

The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220
May 2008 www.christchurchpok.org Volume 62 – Issue 5

Dear Friends –

This summer your Vestry and parish leadership will continue their work with me in our Mutual Ministry Review. We will be examining both the ‘how’ and the ‘why’ of our Ministry. Our Mission Statement will be reviewed and updated. Medium and long range planning will begin, with reports to the parish in the Fall. This is work that will be both exciting and challenging. I bid your prayers as this work begins.

One aspect of our common life that needs to be examined is our interest in working towards becoming a ‘Green Church’. How we make decisions regarding heating & cooling our properties; paper, plastic or washable dishware in the Community Room; choices on cleaning products; how we maintain and improve our grounds and the significant canopy of trees that adorn our property. There are many, many questions. The answer to each question will have consequences – not only in regards to our natural resources, but to our parish financial resources. If you would like to be part of this conversation watch for an Adult Forum on the topic in July.



At the April Vestry meeting, an extremely generous and surprising proposal was presented, and gratefully received. Parishioner Anne Strain approached me earlier this year with a desire to underwrite the expense of the rehabilitation of the Barclay Street parking lot. The Property Committee and Vestry have gratefully accepted this gift. When the Tower renovation is finished later this summer, as a result of Anne’s generous gift we will be able to re-surface the Barclay parking lot, utilizing concrete/grass pavers throughout the lot. These are the pavers that presently are in place only at the entrance and exit to the lot. We anticipate that there will be two rows of parking when the project is complete. We are very grateful to Anne for this most generous gift.

As we approach the beginning of the summer months, the leadership of the parish feels it is vital that our financial situation be honestly and transparently presented to the parish. On the positive side – the very positive side – your giving remains high. Your gifts to the parish continue to be generous and continue to be made ‘on schedule.’



Our financial reports through the end of March indicate that we have arrived at our projected 2008 deficit much sooner than expected. Unusual expenses during the First Quarter have contributed to this situation: the final 2007 insurance premium was paid in January of this year; in a desire to control the potential of high snow plowing bills, we purchased a snow blower – which was used to good effect by our Sexton in clearing our sidewalks this past snow season. In an effort to control our high natural gas bills during the heating season, we spent several thousand dollars in an attempt to rationalize our boiler. My household belongings were moved from long-term storage, which also cost several thousand dollars. Your parish leadership and I will be working these next few weeks and months to develop plans to address this problem. For the short term, all discretionary spending has been halted. This will in large part effect the repair budget of the Property Committee. Stay tuned as ideas are generated and plans develop.

Copies of each month’s operating and capital budgets, as well as a balance sheet, are posted on the bulletin board opposite the Community Room. If have any questions please contact either the Treasurer, one of the Wardens or myself.

Our life in community continues to grow and prosper. We are blessed with visitors to our worship services almost every week, with many of them transitioning into newcomers – and then to members. Families with children continue to be a strong component of our growth. Young couples who find our parish as a place to hold their wedding are becoming a part of our parish family. In the course of a year we host nearly a thousand visitors at concerts and community events. Our ministry together has greatly enriched my life in these past two years. I pray that as we worship and do ministry together in this place, that your life is also enriched.

Grace and Peace, - Fr. Blake

A Few Spaces left for Gourmet Food Groups

There is still a place at the table for you, at one of the Spring/Summer Gourmet Food Groups. Each seat is \$25.00 – which goes 100% to the parish. Your host for the evening graciously provides all of the food & drink – you provide the company and good conversation. See the sign-up sheets at church on Sundays, or call the parish office at 845.452.8220.

End of Year Celebration – last day Sunday, June 8th following the 10:00am service



more details – but save the date!

On Sunday June 8th dress casually and comfortably for the 10:00am service and stay for an end-of-the-year picnic and Open House at the Rectory. That day we'll pay special attention to our children and youth, thank the Sunday School teachers, acknowledge the wonderful ministry of our choir and musicians, and then have a party. This will be pot luck event. Stay tuned for

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

Sunday June 29th at 6:00 pm – Cymbeline

Shakespeare's exquisite fairytale. Jealousy, betrayals, innocence and intimacies provide unexpected twists and turns of the tale. Cymbeline is tragic, comic and romantic, ensuring an enchanting theatrical experience.

Sunday July 20th at 6:00 pm – Twelfth Night

Don't miss this gender bending comic adventure where men are women and women are men, leading to hilarious antics. Egos and comic mishaps abound, but in the end true love wins.

Sunday August 10th at 6:00pm

The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged!)

