

The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220
June 2008 www.christchurchpok.org Volume 62 – Issue 6

Dear Friends –

I have just returned from several days of retreat and reflection at Virginia Theological Seminary, where I received my theological education. Along with about sixty other graduates of VTS – from the classes of 2002 through 2005 – I’ve been part of a ‘pilot program’ funded by the Lilly Endowment. Seeking to understand how the transition from seminary to ministry might be enhanced, Lilly funded yearly retreats back to VTS, as well as substantial Continuing Education funds. The entire cohort of ‘lab rats’ were called back to VTS at the end of May for a final de-briefing with Lilly and to help dream about how the program might continue. It was a wonderful time to reconnect with many friends from Seminary. And – we found out that Lilly has funded the Continuing Education grants for 2009 and 2010!



The Tower at Aspinwall Hall, VTS



In last month’s *Courier* we mentioned the financial situation of the parish – we are currently in a deficit cash-flow position. Discretionary spending continues to remain on hold as we begin the summer months. The generosity and timeliness on the payment of pledges continues to be outstanding – your attention to maintaining that practice through the sometimes ‘low summer months’ will be appreciated. The Vestry plans to be in contact with the parish during the month of June regarding a program to help rectify the situation.

This month marks the third anniversary of your call that I become the Rector at Christ Church. As each week and month goes by, my delight and joy at being in Poughkeepsie grows. I look forward to welcoming you into the Rectory this month at the Open House, and often in the future, as the home becomes a center for the wonderful hospitality that is a hallmark of our ministry together. Many, many people worked for the many months of the renovation and restoration, especially the ‘pick-up-painting-crew’ that put in hours and hours of work in January and February. My thanks to each person who participated in any way – most especially to Marge Bliss, Carlie Graves and Michael Wood and Mike George.



This month we will say farewell to Robert and Evelyn Fortna, who are relocating to New York City. I have been richly blessed by their friendship in the few short years that I have known them. When Robert joins me at the Altar on Sunday mornings it is a wonderful and blessed moment of mutual ministry. Evelyn provides an amazing witness and voice to our need to always keep focused on issues of justice and mercy. We have Sunday June 15th as the day when we’ll celebrate their lives in this place and bind them a fond farewell. Please come and be a part of the special Hospitality Hour that will follow the 10:00am service.

Grace and Peace,



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

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.

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

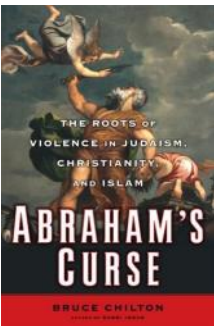
An irreverent, hilarious romp through the complete works of Shakespeare.

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. Pick your date – or dates – pack a picnic supper – and join other members of the parish at the theater overlooking the Hudson.

Bruce Chilton Lecture, Discussion and Book Signing 5:00pm on June 15 at Mt. St. Mary's College



Bruce Chilton will present a lecture on his latest book, *Abraham's Curse, The Roots of Violence in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. The lecture will be followed by a discussion and book signing. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

For all of its horror, one of the most familiar stories in the Old Testament is that of Abraham and Isaac. It is also one of the most disturbing: Abraham, the founding patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam is commanded by God to sacrifice his only son. Isaac is saved only when an angel intervenes at the last possible moment to stay his father's hand. Chilton argues that sacrifice has been fundamental to who we are, from ancient times to the present day.

A suggested offering of \$5.00 is gratefully received to defray costs of this program. For more information and directions, see www.msmc.edu

Decisions and Divorce

A retreat presented and facilitated by
**Ann Prentice, OSH
& Sophia Woods n/OSH
at the Convent of St. Helena
June 6 – 8**

However it happens, having a marriage end in divorce is painful. Often, it is a time of perplexity. A cyclone of powerful emotions blows through us and yet we have to think out and make many decisions, both small and great. This makes divorce one of the most daunting of all the life-cycle transitions. If you have to make this passage, where do you seek guidance and support? Taking time away for yourself can help you rethink life after divorce and help you heal. On this retreat we will discover the strength and support in attending to the inviolable true self. We will connect with spiritual practices that uncover the wisdom and love to be found on this difficult journey.

\$160 includes program, lodging and all meals. Please pre-register with the convent by phone or email. Scholarship funding may be available. For more information, contact the Convent of St. Helena at 845 562 0592 ext 213

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

Next Courier Deadline: June 20, 2008
Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry
at sadlbum52@aol.com

Workers Rights Law Center to Host BBQ and Raffle June 15

The Workers Rights Law Center of NY will be holding its first Annual Raffle and Fundraiser at Linwood Spiritual Center in Rhinebeck, NY on Sunday, June 15. There will be a chicken BBQ and a silent auction.

