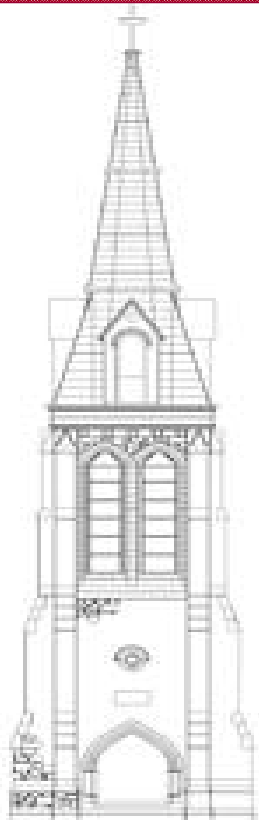


The Courier

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 7&8th grade class
(Rite-13) Downstairs classroom

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

10 AM Sunday School
Downstairs classrooms, ages 3-11.

1 PM Misa en Español

Thursdays

10 AM Eucharist
in the Rector's Study

Holy Week – A Liminal Period

Friends,

A liminal period is ‘time in between’. Time when we are no longer what we used to be – and have not yet become what we will be. We have been on a long journey with Jesus. It seems like a long time ago that we left the Galilee.

On our journey we’ve spent time in the Wilderness – that ‘thin place’ where we are confronted by our greatest fears and temptations. At the same time, in one of the many paradoxes of our faith, it is in the wilderness of our lives, when we are most vulnerable, that we are most likely to encounter God.

Along the way, we watched and listened as Jesus was threatened by Herod, the fox. Undeterred, Jesus continued on his way to Jerusalem, and to the cross. It is on the cross, in Jerusalem, that all of the things that can destroy us, and the one thing that can save us, are brought together.

While on our journey we’ve heard Jesus call us to repent. He rejected false claims that people experience pain and tragedy in their lives because of their sin. Even so, Jesus still brings us to that point in our lives where we must either ‘turn around’ following the Hebrew world-view, or ‘change our minds’, in the Greek. Either way, we know that God is gracious to give us true repentance.

We’ve lived again with the story of the man who had two sons. One who wanted everything. One who resented everything. And a father who gave everything. We’ve learned that grace is the last gift that God has given for us.

And last week we experienced a foretaste of Maundy Thursday, as we listened and were amazed at the intimacy of Mary’s devotion in washing and anointing the feet of Jesus.

We’ve been on a long journey. As long as it has seemed, it is as nothing compared to the work before us this week. Beginning at the gates of Jerusalem with shouts of praise, we will end the week by running away in the dark, hiding in embarrassment and fear. It’s not the ending that we anticipated back when we were with Jesus on the lake and in the villages.

If you have never experienced the entire sweep of the movement of the liturgy through this most holy of weeks, I invite you to do so this year. It can change your life, and through the changes that occur in our individual lives, the life of this parish can be changed as well.

Grace & Peace,

Blake

2007 ANNUAL APPEAL:



Sunday, April 22nd, is the day we make our Christ Church response to the annual appeal on behalf of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). This is our church's collective witness for helping people in crisis following natural disasters, the dislocations of war, extreme starvation, epidemics, and homelessness. ERD works in partnership within the Anglican Communion and the broader inter-faith community to be present overseas and here at home with those who suffer.

Last year Christ Church members gave in excess of \$3,000 through the Appeal, exceeding our goal of \$2,500. We invite you to continue and help grow our contributions. Look for more information in coming weeks.

Your check can be made out to Christ Church with "ERD" on the memo line. The entire amount of your donation is disbursed by ERD as needed throughout the Anglican Communion.

*-Sam Im & Barry Menuetz,
Parish ERD representatives*

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

Courier Editorial Board
Marge Bliss, Jeanne Marie Perry,
Terry Sparks, Sally Vasse,
Carlie Graves, Editor

Next Courier Deadline: April 22
Please send articles to Carlie Graves
(cagraves@vassar.edu)

Book Reviews

In the Bleak Midwinter by Julia Spencer-Fleming

This book is the first in a series of taut mystery/thrillers set in the sleepy Adirondacks burg of Miller's Kill. Clare Ferguson is the new priest at St. Alban's Episcopal Church as well as a former helicopter pilot. She soon meets up with Russ Van Alstyne, chief of the Miller's Kill Police Department, and they form an unorthodox sleuthing duo that sets out to solve the mysteries surrounding a baby abandoned on the church steps and the body of a young woman found floating half in and half out of the kill. A gripping, page-turning action scene adds to the excitement, and to complicate matters, an emotional bond soon develops between the priest and the married cop.