An irreverent, hilarious romp through the complete works of Shakespeare. Thirty-seven plays in ninety-seven minutes. A side-splitting roller coaster ride, fun for everyone.

Tickets are \$38 for adults. Seniors & Students get a 15% discount; children under 12 are half-price.

Discounts are possible on the 'full price' tickets depending on the number of tickets we purchase, or if we order by may 31st.

Pick your date – or dates – pack a picnic supper – and join other members of the parish at the theater overlooking the Hudson. Sign-up at the church on Sundays, or by calling the parish office at 845.452.8220.

Acolyte Corner

Plans for the Acolyte Festival in New York City on May 17th are coming together. We are expecting to take eight of our Acolytes, our Verger and our two adult Acolytes for a morning of sharing with others throughout the Diocese and sessions to train us in the best ways to perform our duties. We ask your prayers for the weather, travel and that we get the most benefit of our day in the City. We are planning on a Bus ride from the Mid-Hudson, to save on gas, parking and tolls. The day will include an opportunity for a tour of the Cathedral and the Bishop will lead a morning Communion Service before lunch.



Baptisms on Pentecost

The 10:00 am service on May 11th will include the Rite of Baptism. Any adult who is considering baptism is encouraged to be in contact with Fr. Blake. If there are parents who are interested in baptism for their infants or children, please also be in touch.

Tag Sale June 7

The next tag sale will be held on Saturday, June 7. Start going through your closets, garages, storage units, attics, look under your bed and your couch!

Donations may be dropped off at the church beginning Sunday, June 3.

KAIROS

Betty Olson, Julett Butler and I had the privilege of seeing God's love touch the lives of the women at the Beacon Correctional Facility on the Kairos weekend of April 24-27. One resident's comment is indicative of the healings we saw begin during those three days: "since God has forgiven me perhaps I can forgive myself".

Your donations, your letters of hope and encouragement, your prayers and the wonderful placemats the children made lifted this woman and 23 others into a new world of possibilities, hope and community. They realize they are not alone. Thank you, my dear church family, for your love and support for them - and for Betty, Julett and me. Martha T.

Center of the Square 2008 Summer Camp

Plans are underway for another round of Summer Camp on the Christ Church campus. Now in its 40th decade, Summer Camp was a mainstay of the Community Ministry of Christ Church for many of those years. The program has since been 'spun-off' to *The Center of the Square*, a stand-alone 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

On Sunday June 1st, the Center of the Square will present an Adult Forum following the 10:00am service, with an overview of the Camp program for this coming summer. Come to the Forum to ear about Camp, and how you might be able to support the program.

Rite 13 Ceremony On May 18

At the 10 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, May 18, two members of the Rite 13 youth group, Shawn Spencer and Dante Colombo, will be honored in recognition of their thirteenth birthdays, and their progress toward adulthood and growing responsibility in the community of faith. A reception will follow the service.

Rite 13 is part of the "Journey to Adulthood" (J2A) youth program at Christ Church, which currently has eight participants of middle-school and high school age. New members are always welcome: contact the church office or the Rector for further information. The program currently meets on Sunday morning at 11:30.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join the parish in a trip to a Mid-Hudson Renegades baseball game on Sunday June 29th at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$4.50 each, if we get a group of 15 to attend. Sign-up at the church on Sundays or by calling the parish office .

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.

THE CHRISTIAN CARE OF CREATION

Reconnecting With Your Community

A conference on the environment – spirituality in action

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of NY Committee on the Environment

Saturday; May 31, 2008 from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

St. Matthew’s Church • 382 Cantitoe Street; Bedford, NY • 914-234-9396

KEYNOTE : John Cronin, The Beacon Institute, formerly of Riverkeeper

John Cronin began his career as a commercial fisherman. In 1983, he became the nation’s first full-time *Riverkeeper*, responsible for bringing polluters on the Hudson River to justice. He is a founding member of the *Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic* and is currently the Director and Chief Executive Officer of *The Beacon Institute* and the Director of *The Pace Academy for the Environment* at Pace University.

Celebrant at the Opening Eucharist: Bishop Catherine Roskam

WORKSHOPS:

“Greening Your Life”

“Advocacy”

“What Has Changed and What Needs Changing”

“What We Eat”



ENVIRONMENTAL LUNCH:

Shared conversation with shared interests



REGISTRATION:

Fee: \$20. Scholarships available

Deadline: Wednesday, May 28th

914-693-3848

Register through the Region II Office • Contact Lila Botero at:
(914) 693-3848 or Fax: (914) 693-0407 or regiontwo@dioceseny.org

Susan Sparks

An Evening of Inspirational Comedy

Saturday, May 17th 2008

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

***A Preacher, a Lawyer, and a Standup Comedian
all walk into a room... and they are all the same
person.***

Meet Susan Sparks. Susan Sparks is an extraordinary speaker who combines laughter, fun, and an incisive wit in a unique approach to successfully negotiating the challenges of life, work and the spiritual path.