A raffle will be held with a prizes



of \$10,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000. Tickets are \$100 each and only 299 will be sold. Buy a ticket for yourself or gather with your friends to buy one or more. A ticket provides free entry to the celebration reception. Winners will be announced at the celebration reception. It is not necessary to be present to win. All proceeds benefit the Workers' Rights Law Center of NY, Inc. a free legal services office dedicated to protecting the rights of vulnerable workers. Tickets convert to 50/50 raffle with three cash prizes if all tickets are not purchased by June 15, 2008. For more information, visit www.workersrights.org or call 845-331-6615.

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.



Shawn Spencer and Dante Colombo Honored in 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, were honored in recognition of their thirteenth birthdays, and their progress toward adulthood and growing responsibility in the community of faith. A reception followed 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.

Acolyte Corner

The Christ Church Acolytes made their way to the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine on Saturday, May 17 for the 2008 Acolyte Festival and Workshops. Nine Acolytes, including two adult Acolytes attended.



Overall, the Cathedral hosted nearly 300 Acolytes from throughout the Diocese of New York. The highlight of the morning was the concluding Eucharist with Bishop Don Taylor as Celebrant and Preacher. The Acolytes occupied the massive Cathedral



Choir Stalls entirely and the scene was completed with an actual service featuring Vergers, Acolyte Procession, Priests, Deacons, and Bishop.

Following the worship service, the entire group appeared on the steps of the Cathedral for "The Group Photograph".

The photographer had engaged a "bucket truck" or 'cherry picker' in order to get enough height to include all participants. Unfortunately, there was a mechanical breakdown and the bucket wouldn't go up. However, good fortune smiled with the appearance of an open top Tour Bus with a very co-operative driver. The Photographer flagged down the bus, requested assistance which was readily given, ran up to the top level and proceeded to take the picture. Praise the Lord, even for double decker tour buses, in New York!

A picnic lunch on the grounds preceded the return to the Mid-Hudson. Everyone attending felt that the entire day was very worthwhile.

Community Ministries

Jesus said to him, Go and do likewise. Luke 10:37

PROGRAM: Dutchess Co. Coalition for the Homeless (DCCH) HOMELESS SHELTER (“Hillcrest House” on Cheney Drive)

WHAT WE ARE DOING: Christ Episcopal Church is one of 30 congregations, each taking responsibility for providing the evening meal for 45 to 60 homeless individuals who are brought at about by 8pm to Hillcrest House for the night.

Our church’s night is the 3rd Tuesday of every month, throughout the year.

INVITATION (WHAT YOU CAN DO): Volunteers are needed for teams of 3 to do food preparation and serving. Time required is 6:30-10pm. This is an active, monthly, much-appreciated ministry. To get on the schedule, please contact Jeanne Marie Perry at sadlbum52@aol.com

PROGRAM: ICARE [Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment].

WHAT WE ARE DOING: Active support of a formerly incarcerated person through a “Circle of Care” ministry -- helping a woman who has been in jail, and is recommended by a Social Worker. This ministry is focused on assisting directly in her re-entry into the community; helping with the myriad of details needed, for a period of at least 100 days. Currently we are helping two women who have been released, and corresponding with one more. We need more people to join the three-person teams.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Come with us on this journey. We are looking for anyone interested in joining a small group of people who will support a person coming out of jail, who needs a sympathetic ear, a contact with a helpful service, transportation, assistance and support in getting re-connected with children, parents, family, a job, a probation officer, or a myriad of other challenges – to re-enter the community successfully. Training will be provided, we will learn from members of other churches engaged in the Circle of Care ministry, and from the social worker at the jail where “our person” will be released for re-entry into a world of multiple immediate challenges. Contact: Alice Bunnell or Fred Bunnell alicebunnell@gmail.com 452-7031

PROGRAM: Dutchess County Interfaith Council: Fred Bunnell is our parish representative to this local organization that sponsors many forums, service activities, and interfaith concerts.

WHAT WE ARE DOING: Education and letter-writing to advocate for relief from hunger, working with Bread for the World, and Hunger Action. Planning ahead for the October CROP walk -- (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Walk in the 2008 CROP walk on October 19, Coordinate Christ Episcopal Church participation, or sponsor a walker with generous funds-per-mile.

PROGRAM: Justice for All Speakers Forum. An ecumenical organization in the Hudson Valley that **promotes justice** through monthly speakers and action events. www.allforjustice.org

WHAT WE ARE DOING: The Community Ministry Team allocates funds annually as a sponsoring church. Rector Blake Rider is our representative on the planning team for this series. This year one of the forums took place at Christ Church, with record setting attendance and a lively discussion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Attend the forums! Engage in the discussions.

