

# The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220  
April 2008 [www.christchurchpok.org](http://www.christchurchpok.org) Volume 62 – Issue 4

## *Easter Day 2008*

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## Gourmet Dinners Spring & Summer Fundraisers

Building upon the successful round of Gourmet Dinners last year, another round is in the offing. The parish family listed below will be opening their homes and preparing a delicious meal for your enjoyment. Your gift of \$25 each goes 100% towards helping to meet our parish fundraising goal.

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Pres & Cheri Gifford  
Roast Pork with Vegetables

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Anna & Michael DeCordova  
The Copper Penny Bed and Breakfast

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Kathy & Jim Browns  
“Something Fishy-Catch of the Day”

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Sally & Bill Vasse  
Seafood and homemade bread

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Celia & Arnie Serotsky  
Spanish tapas and paella

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Diane & Walt Jablonski  
“Some Things Wild”

**Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Phyllis & Mike George

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Strain Lake, chefs are Jim & Marge Bliss  
North Carolina style B-B-Que

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

At the Home of Jim & Marge Bliss  
Chef is Jackie Vierno

Caribbean Fiesta: family favorites from Puerto Rico and Cuba

Sign up in the Newton Community Room following Sunday worship, or by calling the parish office (845.452.8220). Reserve your seat early – and bring a friend who is not a member of the parish! This is a wonderful way to introduce friends to our parish family.

### Property Handyperson wish list



Calling all HandyPersons! Our parish campus of historic buildings provides an endless list of *honey-do* jobs. Following is a short list of pressing tasks. If any of our handymen-or-women would like to take a look at one or more of these projects, please be in

touch with one of the Wardens or the Rector.

**Cover for the old Coal Shute** – *help us keep rain out of the undercroft*

**Replace an interior door in the basement Sunday School Classroom hallway** – *help us keep the HVAC equipment behind closed doors*

**Replace an exterior door at the kitchen vestibule entrance** – *while our doors are ‘open to all of God’s children’ – we’d prefer that our backdoor be just a little bit more secure.*

**Repair vandalism to the back gate at the Rectory** – *someone tried to throw a rock through the fence! The rock bounced back – but not before causing a good bit of damage.*

**Re-install park bench in the playground, damaged by vandals** – *where they thought they were going to go with a concrete bench, we do not know. They didn’t get far – but they did get the bench off its base. Help!*

## Tower Restoration Prayer

Loving and life-giving God: the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are pleased to dwell in the midst of your people, and have moved our fathers and mothers in the faith to set apart this space on which to build a house of prayer. Accept and bless the work of restoration which we have now begun, that it may be safely brought to completion. Amen.

### Scott Dettra Appointed Organist at National Cathedral

Scott Dettra, son of Janet and Lee Dettra of Delaware, has been appointed Organist and Associate Director of Music at Washington National Cathedral. Many will remember Scott as the accompanist of the American Boychoir the first time they sang here, while his father was Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church 2000-01.

Lee, who retires this month from weekly church music after 53 years, will present an organ recital at The Reformed Church in Poughkeepsie on May 11 at 3:30, to which all are invited.

### Thank you to . . .

**Jack Angstrom & Yvonne Angstrom-Poling** for the gift of the ‘children’s table and chairs’ in the Newton Community Room  
**Eric and Tammy Zavadil** for the refurbishing & re-staining of the table and chairs. And to **all who contributed** towards the purchase of an official set of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* pictures taken on Easter Day.

#### Courier Editorial Board

Sally Vasse, Marge Bliss,  
Jeanne Marie Perry, Editor

*Next Courier Deadline:* April 18, 2008  
Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry at sadlbum52@aol.com

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## Tower Project

The construction crew has made remarkable progress on the Tower Renovation project. So much progress in fact, that they are ahead of the stone delivery. Each of the stones that were slated for restoration or replacement has been removed; the grouting that was to be removed is all gone; the trees and their root systems are being dealt with. At this point we are waiting on two things: the arrival of the replacement stones; and consistent warm weather, so that the re-pointing can be accomplished.

