and pen. Dress warmly. Call the parish office to let us know to expect you. F. Pierson writes this about the day: "The Cross of Jesus is the centerpiece of Christian study, worship, prayer and symbolism. We wear crosses around our necks, hold on to them in times of duress, and bend our knee as the Cross passes us in procession. Paul determined "to know nothing but Jesus Christ, and him crucified" when he wrote to the headstrong Corinthians (1 Cor. 2:2). The focus of our Lenten Quiet Day will be The Cross in Holy Scripture. We will seek for Echoes of the Cross in the Old Testament, and hear the Clear Tones of the Cross in the New Testament. In each meditation we will ask the Lord to take our study, our thoughts and prayers, and use these to change us. Paul told the Corinthian Church that there is power in the cross. It is that transforming power we will pursue."

Send us your E-Mail address

Other than a few copies at the back of the church the Chronicle is now posted on our website for reading and downloading: www.christchurchcooperstown.org

If you will send your e-mail address to christchurch@ceccoop.net we will send you a reminder as it is posted each month. Thank you.

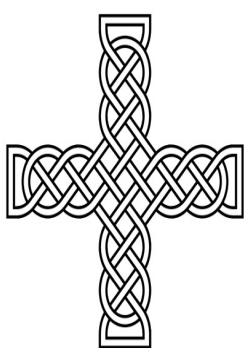
Parish Library

Organization is underway! With the help of Sarah Hall and Patricia Buckland, F. Sam has organized the books into subject areas, removed duplicates, and assimilated recent donations. Much more remains to be done: putting in book plates, color coding the spines of the books, creating permanent subject signs and alphabetizing by author.

If you can help, we are working in the library Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 12. Join us!

Deadline for Easter Memorials

The deadline for submitting requests for Easter Flowers and Candles for 2009 is Wednesday, April 1. Please read and follow the instructions at the top of the enclosed request form and return it to the church office by the 1st. Thank you.



Search for a New Rector

The tempo of the search for a new rector has increased substantially; hence the vestry now meets on a weekly basis.

On the evening of February 16th, the committee's first phone interview will take place. Two candidates per week will be interviewed. A number of questions covering a suggested range of topics have been developed by the vestry and will be used. Each candidate will be interviewed using the same questions to enable a more consistent analysis of their responses. (These questions reflect areas of interest and viewpoints that were developed from the questionnaire given to the congregation. The results of the questionnaire are available to all members of the congregation.) Interviews will be conducted over the phone by only two members of the vestry, while the other members listen in silence. The session, perhaps taking an hour, is designed for each party to get acquainted and to reflect priorities, rather than to resemble an inquisition! This phase of the search process will take numerous sessions. Ultimately the slate of possible candidates will be narrowed down to a smaller number who can then be more diligently scrutinized.

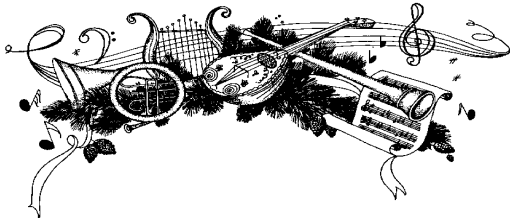
I wish to emphasize that we, the vestry, welcome any suggestions or questions from the congregation and do not want to work in a vacuum in this search process. The vestry members appreciate the prayer offered on our behalf every Sunday.

--Roger MacMillan

Musical Notes

First Annual Lenten Concerts at Christ Church

We are excited to be instituting this new program here at Christ Church which we expect to be the first of others to follow. Our special Lenten concerts will be held on the four Wednesdays in March, beginning with March 4th, at which our organist will perform a program that is a "must" for Bach lovers. It will include such



beautiful pieces of music as the E Minor "Cathedral" Prelude and Fugue, featuring our State Trumpet, as well as the orchestral "Air" from Bach's D Major Suite and ending with the familiar Toccata and Fugue in D Minor as the grand finale. The concerts are one-half hour in duration and begin at 12:15 p.m. Personally sponsored, we can offer these wonderful programs to our church family and our community at no charge; it is a way that we can reach out and give the gift of music to those around us.

The second concert will be given by Mike Luby, who is a choir member and has completed over 250 performances with Glimmerglass Chorus. In the third concert, Katie Boardman, Director of Music at Cooperstown Presbyterian Church, will present early music on recorder accompanied by our organ. The fourth event will feature guest artists, Hakan Hromek, cellist and Pej Reitz, pianist from Binghamton University; these artists are part of Binghamton's Philharmonic and are professional concert artists. Please put these special concerts on your calendar so you don't miss a beat of this great musical offering!

Simply pencil in the four Wednesday noons during March as a reminder.

