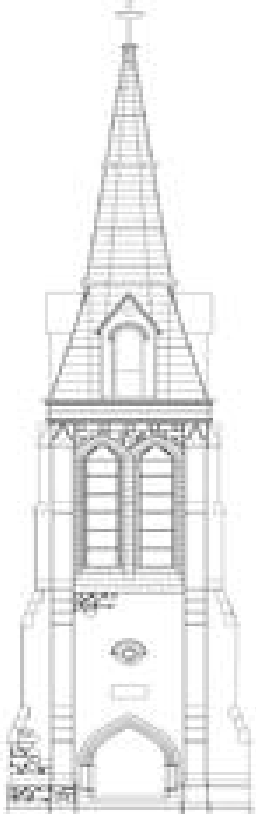


The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220



Worship

Sundays

8 AM Eucharist and Sermon
A quiet, traditional service.

10 AM Eucharist with Music
*Occasional summer music as arranged
by Laura Russell, music director.
Childcare available in the nursery.*

10 AM Summer Sunday School
*Focusing on Old Testament Bible Stories.
In the Newton Community Room.*

1 PM Misa en Español

Thursdays

10 AM Eucharist
In the Rector's Study.

Dear Friends,

Our parish is a place of abundant blessings. A Vestry member recently remarked that Christ Church exists in a place of abundance. As I daily encounter the life, work, and ministry of the parish, and of the people who call this place their spiritual home, I completely agree.

We are blessed with an incredible physical heritage: the buildings, the sacred art, the organ, the park & playground. As one who is still relatively new to the life and ministry of the parish, I can observe that the ways in which we share that blessing with the greater community are truly remarkable: our buildings are used by seven AA groups each week; BOCES is now providing educational services in our facilities four days a week; we host both ballroom & Mexican folk dance lessons; The Center of the Square provides a reading program to young children four days a week, and their Summer Camp program is once again be in residence for six weeks. Our worship space and organ are called upon throughout the year as the place to host community musical and worship events.

We are blessed with families and members who have passion and dedication towards creating a safe and inviting spiritual/educational environment for our children and youth; our all-volunteer choir creates music and helps lead our corporate worship in incredible ways; your ministry and labor for 'the least of these' in our local, regional, and national communities – even stretching across to Africa – is also significant.

What a difference it makes – when doing ministry within a budget, trying to allocate resources, making tough financial decisions – if you begin from a theology of abundance and hope, rather than of scarcity and fear. We are truly, truly, blessed.

Just a few weeks ago, we made a special effort to remind the parish about *The King George III Charter Society*. This is our mechanism to recognize those members of the parish family who have made provision to include the ministry and work of the parish in their estate planning. Since that observance this spring, we have received a wonderful bequest from the estate of Loyd Lee, a gift of almost \$90,000. On behalf of the parish, the Vestry has made the following distributions from this gift:

- A tithe (10%) of the total gift to the Diocese of New York, for the work of the greater church beyond our parish boundaries.
- A further tithe (10% of the remainder of the gift) has been placed in the Endowment.

The leadership of the parish and the Vestry will be in conversation regarding how to allocate the final portion of the gift – around \$70,000 – to the ministry of the parish. Possibilities include undertaking a significant improvement/repair to the buildings, funding a new program initiative, or perhaps a combination. These conversations will extend to the entire parish over the course of the summer and early fall. We give thanks for both the generosity and the trust that Loyd's gift demonstrates. Please be in prayer regarding our best application of this gift – first to the Glory of God, and also in thankful memory of Loyd.

Grace & Peace,

Blake

Pew Thoughts

Seating in Christ Church comes to the attention of all of us. The pew cushions that we sit on each week are in very sad shape! They have served the parish faithfully and well for over 50 years. But now Christ Church has more than a few pew cushions with holes that are steadily growing larger and lumps that are poking in tender spots. The pews themselves are in good shape, but several need to be handicapped accessible.

Please won't you support the vestry goal of comfortable seating? Replacing about 100 pew cushions in the church will cost about \$15,000 with additional funds needed for handicap adaptations. This is not possible within our annual budget. The offering given each week goes toward operating expenses: the staff is paid, the heat is on in the winter, and outreach ministries are sustained. None of these would be possible without the continued generosity of everyone associated with Christ Church and we appreciate your faithful support of the parish's operating budget. In order to purchase new pew cushions, a special effort over-and-above the operating budget is necessary.

During Parish Breakfast on July 1st, you will have the opportunity to take a look at a sample of the proposed new cushions, and give your input on the color and fabric.

Please consider an additional tax-deductible donation to Christ Church's special Pew Cushion Fund. We are especially grateful for an advance gift of \$2000 towards this project! Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. In round terms, a gift of \$150 will support the purchase of one new cushion for the church. Wouldn't it be wonderful if together we could all be "sitting pretty" by All Saint's Day?

- Michael Wood, Rector's Warden

Stewardship at Christ Church



Good stewardship begins with recognizing the blessings bestowed upon us. One of these blessings is the astounding energy of all the folks who volunteer to do the work of the church in everything from worship services (each service requires about 12 different volunteers) to tag sales (at least 30 volunteers) to the spiritual formation of children and youth (many exceptionally dedicated folks), to maintaining our beautiful sheltering space (also many dedicated folks who have overseen this for years).

So although we usually speak of stewardship in the context of the annual pledge drive, it is about much more than that. It includes an understanding of the possibilities for personal spiritual transformation when we give of ourselves - our time, our resources, our skills and talents.

Recognizing the importance of stewardship has led to the formation of a new group -- the Stewardship Committee -- which is undertaking to study and implement year round stewardship planning at the church. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mike George, Chair (pmgeorge@worldnet.att.net, 473-1726, or Carlie Graves (cagraves@vassar.edu, 485-9596). If you are curious, you can also take a look at the stewardship section of the national church website (www.episcopalchurch.org) Much of what we are doing is based on the work of Terry Parsons, national stewardship officer.