PROGRAM: Center of the Square’s Summer Camp at Christ Episcopal Church

WHAT WE ARE DOING: Summer camp has been operating on the campus of Christ Episcopal Church for over 40 years. Community Ministry allocates \$2500 for camp support each year.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: the people of Christ Church are asked each summer to volunteer time, talent, and treasure by donating for the cost of field trips, and giving generously to other needs identified by camp staff. Center of the Square, the closely-connected 501c3 organization founded by Christ Church, has run the camp for the past few years.

PROGRAM: Center of the Square – Conocer – learning English through cooking

WHAT WE ARE DOING: We provide the space to allow people (mostly women) to learn English as a second language in an informal setting – the kitchen.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Let anyone who may benefit from this program know about it and encourage their participation!

The following programs are not directly sponsored by Christ Church but there are several people from our congregation who are regular participants.

PROGRAM: KAIROS prison ministry Kairos (God’s Special Time), an ecumenical lay-run prison ministry developed for the highly volatile prison environment. Kairos is a ministry of passing on the love of God and “agape” plays a major role in that endeavor. Agape is the love of God, delivered by God’s people. These weekends cannot happen without the support of many people; people who will enter the prison and people who will never come near the prison.

WHAT WE ARE DOING: Our KAIROS team goes into the Beacon Correctional Facility for Women. Team members representing the various Christian denominations, spend 2 weekends a year in the prison with the women -- using our common faith to give inmates (Kairos calls them “residents”) the gift of seeing Christ’s love & forgiveness in our brokenness and community. Kairos gives us a forum to demonstrate the power of God’s love in our lives – a power that can give residents hope - hope which in the reality of their present confinement makes no sense. A hope which changes lives as they begin to understand God loves them, and has always been available to them simply for the asking (Rev 3:20).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Provide **WRITTEN AGAPE** Letters written to “Dear Sister in Christ” and gathered in church on the Sundays before our team goes into the prison. **PRAYER AGAPE:** The most important thing you can do is to keep the team in prayer as we meet to form a loving Christian community to do God’s work in the institution. Pray for the prison staff who will have extra work because of the presence of Kairos volunteers on the weekend. Pray for the residents who will be called to the weekend. Pray for the team that we can leave our egos at the door and allow the Holy Spirit to direct the weekend. **GREEN AGAPE:** Kairos is a self-supporting ministry. Neither the residents nor the institution contribute to the expenses of the weekend. Donations are deeply appreciated. Checks may be made payable to “Kairos, Inc. Beacon Correctional”.

Contact: Martha Thornley mag6931@msn.com or Julett Butler julbutler@usadatanet.net

PROGRAM: Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF)

WHAT WE ARE DOING: A Member of Christ Church has begun attending local meetings of this national group. While EPF is affiliated with the Episcopal Church in America, it is an independent entity striving to work for peace and justice in our communities, our church, and the world.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Most of all, pray for peace! Be aware of the plights of refugees and prisoners of war – especially those held by Americans. For more information, please contact Jeanne Marie Perry at sadlbum52@aol.com

PROGRAM: Conference on the Environment

WHAT WE ARE DOING: A member of Christ Church has begun attending meetings sponsored by the Diocese of New York on the environment.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Attend meetings. Encourage lawmakers to clean up the environment and do everything possible to reverse the global warming. For more information, please contact Jeanne Marie Perry at sadlbum52@aol.com

What Works at Christ Church?

At the May Vestry meeting, Fr. Blake asked the Vestrypersons to list some things that work well at Christ Church and to offer some suggestions about how they may be improved.

- Christ Church gives many people a sense of being a part of the service. This includes acolytes, lay readers, greeters, etc. Maybe we should set aside a day to thank all those who offer their time and talent to making worship here so meaningful.
- Christ Church helps people overcome a sense of isolation for all people by offering non-religious events like concerts
- Our coffee hour is very friendly.
- Our worship space is beautiful but perhaps better signage would allow people to find the entrances better during construction.
- The Lay Eucharistic Ministry is welcomed and appreciated by those who need to make use of it. Maybe the youth in the J2A program should go on a visit as part of their education.
- Our music is particularly beautiful.
- Perhaps we could have periodic art exhibits depicting life in the church or the church seasons.
- We could try to find out the stories and histories behind the church windows and report on one per month in the Courier. If you are able to help with this, please contact Fr. Blake.
- Our monthly hot breakfast is wonderful.

If you have anything you would like to add to this list, please let Fr. Blake know.

Christ Episcopal Church
20 Carroll Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

www.christchurchpok.org
office@christchurchpok.org
845.42.8220

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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