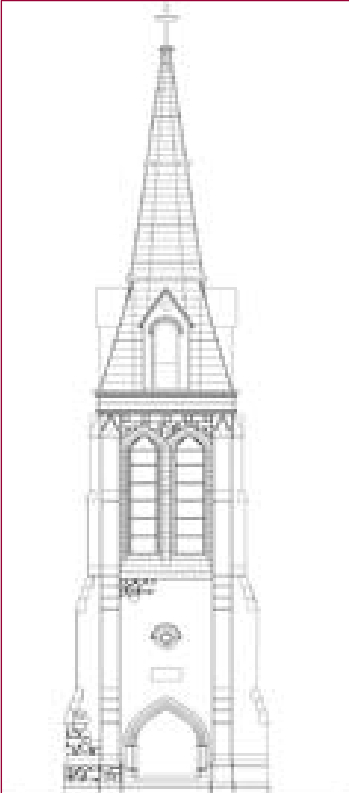


# The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845.452.8220



## Worship

### Sundays

**8 AM Eucharist and Sermon**  
*A quiet, traditional service.*

**9 AM Junior Youth Group**  
*(Rite-13) Basement classrooms.*

**10 AM Eucharist with Music**  
*Choral and organ music provided by the Christ Church Choir, led by Laura Russell, and by organist John Sullivan. Nursery care available.*

**10 AM Sunday School**  
*Basement classrooms, ages 3-11.*

**1 PM Misa en Español**

### Thursdays

**10 AM Eucharist**  
*In the Rector's office*

Dear Friends,

There are so many people thank for the incredible gift of our Christmas Eve services.

Sunday morning began with a service of Advent Lessons and Carols that was truly wonderful. The lessons from scripture were read with great intensity and meaning.

We enjoyed a wonderful crowd at the 5:00 pm Family Service. Many, many children – several of them new to the parish – took part in the “pick-up pageant”. Our tradition of “no costumes and no rehearsals” came off without a hitch. Our children who practiced the Christmas hymn *Away in a Manger* were joined by all the children in the congregation.

Listening to the Christmas portions of Handel’s *Messiah* prior to the late evening service was a truly spiritual experience for me, and I’m sure for all that were in attendance. Our choir, joined by outstanding string musicians, beautifully set the tone for our worship that evening.

It is always a treat for me when the choir sings in procession – and did they ever sing at the 11:00 pm service. We also had a full complement of vergers, acolytes, torches, ribbons – and there were candles everywhere!

Another highlight of the evening was the simple yet elegant manner in which the church was decorated. The greenery, flowers, lights and candles were just stunning. I will always remember singing *Silent Night* in the candlelight, accompanied by the organ and strings, kneeling in awe and wonder at the miracle we remember on Christmas Eve.

As I read back over this note, I’m struck by my own wild hyperbole! The celebration of our first Christmas together as congregation and priest was a wonderful, wonderful gift. Thank you for calling me into ministry with you.

The year 2007 will bring us new blessings, challenges and opportunities. I invite your participation in the full life and ministry of the parish, as you are able. There are opportunities to serve, to learn, and to lead. Listen to God’s call on your heart, and take that next step on our journey together.

Grace & Peace,

Blake†

---

## ***Vestry News: Balanced Budget Passed***

A balanced budget of \$345,000 was passed at December's vestry meeting. Many thanks to Loyd Lee, outgoing Treasurer, and the Finance Committee (Harvey Flad, Bill Moran, Louise Im, John Colclough, Marge Bliss, Phyllis George, Carlie Graves, Michael Wood, Jean Winne, Peggy Kraft and Fr. Blake Rider) for their work on this through the Fall of 2006. Highlights of the budget are:

- Reduction of \$19,060 in endowment drawdown (income) to begin repayment of loan for the Parish House and basement renovations
- Increase in community/outreach donations ( to \$8,748)
- Increased fundraising expectations to \$10,000 from \$4,000 in 2006
- Property maintenance support (to \$34,824 from \$20,200 in 2006)
- Reduction in Parish Administrator hours to 28 hrs/week, from 35 hrs.
- Expected 10% increase in annual pledging (to \$217,450)
- Health insurance savings of about \$6,500 (all employees still fully covered)
- Overall salary increases of 3%
- Growth & communication support, mainly for interior signage & advertising (\$5,525)
- Christian Formation (\$2,300, up from \$2000 in 2006)
- Total endowment drawdown of 5.17%, including the renovation loan payback, well within investment returns of 8-12% over the last few years. Goal is to reach 5% or below.

Copies of the full budget are available on request.

*Michael Wood, Rector's Warden*

---

### **Sunday School News**

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40) and the story of the Flight into Egypt by Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus is the focus of the next few classes in the Good Shepard of the Catechesis, taught by Jennifer Hammond-King (ages 3-6) and Cynthia Lee (ages 6-9). Children ages 9-11 now have their own class, taught by Celia Serotsky and Herman Alan Harmelink. Older children ages 11-14 continue to meet prior to the 10 am service, taught by Stephen Currie and Rosemary Procter. Youth ages 14-16 meet with their mentors and after the 10 am service as scheduled, with teachers Marge Bliss, Jackie Vierno, Julett Butler. Many, many thanks to our dedicated teachers.