Join us for an evening of laughter
at the Dutchess Day School Auditorium, Route 343,
Millbrook, New York.
The cost is \$25.00 per ticket.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling
Grace Church 677-3064, or will be available at the
door. Space is limited. Refreshments available.

Benefit: Grace Church – Millbrook, New York

Mid-Hudson Gay Pride Parade

Sunday June 1st at 2:00pm

Last year our parish walked in the Mid-Hudson Gay Pride Parade with several other area Episcopal parishes. *We were the only religious contingent in the parade!*

Plans are now being made to repeat the march again this year. We will also have a booth at the Festival following the parade, where we can engage walk-ups in conversation about our welcoming parish.

If you would like to be part of the Parade this year, please sign-up in the Community Room, or be in touch with Fr. Blake. If walking is a problem, we can also have a vehicle in the parade. *You need not be gay or lesbian to march in the parade!* Come join the fun. It’s pretty to cool to walk down the street and have a couple of thousand people cheering as you go by!!

Gifts towards our Hospitality Ministry

This past month the parish has been the recipient of several significant gifts from Eric and Tammy Zavadil that will help to continue to improve our ministry of hospitality:

A new lockable storage cabinet on the kitchen ‘back porch – our Hospitality Committee will no longer have to use the trunks of their cars for storage!

A new 100 cup professional coffeepot – no more dripping coffee onto the floor from the old urns.

Three new serving/heating trays – no more buying new ‘disposable’ aluminum trays every week. A *Green Solution!*

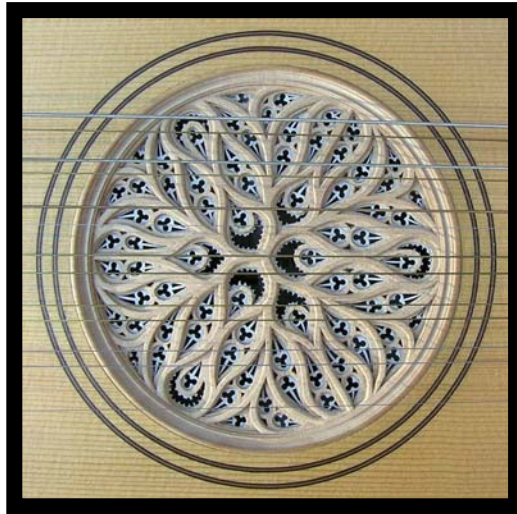
Thank you Eric and Tammy for your generosity!

CONCERTS CON BRIO

PRESENTS

Five Centuries of English Song

featuring John McCleary, tenor



Friday May 16, 2008 7:30pm

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

accompanied by Lidiya Yankovskaya, piano
Ann Churukian, oboe, Anthony Parks, bassoon
and featuring Shanna Andrawis, soprano

A donation is requested at the door



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CONCERTS CON BRIO

PRESENTS

Cantatrice
ART SONG ENSEMBLE

Friday, May 30, 2008 at 7:30pm



Amelia Seyssel, soprano
Maria Rivera White, pianist

A concert of Art Songs by. . .

Joseph Canteloube – Eduard Toldrà
Joaquín Rodrigo – Ralph Vaughan Williams
John Duke – Charles Tomlinson Griffes

A donation is requested at the door



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Property Update

Monaco Construction continues to make good progress on the renovation of the Tower spire and north façade. The cleaning of those portions of the Tower is scheduled to begin during the second week of May. Design work on the stones that are to be replaced is now underway. In some cases the stones to be replaced a simple rectangular blocks. There are also stones to be replaced that have to be shaped and carved.

The repair of the coping stones at the roof line of the organ chamber have been completed. The next coping stone projects will include the re-setting of the stones over the north façade (behind the choir transept) and on the west façade (facing Academy Street). We hope that work will be underway during the summer.

Undie Sunday June 8th

On June 8th we will be collecting newly purchased underwear – for men, women, and children – as a part of our Community Ministry collections to help alleviate pressing human needs in our area.



New underwear is seldom available for the homeless and those in need. Your generous contributions to the collection baskets will help make the hot summer months a bit more comfortable for those most in need.

From the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Christ Episcopal Church
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