

The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220
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*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him: give my heart.*

Friends –

As we enter into the short Season of Epiphany, we are called to make Christ known. As God has become manifest in our own hearts, our mission and responsibility is to tell out that same good news.

We can accomplish that telling in so many ways:

- ❖ through our work with children and youth – in parish Sunday School programs, in Rite 13 and J2A ministries, as well as by mentoring young readers in the Center of the Square's *Climb the Beanstalk* program.
- ❖ when we show hospitality to the literally hundreds of people who visit our campus each week – thru meetings of 12-step programs, BOCES educational workshops, and The Center of the Square's *Conocer – ESL in the Kitchen* program.
- ❖ as we host the wider faith community onto our campus – by way of this month's *Justice For All Speaker's Forum* focusing the Civil Rights – and by way of the Epiphany Season Evensong on February 3rd.
- ❖ by seeing Christ in every person – especially those in want or need. Our ministry at the Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless Shelter; in the Dutchess County Jail; in our support of those who engage in the Kairos ministry, inside area prisons.

Our own faith community is blessed by the abundant generosity of those who make a pledge towards the annual operation budget. Thanks to each of you. The community is also blessed by those who may not sign a pledge card, but who still give generously – thanks to each one of you. And finally by the gift of those who have entered into the fullness of the eternal Epiphany of God's nearer presence – and who made provisions for the support of the ministry of Christ Church in their estate planning. Their memory is dear to us.

Stay tuned in the weeks ahead for breaking news on our Tower Renovation project. You just might – maybe, perhaps, God-willing, and if the creek don't rise – see scaffolding going up before Ash Wednesday! We live in hope. Grace & Peace –

Blake+



Vespers

An Order of Worship for the Evening upon the
Feast of St. Lucia
Friday, January 18 at 6PM

Due to the inclement weather on the actual feast day, this service has been rescheduled to this date.

The service consists of readings, anthems and hymns in honor of the patron saint of Sweden, featuring a candle light procession and choral music sung in Swedish.

A reception featuring Swedish delicacies follows the service.



EFM at Vail's Gate



Education for Ministry (EFM) is a program for spiritual seekers to provide a way to study and reflect on the Scriptures and Traditions of faith. The program meets from September to June, once a week, for 2 ½ hours, in a seminar format. It covers Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and current theological issues. There is a cost to the program for

materials. The weekly seminar is divided into two parts: a review of the reading for the week and a guided theological reflection. The theological reflection is a fun, fascinating, and thought-provoking group exercise based on a structured framework for looking at issues of interest to the group members, from the personal to the global, but all focused on our lives as practicing Christians.

An EFM group meets at the Convent of St. Helena in Vails Gate, NY, on Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30 pm. The group will have openings beginning in January. If you would like to attend a trial meeting please contact us to arrange a date. You can also find out more at the program's website, which is www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm. If you think you are interested, contact Karen Byers (914-736-3375 or kdbyers@comcast.net)

No Costumes-No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant



The 5:00 pm early Christmas Eve Service at Christ Church was a moving and joyful experience for all in attendance. Readings of the Christmas story were interspersed with familiar hymns and carols. During the singing, any children who wanted to participate carried figures of the Holy Family, animals, angels, and stars up to front of the church and created the crèche, on the spot. The scene and the story were completed when Ella brought the Baby Jesus and laid him in the manger. The service ended after the Eucharist as the congregation knelt and sang "Silent Night" in a candlelit nave.

Christmas at Beacon Correctional Facility

If ever the phrase "two for the price of one" rang true it was at Beacon Correctional Facility when presents given by generous hearts at Christ Church and Trinity Episcopal were given to the children of the women incarcerated there. The gifts brought joy to the children and equal joy to their mothers. I was told by one of the inmates that the gifts were beautiful and that every child went home with something. One little girl was apparently very upset and crying inconsolably until a very large Care Bear was put into her arms. The crying ceased immediately and she went home happy. We can imagine how her mother felt.

To each of you who gave of your time and goods (and so enthusiastically), may you be filled with the peace of Christ who has a special love for children and identifies with the prisoner.

Martha T.

Thank you!



A very special thanks to our outgoing vestrypersons: Harvey Flad, Peggy Kraft, Bill Moran, Carlie Graves, and Michael Wood.

Epiphany Evensong

Christ Church will be holding an Epiphany Evensong on Sunday, February 3rd at 4:30PM.

Merellyn Gallagher will play a solo organ recital from 4:30 to 5PM. Then combined choirs from all over the Hudson Valley will sing an Evensong Service.

The Evensong is co-sponsored by Christ church and the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Planning Ahead

Ash Wednesday is February 6.

Easter is March 23.

Courier Editorial Board

Marge Bliss, Jeanne Marie Perry, Editor

Next Courier Deadline: January 18, 2008

Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry at sadlbun52@aol.com

Christ Episcopal Church

Rector: Fr. Blake Rider †

Music Director: Laura Russell

Parish Administrator: Michele Haynes

Property Steward: Notoe Hodge

Rector's Warden: Michael George

People's Warden: Paul Conrad

Parish Clean-up Day Saturday March 15 beginning at 9:00am

Plan to stop by for an hour, or two, or three. Enjoy a bit of breakfast and/or lunch while we polish brass, dust, etc

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Interest has been expressed in the presentation of the liturgy for the Stations of the Cross, perhaps more often than once during Lent. We traditionally observe one setting of the Stations, in a bi-lingual format with the Guadalupe congregation. The date and time for that observance has not been set.