Enrollments to all classes are accepted on an ongoing basis – spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

*Cynthia Lee, Teacher*

### **Stewardship Update**

Many thanks to those of you who have turned in your pledges. Those of you who have not – you will receive a gentle phone or postcard reminder. Your pledges are essential for good planning and stewardship.

*Carlie Graves, Treasurer*

### **Ushers Needed!**

Enjoy people? We are looking for a few more ushers to help welcome all to the 10 am service. This is a wonderful ministry which contributes much to our worship. For more info, contact Carlie Graves at 485-9596 or [cagraves@vassar.edu](mailto:cagraves@vassar.edu). Thanks!

## **Fr. Blake to Begin Visiting Campaign & Thursday Drop-In Hours**

Father Blake is beginning a visiting campaign to all members of the parish who would like a home visit. This is expected to continue into the summer months. Visits are to allow Fr. Blake to get to know the parish and vice versa. Call the church to schedule a visit (452-8220) sooner rather than later, or wait for a call as your turn comes... we'll be going mainly in alphabetical order.

Also, beginning Thursday, January 11, there will be a regular drop-in time to meet with Fr. Blake, Thursday afternoons from 4-6 pm in his study. Please drop by for any reason or no reason at all. Appointments at other times available upon request, of course!

*Peggy Kraft, Growth & Communications Committee*

## **Remembering the Forgotten: Gifts for the Children of Prisoners**

We've probably all heard the statement attributed to Mother Teresa that "God does not expect us to be successful -- only faithful." All of you who contributed Christmas gifts for the children of the women at Beacon Correctional Facility for the 4<sup>th</sup> year have been both -- faithful and successful. We, joined by Trinity Episcopal in Fishkill, delivered over 200 gifts (coincidentally on the Feast of St. Nicholas!) and until we came there had been not

one gift for the mothers to give. Scripture encourages us to visit those in prison and while you did not actually visit, in another sense you did just that. Through your generosity you entered into a space where too few go. The women often feel forgotten by the outside world and sometimes they are. Your gifts were a loud and clear affirmation of their worth. Thank you so much.

*Martha Thornley*

## **News from China**

*Johanna Kraft is spending a year teaching English to university students in China. She can be emailed at [blondiy911@aol.com](mailto:blondiy911@aol.com).*

Hello Everyone,

Here is the latest news I have from China! I recently posted pictures from my trip to Inner Mongolia. I went with a group of students to Er San Mountain, close to the border with Mongolia, over the 7 day October break for national day.

It was a beautiful and exhausting experience. We biked from Bai Cheng to Er San for four days, making 100 kilometers a day. At night we stayed in local "hotels" which had no indoor plumbing and could only shower in the town's bath houses. We ate and lived at the level our students could afford for the week long trip, and in total did not spend more than \$50 on transportation, all our meals, and our hotels. The experience was absolutely humbling and eye opening. We saw many beautiful sights and took in the natural beauty of the area. On the sixth day we traveled on by train and hired a truck to bring our bikes back to Bai Cheng. Our train took 8 hours, and for the entire train ride we had people taking turns to sit next to us, to snap or picture or try and touch us. We were of course very upset by this interaction but understand that most Chinese people have never seen foreigners before, and we are like aliens to them. As an American I think it is impossible to fathom the idea of never having seen a person with a different cultural background than yourself. It all was an eye opening and rewarding experience. I was very proud to be the only girl on the trip to not be towed by a boy! See pix at [www.kodakgallery.com/chinagirl](http://www.kodakgallery.com/chinagirl)

Also, Karin, Rob, Stef, Lindley (fellow teachers) and I have all decided to begin work on starting our own NGO (non-profit organization). We are calling it the Pengyou Project, (friend) in Chinese, and hoping to help students come to the US and study for a year, or longer at an American University. We are obviously starting small, just a student or two to see how to work everything out, but we have big plans. If anyone has any advice or comments please let me know! I hope everyone is doing well and keep in touch! I would love to hear from all of you!

*Lots of love, Johanna*

# CC Happenings Save the Dates

*Post on the fridge!*

---

## Concerts 🎵🎵

**Sunday, Jan. 7, 3 pm:** Gift to the City Concert & Interfaith Service  
@ St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie

**Sunday, April 1, 7 PM:** Rutter's Requiem  
@Christ Episcopal Church, Evening of Palm Sunday

---

## Adult Forums January-February

*What is the difference between 'loving justice' and 'doing justice'?*

What difference might it make in our individual lives and in the City of Poughkeepsie if we concentrated more on *doing* justice rather than *loving* justice? We'll examine the challenge of justice as found in both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, in the stories of our own lives, and then dream together about the future of our parish.