### Replacement and Repair of Coping Stones

*Diocese Grants Christ Church \$10,000 for additional repairs*

With the return of good weather, the repair of the coping stones over the Organ Chamber has begun. We have received delivery of the newly fabricated and the repaired stones. You can view them on the ground, between the parish office & the organ chamber. These stones will be hoisted into place, once the temperature remains consistent enough for the re-pointing to be effective.

When the coping stones on the Organ Chamber collapsed last Fall, we undertook a survey of the rest of the parish buildings. It was determined that there are two other locations where remedial work on the coping stones was called for: the north façade – behind the choir transept; and the west façade – facing Academy Street. The Vestry allocated a portion of the Loyd Lee Bequest to fund this repair work, and also requested assistance from the Diocese. We have received word that the Diocese has agreed to partner with Christ Church in this project, with a grant of \$10,000.

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## Acolytes

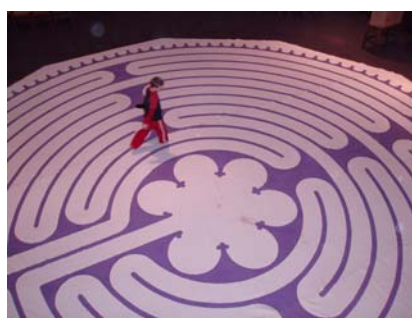


The Acolytes are planning for the Acolyte Festival on May 17 at the Cathedral in New York City. Registrations should be returned to the parish office as soon as possible. Further information about transportation will be sent as soon as details become available.

Our Acolyte Corp was super throughout Holy Week – from the Liturgy of the Palms through the Easter Eucharist. Thanks to all.

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## Labyrinth Afternoon at First Presbyterian A Success



On Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Christ Episcopal Church and the First Presbyterian Church--both inner city churches of Poughkeepsie, NY--co-hosted a “Labyrinth Walk for All Ages” that was open to the public. The afternoon, centered around meditation and prayer, was designed as a “come and go as you wish” event for those new to labyrinths as well as those with some

experience. The event was planned and implemented primarily by the Children’s and Youth Formation Committee of Christ Church.

Though the day was dark, rainy and blustery outside, inside there was quiet warmth, music, good food, excitement, and involvement.

The octagonal Winslow Chapel at First Presbyterian was the perfect space for the ivory and purple canvas labyrinth belonging to Region II of the Diocese of New York. Its 40’x40’ expanse filled the room but left a comfortable-sized margin all around for sitting to remove footwear or for just waiting before or after being on the labyrinth. Selections of music ranging from Sufi to Gospel to that of Hildegard von Bingen played in the background, and each time anyone stepped onto or off the labyrinth a Tibetan Singing Bowl was struck.

Special thanks to Christina Hindley, Jeanette Petersen, and Dorinda Violante of the Presbyterian church, and to Cynthia Lee, John McCleary, Amity Currie, Becky Nielson, Lorenzo, Andrea, and Dante Colombo, Harvey Flad, Celia Serotsky, Jim Bliss, James Monteith, Stephen Currie, Evie Fortna, Karla Friedle, Yvonne Poley-Angstrom and Robin Angstrom.

For all who attended, the day was, without doubt, a special gift during Lent—a unique opportunity for introspection, prayer and celebration.

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### 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

## Rectory Update

Fr. Blake and Mouse IV (the Rectory cat who appeared on Maundy Thursday night) are happily settling in.

Thanks again to the many people who worked so hard to get the Rectory completed in February & March. We are 99.99% complete on the interior. The roofing contractor is going to come back and upgrade the shingle roof, and we still have to install the back fence. Landscaping and renovation of the wheelchair ramp are on the 'nice-to-do' list – but we're letting the expenses settle out before undertaking those projects.

Stay tuned for news of the Grand Opening and House Blessing. There are still a few boxes to unpack and pictures to hang before the big event.



Survivors of the Holocaust.

## 2008 Dutchess County Holocaust Commemoration (Yom Hashoah) Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm Vassar College in Ely Hall

Dr. Suzanne Vromen, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Bard College, and author of a book about Jewish children hidden in Belgian convents during the Holocaust, will be the speaker. Commemorative candles will be lit by area

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## Returning from the Criminal Justice System

### *How Faith Communities Can Help*

Monday April 21 at 6:30pm  
Family Partnership Center

The Dutchess County Interfaith Council is presenting an evening program on local and state-wide initiatives designed to assist those formerly incarcerated who are re-entering civil society.