If anyone is interested in organizing an additional setting of the Stations, please be in contact with Fr. Blake. Options include:

- A 'contemporary' setting - where the stations would be prayed in different locations around our community, where issues of human need are pressing;
- An observance at the parish, with a set of the stations that include images of how God's children experience something of 'the way of the cross' in their daily lives around the world;
- The development of a musical setting of the stations.

We could easily engage the way of the cross on a weekly basis throughout Lent. Opportunities abound!

Engbrecht Baptism

On December 30th, William Rising Engbrecht, son of Amy and Ward Engbrecht, was welcomed into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Will thoroughly enjoyed the entire service including Blake's sermon which he cooed and gurgled through and he seemed especially delighted to have the water poured over him.



Justice For All Speaker's Forum Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Event Friday, January 18th at 7:00pm at Christ Episcopal Church



Grassroots History Economic Justice
Homeless Hospitality
Peace Jubilee Institute
Truth & Reconciliation Education
Media, Communications & the Arts

Reverend Nelson Johnson is one of the most powerful and insightful orators of our time. Active in the movement for social and economic justice since high school in the late

1950's, Nelson centers his efforts now on facilitating a process of comprehensive community building. This includes a convergence of racial and ethnic diversity, social and economic justice, and genuine participatory democracy. With his wife Joyce and his colleagues at the Beloved Community Center, he attempts to bring together the homeless, the imprisoned, impoverished neighborhoods, and other disenfranchised groups in the spirit of mutual support and community.

One of the most challenging and transforming events in the Rev. Johnson's life was the 1979 Greensboro Massacre, an incident that has given rise to the first Truth and Reconciliation Project of its kind in the United States. Because of his extensive experience in community organizing and socio-political analysis, Rev. Johnson is routinely invited to speak on university campuses around the country to share his vision of community building.

Martin Luther King Breakfast

This year's Martin Luther King Breakfast in Poughkeepsie will be held on Friday, January 25, 2008 at 7:15 a.m. at the Civic Center. This is the major annual fund-raiser for the Catharine Street Community Center; it's also a wonderful community event. Last year Christ Church had two full tables of people in attendance - let's see what we can do this year! Tickets are \$35. If you would like to make a reservation to attend, contact Mary Flad (471-5376) and give her a check for \$35 made out to the Catharine Street Community Center by January 18. If you can't attend but would like to contribute toward the cost of a local student attending, that would also be appreciated.

Jesus' Family Values

A presentation by Professor Deirdre Good Monday, February 18th, 6:00 - 7:30pm

Many people claim to know what Jesus would say or do in the kinds of ethical dilemmas we face today, but applying "traditional" Christian values out of context actually sells Jesus' teaching short. What are Christian family values, Deirdre Good asks, why are there so many interpretations of what Jesus actually taught and said, and which of these biblical values should guide our lives?

She begins by setting this conversation in the context of the Greek, Roman, Jewish, and first-century sectarian world, and criticizes the attempts to use biblical texts literally in advocating for marriage and the family. Other chapters will take up the meaning of house and home, marriage and divorce, and biological ties vs. extended families and communities.

Through careful attention to the words and stories of Matthew, Luke, Mark, John, and the letters of Paul, Good provides an ideal method for studying the Bible to find out what it actually says to our communities and households today.

Professor Good will present an overview of her new book in the political context of our culture wars. The location for the presentation is yet to be confirmed. Watch for announcements in church.

Copies of the book may be pre-purchased a local bookstores or on the web.

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8 AM Eucharist and Sermon
A quiet, traditional service.

10 AM Eucharist with Music
*Music arranged by Laura Russell,
 music director. Childcare available in
 the nursery.*

10 AM Sunday School

11:30 Rite 13 and J2A

1 PM Misa en Español

Wednesdays

11 AM Eucharist
In the Rector's Study

Lenten Study Program

Each Wednesday evening in Lent

Dinner at 6:00pm, followed by
 Program and Eucharist

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in
 Poughkeepsie

Schedule for Lent & Holy Week

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 6
Services at 7:00am, Noon, 7:00pm

Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist

Passion Sunday, March 16
Services at 8:00 & 10:00am

Traditional Liturgy of the Palms at both
 services, with festive procession at the ten
 o'clock service.

Palm Sunday Concert at 7:00pm

Our Choir and Orchestra will present an
 evening of sacred music that is open to
 the wider community, as a beginning of
 our Holy Week devotions. Featuring
 Faure's *Requiem*

Maundy Thursday, March 20
Supper at 6:00
followed by the liturgy

This service will bring together our
 congregation and the congregation of La
 Virgen de Guadalupe. We will worship
 together in a bilingual service, inclusive
 of the Maundy Thursday foot-washing
 and Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday, March 21
at Noon and 7:00pm

We will observe the Good Friday liturgy,
 with hymns and the choir, at noon.
 The evening service will feature the
 traditional liturgy, without music.

Easter Eve
Saturday, March 22 at 7:00pm

We will hear the re-telling of our
 salvation history in story and song
 followed by the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Day – March 23
Festival Services at 8:00 and 10:00am

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