What Jesus Meant by Garry Wills

Wills, a practicing Roman Catholic (Why I Am a Catholic, Houghton Mifflin, 2002), takes on the centuries of doctrine that have been built up around this radical teacher and turns conventional Christology on its ear. Whereas modern Christianity often conceives of itself as the guardian of tradition and propriety, Wills sites Jesus' scandalous behavior from the beginning of his ministry to the end of his life. From Jesus telling his frantic parents that when he came up missing they should have known that he would be about his father's business to the final confrontation with the established religious hierarchy of his day, Wills takes us on a tour of the Gospel narratives that challenges almost every conventional answer to the question, "What would Jesus do?"

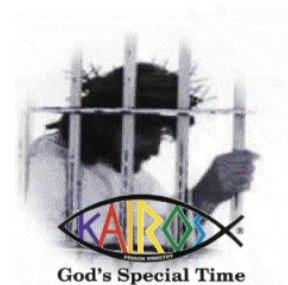
-Terry Sparks

Wheels for Worship....

Drive to church? Have an extra seat? That's all that's needed to provide a ride to a fellow parishioner in need of transportation. Let Fr. Blake know if you can help. He can be reached at 452-8220, or rector@christchurchpok.org

Leadership Conference Report Available

Please see the Courier addendum for the report from the group that attended the Leadership Conference in Springfield, MA on March 10.



Kairos Retreat April 26-29... I will be on retreat as part of the Kairos ministry with the women of the Beacon Correctional Facility April 26-29. Please help these prisoners know that they are not forgotten with your letters, cookies, and checks for Kairos. These must be in by April 22 and may be given either to me or to Michele Haynes, Parish Administrator (office closed Mondays).

-Julett Butler

Organist John Sullivan Announces Retirement

Christ Church's talented and dedicated organist of the past several years, **John Sullivan, has announced that he is retiring to Maine at the end of the school year.** He will be sorely missed by the 100+ parishioners who attend the 10:00am worship service, where he has offered weekly preludes and postludes by turns meditative, joyful and inspiring. John has also provided a sensitive, excellent accompaniment to the choir. Look for a celebration of his music ministry later this spring.

-John McCleary

Congratulations, Paul!



Paul Lawson's Rite-13 ceremony took place on March 25th. This celebration by the whole congregation of his coming of age was a beautifully moving experience. While he munched on his cookies at the Hospitality Hour after church, he told me a little about himself. In the 7th grade at Poughkeepsie Middle School, he says that his favorite school subject is English and that he plays soccer and the trumpet. He is also a Boy Scout. You may have seen his photo in the Poughkeepsie Journal recently, as he had built a hovercraft for the Science Fair. Paul is the grandson of Laura Russell and Paul Frazer and has been attending Christ Church for about three years. He is an acolyte and is a member of the Rite-13 class taught by Stephen Currie.

-Marge Bliss



This is an interesting and challenging time to be a member of the Episcopal Church. The monthly newspaper *Episcopal Life* celebrates "what it means to be an Episcopalian at the beginning of the 21st century." Articles and columns, interviews and stories, questions and opinions "embrace who we are" – in a participatory monthly publication about the many, many ways of ministering among Episcopalians in this country and throughout the world.

The cost of a one-year subscription is only \$12.50 if at least 10 parishioners subscribe. Sample copies of the April issue may be found at the front and back of the church as long as supplies last. Those interested may fill out the subscription form available with the sample copies and hand it to the parish office or to me – thanks!

Sally Vasse, vasses@hvc.rr.com

Thanks....