Our Organist in Recital in Oneonta

Roberta Rowland-Raybold will be in recital at First United Methodist Church, Chestnut Street, Oneonta, on Friday, March 13, at noon. As part of their concert program, she has selected music from contemporary and lesser-known composers writing today's sacred organ music. A special feature of this program will be a chorale, "Wunderbarer Konig" set in the style of a Bossa Nova for organ by German composer Johannes Matthias Michel. Played on the large balcony organ at First United Methodist, this innovative piece is sure to set tongues wagging! Also part of the program will be Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings" and "Trumpet Tune in D Major" by David Johnson, the signature piece of "With Heart and Voice" on public radio.

Christ Church Choir

Our sincere thanks to the Choir of Christ Church for their hours of preparation for our worship services. Their participation in our special Choral Evensongs as well as beautiful anthems that enhance on Sunday worship make our experience at Christ Church richer indeed. If you are interested in participating in choir, we meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Our choir is a great way to get to know people in a personal way in our church; we would give you a warm welcome.

— Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Organist/Choirmaster

Praise His Name



Let them praise His name in the dance: Let them sing praises unto Him with timbrel and harp *Psalm 149:3.*

Praise Him with timbrel and dance: Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe *Psalm 150:4.*

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; Thou hast loosed my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness *Psalm 30:11.*

The scriptures are rich with references to dance before our Lord in praise and worship for the glorious things He has done for us! In the book of Exodus, the first reference to dance is Miriam leading the women with timbrels and dance to celebrate God's magnificent victory over the Egyptians after the Israelites passed through the parted waters of the red sea. The book of Samuel tells of us that David (a man after God's own heart) danced before the Lord with all his might!

It is also interesting to note that one of the Hebrew translations for the word 'rejoice' is to dance. So as you read many of the Scriptures where the word 'rejoice' is used, it means to dance!

As the arts return to the Church to bless the Lord and to minister to the people, Sacred Dance has become one of those arts. Sacred Dance, also known as liturgical dance or interpretive dance, is not intended to be a 'performance' but a participatory engagement to assist the congregation in connecting to worship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The dance is an expression of worship intended to reach the worshiper and lift the praise upwards.

Each person has their own level of comfort with worship, but the Scriptures- both in the Old testament and New testament encourage us to lift holy hands to the Lord- to *actively* worship the Lord. While some are okay with quiet worship, other *need* to lift their hands to the Lord during worship. Others may even move with the music. Some even weep during worship. Again the Scriptures enjoin us to worship with *all* that is within us! Bless the LORD, O my soul; *And all that is within me* bless His holy name! (*Psalm 103:1*)

I have been a sacred dancer for 15 years. I began dancing soon after Jesus Christ became my Lord and Savior: after He lifted me out of the pit and set my feet upon a rock. At church, I found that lifting my hands in gratitude and worship wasn't enough for me. That weeping during the songs wasn't enough. I had to do something more to express the love and profound gratitude for His mercy and grace that He could save such a sinner as I. *I had to Bless Him with ALL that was within me.*

...And so I dance with all my might.

I have always been part of a dance team; since coming to New York I have been without a team, and I miss that very much. It is very difficult to dance as a soloist. It feels very much like a performance. Sacred dance is never a performance for people but always a sacrifice of worship before the Lord. It is my strongest desire to be part of a dance group once again. I would like to share the anointing that the Lord has given me in this area of the arts with adults, young adults and children, men and women, boys and girls.

If you or your children are interested in joining me in Sacred Dance, please contact me at 547-2643.

—Ann E. McMahan



Christ Church in history

An interesting letter bearing a Netherlands address arrived recently in the Christ Church office. Included was a photo of our altar, dated 1916, bare except for our cross and a pair of vases. It had been found in the papers of a long-deceased Dutch sculptor and designer by the name of Stultiens. It is known that the artist worked in the U. S. for some years and did design church items. No tie with Christ Church has been yet uncovered however. Did he design the vases in the photo? We still have them but inquiries to the company who made them have gone unanswered. The mystery remains.

—David Svahn

Excerpt, Letters to the soldiers of Coroticus, c. 450

I am Patrick, yes a sinner and indeed untaught; yet I am established here in Ireland where I profess myself bishop. I am certain in my heart that "all that I am," I have received from God. So I live among barbarous tribes, a stranger and exile for the love of God. He himself testifies that this is so. I never would have wanted these harsh words to spill from my mouth; I am not in the habit of speaking so sharply. Yet now I am driven by the zeal of God; Christ's truth has aroused me. I speak out too for love of my



neighbors who are my only sons; for them I gave up my home country, my parents and even pushing my own life to the brink of death. If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples; even though some of them still look down on me. --St. Patrick, translated by John Skinner in *The Confessions of Saint Patrick* (1998).

