

# The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220  
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## *Christ is made the sure foundation*



An interesting season has come into our life at Christ Episcopal Church, in response to the needs of another local faith community.



The folks at Poughkeepsie's First Presbyterian Church (on Hamilton Street, about four blocks away from our church) have been engaged for some time in an internal discussion: should they try and sell their property? If successful - what to do? Buy another building - become a 'store front' church - merge with a local church - meld into another area Presbyterian congregation - or relocate and co-habitat with another 'in town' church, retaining their own identity as a separate congregation while doing so

Recently, First Pres received an offer for their property. As a result, the leadership and people of First Pres are working their way through each of the above - and other - options. Our parish has been approached with a question - might Christ Episcopal Church be interested in providing space for First Presbyterian to continue their identity, but in a new home? Under their proposal, First Pres would remain a separate congregation - worshipping at their own distinct time - in the nave at Christ Church. *This is not a proposal to merge.*



There are many, many things to consider about this proposal: We need to have a conversation about the financial implications; scheduling; how to ensure that the mission and work of the Guadalupe congregation is preserved and perhaps even strengthened, and of course much, much more.

We will hold open discussion forums on the topic over the next several weeks, following both the 8:00 and 10:00am services.



This Sunday, March 2nd  
Next Sunday, March 9th  
The Sunday after Easter, March 30

I hope those members of our parish who live in the Poughkeepsie area will be able to attend these discussions. We'll take copious notes, and distribute the shared thoughts of our community. It will be vital that your Vestry and I hear your ideas - questions - concerns - dreams.



Please feel free to also communicate via email or letter. The Vestry and I will need to not only be in prayer, but to also hear every voice, as we formulate our response to First Pres.

Grace & Peace,  
*Blake+*

## Do you have a date?

The 2008 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the hall, across from the Newton Community Room. It has dates for you to “reserve” as your day to offer a personal thanksgiving, a memorial, or a celebration of an event, by giving the flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday. This is a beautiful gift to all who come to worship on that Sunday.



Write your name on the calendar. Then send the Parish Office a check for \$60, noting that it is for flowers for the date you chose. A note about your reason for that day would be nice, if you wish to have that information included in that Sunday’s bulletin.

If your date falls during one of the liturgical seasons when no altar flowers are used – Lent, for example, make it “a moveable feast” and choose a day in another season.

We can also celebrate more than one event on the same Sunday. Don’t worry about “doubling up.”

*“Consider the lilies of the field” .... and the daffodils, chrysanthemums, roses, daisies.*

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### *Concerts Con Brio Spring 2008*



Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM  
*Palm Sunday Vespers – Faure Requiem*

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00AM  
*Easter Service with special Choral music*

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM  
*Brian Hoffman Organ Recital – all Bach program*

Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM  
*The Cantatrice Art Song Ensemble*

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM  
*Special Earth Day concert*

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## What Works at Christ Church

In response to the question; *What “works” at Christ Episcopal Church for you?* the vestry made the following observations:

- Participation in the parish is an in-grained way of life
- Respect for the liturgy
- Operates as an extended family for the congregation
- Liturgy is an important part of my life; it inspires me to ‘be here’, and I ‘miss it’ when absent; weekly worship is a charge ‘to do’ for the coming week
- The People – always felt welcome (as a newer member) – the observed effort to actually make things ‘work’
- A sense of being part of a holy place, away from the routine of the work-week
- Liturgy/music/welcoming place
- connection to other people, appreciated as being a part of the family, ability to worship, the music
- Liturgy
- Music

If you have any additional ideas that you would like to share, please forward then to the editor at [sadlbum52@aol.com](mailto:sadlbum52@aol.com). Thanks

**Courier Editorial Board**  
Sally Vasse, Marge Bliss,  
Jeanne Marie Perry, Editor

*Next Courier Deadline:* March 21, 2008  
Please send articles to Jeanne Marie  
Perry at [sadlbum52@aol.com](mailto:sadlbum52@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 dust, polish brass, etc.

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### **Episcopal Relief and Development Annual Appeal**

On Palm Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, we will have the fourth annual ingathering of our contributions to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund (ERD). ERD is our link across the entire world-wide Anglican Communion for providing emergency aid and developmental grants to help those who suffer. ERD is there when earthquakes, floods, refugee migration, famine and war bring pain and death to local communities. We urge you to donate again this year by bringing your offering to the Palm Sunday service. Checks can be made out to Episcopal Relief and Development or to Christ Church with “ERD” on the memo line.

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### Financial Update for January

In each issue of *The Courier* we plan to provide a ‘snapshot’ of the Parish Operating Budget. Copies of each month’s Financial Statements are always posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Community Rooms. Any questions may be directed to Treasurer Michael Woods.