Thanks! Great big thank-yous to **Jim Bliss** for repair of many hymnal racks. Jim was ably assisted by **John Graves-McCleary**. A huge thank-you also to **Nick Currie** for cleaning out the work area of the undercroft, now much improved! You may have noticed that the Carroll Street Entryway has been repainted and is generally more inviting... thanks to **Fr. Blake** for organizing.

-The Editors

Rectory Renovation Continues

Work on restoring the Rectory as a home for Fr. Blake is continuing. The first major project, the repair of the roof, is about 30% complete as of mid-March. New copper flashings have been or will be installed in the valleys of the dormers and around the chimneys. Broken slates and all gutters and drains are being replaced. Work on restoring the interior plaster is also underway, as is work on the electrical systems. Our hope is for an early summer move-in. Tours of the work in progress are available. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Blake to make an appointment.

Mike George, People's Warden

Re-visioning Process Begins April 15 Adult Forum

Part of the Vestry retreat this year was spent considering our Mission Statement and beginning the work necessary to envision the future for Christ Church.

On April 15th, Fr. Blake will lead the Adult Forum in a quest towards developing a new Mission Statement for the parish. (See calendar.)

Finance Notes

We are working on improving financial reporting and tracking. New financial software, QuickBooks, is installed and in use. It will provide much more detailed tracking of income and expenses than has previously been available. A new bookkeeper, Maria Wainwright, has also been hired. She comes highly recommended by Trinity Fishkill and is familiar with both QuickBooks and ACS, our former account tracking software.

Carlie Graves, Treasurer

Christ Church Events Calendar Easter 2007

April 1, 7 pm, Palm Sunday evening, RUTTER'S REQUIEM

Christ Church choir to be joined by an orchestra, St. John's Lutheran choir, and other area singers and musicians for Rutter's eloquent and moving Requiem, and other pieces, to mark the beginning of Holy Week.

April 1, Passion Sunday, Services at 8:00 & 10:00am

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

April 5, Maundy Thursday, 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 bi-lingual service, inclusive of the Maundy Thursday foot-washing and Stripping of the Altar.

April 6, Good Friday, 12 & 7:30

Good Friday Liturgy at Noon, Bi-lingual Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm

We will observe the Good Friday liturgy, with hymns and the choir, at noon. That evening, we will worship with the congregation of La Virgen de Guadalupe in a bi-lingual observance of the Stations of the Cross.

April 7, Easter Eve - 7:30 pm on Saturday evening

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

April 8, Easter Day -Festival services at 8:00 and 10:00am

Sunday, April 15th, 11:30 am

Adult Forum: New Parish Mission Statement

We will take the first steps towards developing a new Mission Statement for the parish during the Adult Forum on April 15, the Sunday following Easter. We'll brainstorm for words, phrases, and ideas that best describe our current understanding of "the work that God has given us to do."

April 22nd

Deadline for Kairos cookies & letters (See article elsewhere in this issue).

May Courier Deadline. Articles may be sent to Carlie Graves: cagraves@vassar.edu

Sunday, April 22, 7 pm

Earth Day Celebration: PAUL WINTER'S EARTH MASS

Christ Church Choir and others

In addition to the human voice in song, the voices of whales, wolves, and many other sounds from nature will be raised to the Glory of God in this presentation of Paul Winter's ground breaking and epic work.

Sunday, April 29th

Rite-13 Ceremony: Kadeesha Weise



Flower Power Easter and beyond

Flower Calendar Debuts

Offer a personal thanksgiving, memorial, or celebration of an event by giving flowers for the altar. This is a beautiful gift to all who come to worship that day. You can find the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board across from the Newton Community Room. A note about your reason for choosing that day would be nice, if you wish to have it included in that Sunday's bulletin. Contributions are \$60 for each Sunday. No flowers are used in Lent or Advent, so please consider an alternate date. More than one person may sign up for a given Sunday.

Easter Flowers

You may wish to remember a loved one with Easter flowers. Suggested donation is \$25. Please give the name(s) of your beloved to Michele Haynes, Parish Administrator as soon as possible, and be sure to label your donation "Easter Flowers". Michele can be reached by email at christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com or 452-8220. Thank you.

"Consider the lilies of the field" ..., and the daffodils, chrysanthemums, roses, daisies

-Sally Vasse

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www.christchurchpok.org