- Raising Community Awareness
- Legislative Advocacy and Circles of Care Ministries
- Local Success: Initiatives addressing Stigma, Community Integration & Employment

RSVP to [director@dutchessinterfaithcouncil.org](mailto:director@dutchessinterfaithcouncil.org) by Wednesday, April 16.



# Earth Day Concert

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

Paul Winter's *Earth Mass*

*Including new choral and instrumental  
music by Hudson Valley composers*

**A \$10.00 donation is requested at the door**

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# Five Centuries of English Song

Friday, May 16, 2008 at 7:30pm



*featuring John McCleary, tenor*

*Works by Dowland, Purcell, Handel  
Dibdin, German, Vaughan Williams, Ireland  
Gurney, and Browne*

accompanied by Wm. Blake Rider and Gregg Michalak, piano  
Ann Churukian, oboe, Anthony Parks, bassoon  
and featuring Shanna Andrawis, soprano

**A \$10.00 donation is requested at the door**

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## Update on Conversations with First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian is continuing on their own journey of discernment towards the potential sale of the property in downtown Poughkeepsie, almost around the corner from Christ Church on Hamilton Street. Should First Pres come to a successful conclusion in the negotiations to sell their property, they will be faced with a subsequent issue for discernment: shall they continue as a faith community, and if so – where?

Our internal conversations have centered on how our life as a faith community would change – should we take the step of inviting First Pres onto our campus: our 10:00am service would likely need to shift to 11:00am; our Christian Formation for Children & Youth would likely become joint programs with First Pres; additional parking would probably be required. Those are significant ‘logistical’ changes, and cannot be minimized.

We have undertaken three parish-wide conversations regarding the prospect that the First Presbyterian Church in Poughkeepsie might relocate their life as a faith community onto our campus. The parents of our children and teachers of Christian Education have also been brought together for a discussion focused on their needs and want.

Perhaps more important for our consideration are not questions of details and logistics, but questions of identity and mission. How confident are we “in our own skin”? Is our sense of mission clear? Would the addition of this new community of faith on our campus enliven our mission? Bring new opportunities to better education our children and youth, better help meet the pressing human needs in downtown Poughkeepsie and its surrounding neighborhoods? Each of those are wonderful possibilities. It is also possible that our vision might become unfocused and our mission confused. The change in schedule and possible changes in Christian Education for children might be of little or no interest to our members. Indeed, this is not a simple issue.

I am proud of the thoughtful discussions, conversations and questions that have been raised. Christ Episcopal Church is a parish that takes its ministry and mission seriously – while at the same time keeping our sense of grace and even humor.

Your Vestry will be considering the pros and cons of the proposition at their April meeting on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be in touch with members of the Vestry, either of the Wardens or myself, and let us know your questions, concerns, dreams, and hopes.

*Fr. Blake+*

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Ascension Day Service  
Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
*St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7:30pm*

Christ Church will participate in a joint Ascension Day Service with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The service for the Major Feast Day of the church year will be held at St. Paul's on Mansion Street.

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Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide  
Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Our services on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, will feature special prayers and music commemorating the annual observance of the Armenian Genocide. The flowers on that Sunday are a gift from a perpetual memorial established by Mrs. Armin Isbirian, the matriarch of large extended family with personal experience of the Genocide, and a beloved member of our parish.

At the 10:00am service that morning the choir will sing The Lord's Prayer in Armenian.

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**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**20 Carroll Street**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

[www.christchurchpok.org](http://www.christchurchpok.org)  
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845.42.8220

**Worship Schedule**  
**Sundays**

8:00 am Eucharist  
*A quiet, traditional service*

10:00 am Eucharist with Music  
*Childcare available in the nursery*

10:00am Sunday School  
11:30am Rite 13 and J2A  
1:00pm Misa en Español

**Wednesdays**

11:00am Eucharist