Stephen Ministry: The Year in Review

2008 has been an exciting and challenging year at Christ Church. Our main ministry is to help anyone experiencing a major change in life through one-on-one confidential Christian care. This year has allowed some care receivers to move on beyond our help; it has also brought new people who suddenly find themselves in difficult situations.



The year has brought a new way for us to reach out to our congregation, as we now bring our book cart to the social hour following the 10:00 a.m. service, every first Sunday of the month, so that a Christian-based library is available to the congregation. We have continued our practice of sponsoring the Longest Night service in December, a time that we can remember loved ones who are no longer with us but are especially in our thoughts during Advent and Christmas.

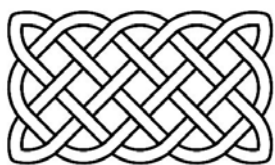
Our biggest change has been the stepping down of several of our Stephen Ministers. They have given invaluable service to our ministry and are greatly missed. Meanwhile, the fifty-hour course was offered to prospective ministers (teachers: Mary Bellew and Anita High). We have been very blessed to have Martha and David Vaules commissioned as our newest Stephen Ministers. We are sure that they will greatly add to our ministry. We have one more candidate who will be commissioned in a few weeks.

—Anita High

How do you spell “Stewardship”?

Rooted in Scripture and tradition, stewardship is a response to our baptismal call to be disciples of Jesus and follow His way of life. How we choose to spend our time, talent, and treasure is a reflection of our values. The most evident way of returning a portion of our gifts to God is by contributing ourselves to the church. The practice of Christian Stewardship results in an active, vibrant parish where parishioners share their time, talents and treasure with one another. Part of the purpose of Stewardship is to honor our efforts and rejuvenate our devotion.

— Jim High



St. Margaret's Guild

St. Margaret's Guild continues to do work for the Altar Guild as needed, make baptismal towels for those being baptized, knit shawls for distribution to those in need of comfort, and make heart pillows for cardiac patients at Bassett. For last Christmas, the group took on the project of making hats and mittens for the youngsters enrolled at the Head Start program held at the Cooperstown Elementary School. By all reports the project was very well received.

This spring St. Margaret's Guild will continue its oversight of the church's UTO program. Donations to the United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering will be collected on Sunday, May 17, 2009. In addition to donations made through the use of the UTO "Blue Box," monetary donations by check will be gratefully accepted for this most worthwhile program.

St. Margaret's Guild is open to anyone in the church or the community who would like to participate. Although needlework or knitting skills are helpful, they are not necessary to participate in and enjoy the fellowship of the group. The next meeting of the guild will be on Monday, March at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cath-

erine Ellsworth, 105 Pioneer Street, Cooperstown. For more information, please call 607-547-8124 or e-mail cellsworth1@stny.rr.com.



About the images in this issue

The public domain images of Celtic knots and crosses in this issue were found at www.ireland-fun-facts.com. The music illustration is courtesy of the free Christian clip art at www.watton.org. The two portraits of St. Patrick and the “trinity shamrock” can be found at www.littleirishblessings.blogspot.com and are free to non-profit organizations.

Thanks to all three sites for their pictures and kindness in providing artwork.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Barbara Dennison
Kyle Tallman
- 3 Paul Derringer
Haley Gilbert
- 4 Becky Morin
Bill Rigby
- 5 Gertrude Worrall
Anna Snell
- 6 Carol Niedzialkowski
- 8 JudeAnn Tooley
Daphne Mason
- 9 Cynthia Kent
- 10 Marilyn King
Liz Harvey
- 11 Anita High
- 20 Mike Toulson
- 21 Catherine Schwarzhans
- 22 Alton VanCleaf
- 23 Peter Kearns
- 24 Bill Kukenberger
- 25 Sam Abbott
- 26 Stephen Courter
- 27 Chad Smith
Kelsey Bachanas
- 28 David Svahn
- 29 Norman Lyster
- 30 John Miller
- 31 Ellen Beebe

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Marilyn & Peter King
- 18 Barbara & Alex Shields
- 26 Susan & Ralph Snell

MARCH MEMORIAL

FLOWERS

- 1 Carmelita L. Parshall
LeRoy L. Parshall
Helen & Carl Johnson
Jill Ann Compton
Eleanor MacKenzie
- 8 Mabel Raeder
Virginia Raeder
Paul Raeder
- 15 OPEN
- 22 Mabel W. Atwell
Robert W. Atwell
Robert M. Atwell
- 29 OPEN

MARCH CANDLES

- 1 Betsy Raybold-Prinzi,
birthday
Betty & Paul Raybold,
anniversary
- 8 Dr. Nicholas Viek
- 15 Hannah & George Benedict
- 22 Jeje Viek, birthday
- 29 Robert Bero

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