#### Operating Budget January Recap

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| Income   | \$28,214.95        |
| Expenses | <u>\$24,070.71</u> |
| Surplus  | \$ 4,144.24        |

## J2A: Journey to Adulthood

The J2A class has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the year. Under the guidance of Harvey Flad and Celia Serotsky, the group has had many interesting discussions regarding themselves and their journey to adulthood, their role in society and their spirituality. During this Lenten season the group is challenged to create a product that demonstrates their journeys of faith during these forty days. We will all reflect on our journeys of faith and the forms that our prayers take, and will create a product that represents our thoughts. For example, if someone is an artist they may create a drawing or a series of drawings that show their thoughts on their faith journeys. We will all present and talk about our creations at the end of Lent. We will continue to meet on a weekly basis and will be participating in a labyrinth walk that the Youth Education committee is planning for the church. We look forward to using that walk as a way to meditate and reflect on our faith and where we are along our own personal path.

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## Re-Entry Support Program

Another team of three people is being assembled to provide assistance and advice to a woman who will be leaving prison in mid-March. The members of the Re-Entry Support Program, which is based at Christ Church, are attempting to provide positive moral support - writing to someone while they are still incarcerated, and then helping an individual as she deals with the psychological challenges and "red tape" of trying to get life back together again, find work and a place to live. If you would like further information about becoming part of the program, please contact Alice Bunnell at [alicebunnell@gmail.com](mailto:alicebunnell@gmail.com) or 452-7031.

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## The Trees Are Gone!

On a snowy February afternoon, Fr. Blake climbed to the top of the Tower as the various "Tower Trees" were removed.

It was a long, high, wet, cold, slippery climb – but well worth the view. And above all (no pun intended) great to see those trees come down!

## Getting the Rectory Ready



The last week of January and the first week of February saw a group of 20 volunteers hard at work on the second floor of the Rectory, scraping, spackling, sanding, priming and painting nearly all of the woodwork. And believe me, there is a lot of it-even inside the closets! The group collectively put in more than 250 hours to help bring the turn-of-the-century house to life again as a residence for our Rector Blake Rider.

As part of the renovation, the floors have all been redone, the walls newly plastered by a restoration plasterer, everything freshly painted, new kitchen and bathrooms installed, and a new roof so that none of the new work will be rained on. Still to be completed are the master bath, the front porch, and the some of the trim paint.

Blake moved into the house on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and spent his first night in his PERMANENT quarters on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Hooray!! Last Sunday, the parish gave him a "pounding" (an old English custom whereby people bring a pound of something to help stock a new home with staples) to make him feel welcome. Thanks to everyone who participated. If you still would like to donate something to this effort either bring it to church or to the Rectory.

Special thanks to the people who did the prep work and painting on the second floor. They were wonderful!!! They were: Jim Bliss, Julett Butler, Barbara Cavalieri, Stephen Currie, Mary Flad, Paul Frazer, Mike George, Louise Im, Cynthia Lee, Becky Nielson, Denise Quis, Arnie and Celia Serotsky, Linda Scott, Anne Strain, Sally Taylor, Sally Vasse, Wood, Benji, and Olivia.  
- Marge Bliss

*A note from Fr. Blake –*

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who has worked so hard and given so much to help return to the Rectory to its original intent as a home. The painting, the pounding, and the many helping hands along the way have been a wonderful gift. Thanks again. – Blake+

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## Lenten Study Program Continues at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Our parish has been joining with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in a weekly study group during Lent. We have been gathering each week at 5:30pm for a light supper and a lively discussion relating to *Seeking to Serve – A Lenten Exploration of the Millennium Development Goals*.

Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger  
Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children  
Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women  
Reduce Child Mortality  
Improve Maternal Health  
Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases  
Ensure Environmental Sustainability  
Create a Global Partnership for Development

Come join us for a simple supper, followed by a time of reflection, discussion, and worship.

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## Holy Week Flowers and Music

Each year on Palm Sunday and Easter Day we adorn the parish with special greenery and flowers. Contributions are solicited to help defray the expense of the palms and flowering plants, as well as the significant special music that we enjoy at the Palm Sunday Vespers and Easter Day services.

If you would care to make a donation in memory of a loved one, or in honor of someone who is a part of your life, please use the envelopes that will be mailed to your homes early in March. The envelopes will also be available in church, beginning this Sunday. The suggested donation is \$20.



## 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 5:30pm, followed by Program and Eucharist  
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie

See inside for details.