### Sundays following 10 am worship:

January 14     **Justice in the Hebrew Scriptures – Early Narratives**  
*Examples from our own lives throughout each discussion*

January 21     **Justice in the Hebrew Scriptures – the Psalms**

January 28     **Justice in the Hebrew Scriptures – the Prophets**

February 4     Break – Parish Breakfast

February 11    **Justice in the Gospels**

February 18    **Will we Love Justice or Do Justice?**  
*Where will our dreams take us?*

---

## February 21 - Ash Wednesday: 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm worship

---

### Wednesday Evenings during Lent: February 28-March 28

*In cooperation with the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian and First Congregational Churches*

**This Lenten Study Program will be held at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian – 100 Cannon Street:**

**6:00 pm Simple Supper**

**6:30 pm Stand-up Eucharist**

**6:45 pm Program**

*Countering Pharaoh's Production-*

*Consumption Society Today*

*"It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again . . .  
[because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery."*

*--Walter Brueggemann*

A new study for Progressive Christians: *Countering Pharaoh* will feature meditations by Walter Brueggemann presented on DVD, followed by small group discussion.

## Interested in the behind-the-scenes at CC?

Think about joining a committee. Here's the regular meeting schedule. All meetings at 7:30 unless otherwise noted. Use Carroll St. entrance for building admittance.

1st Tuesday of the month- Growth & Communications. Contact Carlie Graves for more info.  
1st Wednesday Finance & Budget, Carlie Graves  
2nd Tuesday Property Committee, contact Michael George  
2nd Wednesday Parish Life, contact Phyllis George  
8:30 Community Ministry, contact Fr. Blake  
3rd Tuesday Vestry. All welcome to attend.  
4th Tuesday Center of the Square Board  
4th Wednesday Worship Committee. Contact Michael Wood or Fr. Blake.  
Occasional Saturdays Youth and Children's Formation Committee. See Marge Bliss or Yvonne Poley.  
Occasional Fridays 12:45 Adult Formation. Contact Fr. Blake.

### Contact Info:

Marge Bliss	462-4566, mbbliss1@aol.com
Michael & Phyllis George	473-1726, pmgeorge@worldnet.att.net
Carlie Graves	485-9596, cagraves@vassar.edu
Yvonne Poley	471-0865, Yvonne.poley@marist.edu
Fr. Blake Rider	452-8220, rectorchristchurchpok@choiceonemail.com
Michael Wood	463-0152, mhwood@gmail.com

---

## Know your vestry! Here we are in 2007:

Jim Brown (2006-08)	Karla Friedle (2005-07)
Angela Colclough (2007-09, 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	Peggy Kraft (2006-08)
Paul Conrad (2006-08)	Carlie Graves, Treasurer (2005-07)
Louise Crans (2007-09)	Bill Moran (2005-07)
Stephen Currie (2007-09)	Becky Nielsen (2007-09)
Harvey Flad (2005-07)	Jean Winne (2006-08)

Rector's Warden: Michael Wood (2006-07)  
People's Warden: Mike George (2007-09)  
Rector: Wm. Blake Rider †

---

## Christ Episcopal Church

20 Carroll St.

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

845.452.8220

www.christchurchpok.org

**RECTOR:** Fr. Blake Rider †

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Laura Russell

**ORGANIST:** John Sullivan

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Michele Haynes

**PROPERTY STEWARD:** Notoe Hodge

**RECTOR'S WARDEN:** Michael Wood

**PEOPLE'S WARDEN:** Michael George

## SUNDAYS

Worship @ 8:00 AND 10:00 AM.

*Nursery care available during 10 am service.*

Junior Youth Sunday School @ 9:00 AM

Pre-K and Grade School Sunday School @ 10:00 AM

Senior High Sunday School @ 12:00 PM

Adult Forum @ 11:30 AM

Misa en Espanol @ 1:00 PM

## THURSDAYS

Eucharist @ 10:00 AM (RECTOR'S STUDY)

## FOR VISITING

Church Entrance: Academy & Barclay Streets

Office Entrance: Carroll Street

Parking: Lots on Carroll or Barclay Street

## Contributors to this issue

Carlie Graves, Editor

Johanna Kraft, Correspondent Abroad

Peggy Kraft, Growth & Communications

Cynthia Lee, Sunday School

Wm. Blake Rider, Rector

Laura Russell, Choir Director

Martha Thornley, Contributing Writer

Michael Wood, Rector's Warden



**PLASS THE PLUMBER, INC.**  
HEATING PLUMBING  
Since 1980  
**Steam Heat Specialists**  
Gas & Oil  
Hot Water Heat Systems  
Boilers  
Water Heaters  
Faucets  
Installation • Service • Repair • Tune-ups  
Licensed • Fully Insured  
**454-1090**



RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL  
LICENSED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR  
Fully Insured  
**Inc. Electric Mannino**  
Phone 845-452-3320 Fax 845-454-0346  
4 Buckingham Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
www.manninoelectric.com