- Carlie Graves

Fundraising Dinners Planned

Do you like to eat regional and international cuisine in the company of very interesting people? Well, you will soon have the opportunity to do just that as part of a new fund-raising initiative for Christ Church. There will be several different evenings with gourmet dinners from some of our own parishioners (who, you all know are terrific cooks/chefs). The meals will be hosted in people's homes and will serve parties of 8-10 guests. The price for a seat at one of these dinners will be \$25 per person. Just to tantalize you, some of the cuisines will be Indian, Vegetarian, Italian, and more. Watch for more information in the future.

-Marge Bliss

2007 Summer Youth Conference

*August 19-25, 2007 Incarnation Camp
and Conference Center, Ivoryton, CT*

This year's conference will be exploring



The Chronicles of Narnia.

The Summer Youth Conference (SYC) is a unique experience, a combination spiritual retreat and summer camp, that provides the opportunity for youth from all over the Diocese of New York to meet each other and enjoy worship, play and fellowship. The SYC has been running annually for more than 30 years and is designed for youth entering 7th grade through the first year of college. Cost is \$250 and financial assistance is available.

The application form is available at <http://www.dioceseny.org/index.cfm?Action=Programs.Youth> For further information, please contact Ms. Liz Moeller at 845-247-2884.

Poughkeepsie Honors the Bunnells

Alice & Fred Bunnell were honored by the Town of Poughkeepsie Democrats as Citizens of the Year for their extensive work in the community. Equally they have served Christ Church in many ways. The honor was bestowed at a festal brunch at Vassar College on May 20th.

- Evelyn C. Fortna

Rectory Renovation Continues



The rectory renovation is moving along. The roof is nearing completion. The master bath has been gutted and is being re-designed. New cabinets and appliances are coming for the kitchen as is new flooring. The second floor plaster work has been completed and the painters are now at work.

- Louise Crans

Courier Editorial Changes

Jeanne Marie Perry will be the new editor of the Christ Church Courier beginning with the August issue. Articles can be sent to her at sadlbum52@aol.com. Many thanks to Jeanne Marie for taking on this position, and to Carlie Graves, for serving as editor over the last year.



Musical Offerings to Continue During Summer

There will be music during the 10AM service throughout the summer, although not necessarily every Sunday. We will be featuring organ and piano music, with special vocal and instrumental soloists from time to time during the summer months. See the back page for the music to be offered on July 1.

BachFest Choir September Concert

The BachFest choir is rehearsing twice a week in the community room to prepare for their performance of Bach's B Minor Mass at Christ Church on Saturday, September 8th at 7:30PM.

Tag Sale and Concert

The concert given by the Cantatrice Art Song Ensemble was enthusiastically attended. Thank you to all who helped organize! It raised \$250 to support the music program at Christ Church.

Also special thanks to Yvonne Poley and Karla Friedle and all the tag sale volunteers. This tag sale was the most successful yet, raising \$1600 for church programs. Many, many thanks to all who volunteered.

- Carlie Graves

ARCS AIDS Walk Saturday, September 29th

Save the date and be a part of the Hudson Valley AIDS Walk on Saturday September 29th. Christ Church will field a team of walkers for this important event.

Psalm

When the world comes down around me
You are ever there.

When my problems are more than I can
handle
You are ever there.

You are the strength that sees me through
When life is more than I can handle.

You are the beauty that fills my life
When everything seems to go wrong.

I can see your strength in your creation
In the strength of all that you have
made.

I can see your beauty in your creation
In the beauty of the world around me.

I can feel your great and constant
presence
When I go to you in prayer.

I can feel your tender love and
compassion
When I look into the eyes of those
around me.

I look around me in awe and wonder
And I know that all that you have made
is right and good.

I get my strength and my joy
In the knowledge that you are ever
there.

- Jeanne Marie Perry

Christ Episcopal Church

Rector: Fr. Blake Rider †

Music Director: Laura Russell

Parish Administrator: Michele Haynes

Property Steward: Notoe Hodge

Rector's Warden: Michael Wood

People's Warden: Michael George

Courier Editorial Board

Marge Bliss, Carlie Graves,
Sally Vasse, Jeanne Marie Perry, Editor

Next Courier Deadline: July 17
Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry
at sadlbum52@aol.com

John Sullivan's Goodbye

Dear Friends,

I am still at a loss for words to say thank you for the wonderful send-off, good wishes, generous gifts and above all the promise of prayers that you offered to me this past Sunday. To say that I will miss you all would be a wild understatement. Christ Church has been my spiritual home for 34 years—an unfaltering source of grace and strength, a place to share joys and find companionship when on the verge of despair. As I leave to begin this new chapter in my life I am comforted to know that God will not only go with me, but remain here with you as well.

Sincerely,
John

Christ Church Goes to the Theater Sunday Evening July 29

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival at Boscobel presents Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. The parish family (and friends) are invited to make an evening of good food, fun, and fellowship in an outing to the Festival, on Sunday July 29th.

Tickets = \$35.00. Seniors & Students = 15% discount. Children 5 – 12 are \$17.50. Depending on the size of the group, we might get a discount. Reserve your ticket as soon as possible, so we can get the best deal. Call or e-mail the parish office to reserve a ticket: 845.452.8220 or christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game Sunday August 19th @ 5:05pm

Batter Up! In August we will be making a trip down to a Hudson Valley Renegade's baseball game. Tickets will cost \$ 5.00 each if we bring together a group of 25 or more. Call or e-mail the parish office to reserve a ticket