## Palm Sunday is March 16

Services at 8AM and 10AM

Vespers at 7PM

## Easter is March 23

Services

Saturday, March 22 at 7PM

Sunday at 8AM and 10AM

See inside for details.

# Holy Week and Easter Schedule

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## 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 Vespers 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

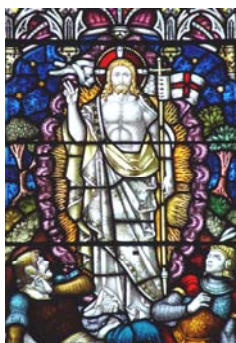
This service will bring together our congregation  
and the congregation of La Virgen de Guadalupe.  
We will worship together in a bilingual service,  
inclusive of the Maundy Thursday foot-washing  
and Stripping of the Altar.

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## 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

## Palm Sunday Vespers March 16 at 7PM

On the evening of Palm Sunday, our choir "and friends" will lead a special Palm Sunday Vespers service, at 7:00pm.

Choral works including Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* will be presented, as well the *Cantique de Jean Racine*. There will also be readings from scripture, prayers and congregational singing.

This will be wonderful way to begin your Holy Week experience. Plan to attend, and bring a friend.

## Justice for All Speakers Forum Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church

### Politics of Education: Whose Kids? Who Cares?



*Billy Easton* is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Quality Education where he has played a key leadership role in a statewide campaign to reform school funding and accountability in order to meet the needs of students in high need school districts. With offices in Albany, Buffalo, Long Island, New York City, Rochester and Syracuse, AQE is a statewide coalition of 230 parent, community, teacher, civil rights and faith-based organizations. AQE's driving principles are educational equity and educational quality for every student. AQE, partnered with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity and other organizations, to lead a successful 15 year struggle that in 2007 resulted in an historic four-year commitment to increase basic classroom operating funds for schools by \$5.5 billion with the lion's share targeted to high needs school districts and best practices.

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## **Group to Visit General Seminary to Hear Two Rabbis**

*The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, will be featured at special presentation at General Theological Seminary on Wednesday, March 5 at 1:30pm. Rabbi Andrea Weiss (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York) and Rabbi Tamara Cohn Eskenazi (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles) are the editors of this ground-breaking work.

A group will be leaving Poughkeepsie via Metro North on Wednesday morning to enjoy lunch together in NYC, hear the lecture and return home later that afternoon. Please contact the parish office if you would like to be a part of the trip.

This will be one of the first public discussions in New York City of this groundbreaking work. The Commentary is the result of years of planning and fundraising, and the collaboration of more than 200 writers contributing differing voices and views to the book.

With emphasis on the roles of women in the Torah, the Commentary contains five interpretive "layers" that allow readers to see a variety of perspectives on the text, including traditional rabbinic, contemporary, scholarly and poetic views. The work of 100 commissioned contributors is included, as well as more than 100 poets.

Order your copy of this new Commentary (from Amazon.com via the Christ Church website) and the parish will receive up to 8% of the purchase price as a rebate: [www.christchurchpok.org](http://www.christchurchpok.org). The link to Amazon.com is on the bottom of our home page. *The parish receives the rebate only if you access Amazon.com through our homepage.* Thanks for your support.

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## **Tower Restoration Inauguration Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**

Stop by the Tower on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> and be part of the Inauguration ceremony for our Tower Renovation Project.

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## **Lenten Labyrinth Meditation Saturday March 8 4:00-6:00PM**

Christ Episcopal Church and the First Presbyterian Church in Poughkeepsie are co-hosting an ecumenical, intergenerational event on Prayer that will be open to the public. The event will be held at First Presbyterian Church, utilizing the portable canvass Labyrinth owned by the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Bring your family and friends and stay as long (or as short) as you wish. There will be:

- Labyrinth in First Presbyterian's Winslow Chapel-which facilitates a "walking meditation"
- For Children:
- Story-time Workshop
- Crafts Workshop
- Music Workshop for children
- "Sitting Meditation" Workshop for adults, plus various techniques to elicit the relaxation response that decreases metabolism, heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate and muscle tension. If you haven't practiced "sitting," you'll want to try it.
- Nursery care for children under 3 years of age.
- Food, food and more food



First Presbyterian is located at the corner of Hamilton and Cannon Streets in Poughkeepsie (you can get directions via a web-search for "100 Cannon Street"). Parking is available in a lot accessed from Church Street, as well as in a City Parking Deck behind the church.

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## **Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church invites one and all to a St. Patrick's dinner on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. 5:00pm to 7:00pm .

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$9 for seniors/students; \$5 for children 5 to 10.

Special music provided by The Strawberry Hill Fiddlers at 4:30pm.