

The Courier

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

September 2007

www.christchurchpok.org

Volume 61 – Issue 9



Living Widely – Life in the Parish

Dear Friends,

Living Widely describes the abundant life that is more and more present in our life together in this place.

Our children and youth Christian Formation opportunities will be full and rich this year. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program continues to engage our youngest children, nurturing and encouraging them to grow in the sure knowledge that God is present in their lives, and that God loves them with an abundance that is without measure. As our children mature into youth and young adulthood, the Rite 13 and J2A programs are designed to reinforce that message of God's presence and abundant love, in the midst of their teenage lives – with all the changes, questions, challenges, and perhaps even doubts and uncertainties that especially accompany those years.

Christian Formation is a life-long journey – so look for news in this issue of *The Courier* about a new ecumenical book study group that will kick off in October. We will also have Sunday morning Christian Formation for adults this Fall. Those plans continue to come together – be on the watch for details.

Our Fall Ministry Fair will be held on Sunday, October 7th. This will afford an opportunity for each of us to consider the variety of ministries that abound here at the corner of Barclay and Academy. Ministry outside the parish – by way of engagement with our new Dutchess County Jail ministry. Ministry inside the parish – helping to extend our parish fellowship by way of Receptions and Hospitality ministries; Altar Guild, Wheels for Worship, Ushers – and many others. Come, taste, and see as the Psalmist has encouraged us.

On the last Saturday of this month, in conjunction with our Fall Tag Sale, the parish will host a *Blessing of the Animals* event in our park. We'll be joined in this effort by the congregations at the First Presbyterian and First Congregational churches. If you would like to assist in the design of this program, or be present to welcome the many visitors to our campus that day, please be in touch. And if you have a pet – or the picture of a pet who has entered into glory – or just like to be around pets – stop by the Urban Park on September 29th.

Grace & Peace,

Blake



Rectory Renovation

The rectory kitchen cabinets have been installed and the appliances have arrived. Flooring installation is to begin shortly. The back porch has been insulated and sheet rocked.

Additional plaster work continues and renovations for the master bath have just begun. Our Building Permit has been delayed *again*, but we are hopeful that we will have it soon!

- Louise Crans

Ministry Fair Sunday October 7

A Ministry Fair will be held during the monthly hot breakfast on October 7 at 9AM in the Community Room. Representatives from each of the ministries involved in the church will be available to provide literature and answer questions in an effort to attract new participants.

Hope to see you there! Questions? See Father Blake.

Tag Sale Saturday Sept. 29

A Fall Tag Sale will take place at Christ Church on September 29. Be sure to set aside items that are no longer used but are still in good quality. For more information, please contact the church office.

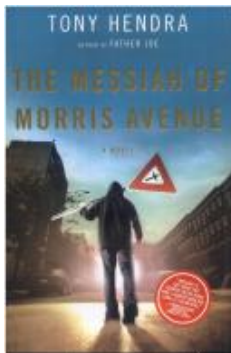
Rectory: The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider
Music Director: Laura Russell
Parish Administrator: Michele Haynes
Property Steward: Notoe Hodge
Rector's Warden: Michael Wood
People's Warden: Michael George

Courier Editorial Board

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

Next Courier Deadline: September 21
Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry at
sadlbum52@aol.com

Ecumenical Study Group



Participants of the 2007 Lenten study from First Presbyterian Church, First Congregational Church and Christ Episcopal Church indicated they would like to study together again.

We have selected Tony Hendra's novel, *The Messiah of Morris Avenue* to read and discuss on four successive Wednesdays, starting October 3, 2007?

Hendra's modern-day characters help us hear and experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ with new ears and passion. The book can be purchased locally or via the Amazon link on our parish website homepage: www.christchurchpok.org.

In response to feedback from the Lent study group, this Fall group will be offered at two different times – depending upon whether a daytime group works best for you, or if an evening group is better suited.

Wednesdays – Noon – 1:30pm
Christ Episcopal Church

Bring your own brown-bag lunch and book – beverages provided

Wednesdays – 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Congregational Church

Bring your book. Dessert/beverage provided

This novel is set in 'the projects' of a hypothetical Christian American in the future – where Church and State are no longer separated – but rather joined at the hip. It is a little 'edgy' – so be prepared for some perhaps rough images and language.

- Blake+

Rector calls for new Reception Ministry

As renewed parish activity begins to get under this Fall we are bringing together a new Receptions Committee. Plans are coming together for Concerts Con Brio (with receptions following four of the concerts); Stewardship Gatherings in the newly renovated Rectory; monthly Newcomer Open Houses, and more, I cannot ask the wonderful team of parishioners who bring together our monthly Hot Parish Breakfast to also undertake all of these new activities without an influx of new folk.

You might have an interest in being a part of this ministry for a program year, for a season, maybe just once and awhile, or perhaps only for one event. All are welcome! You don't need to be either a cook, an event planner, or be able to design flowers. Many hands will make light work and help to continue this wonderful ministry and tradition of our parish.

If you are interested in helping to provide this extended new ministry of hospitality which has long been a hallmark of our parish, please be in touch with me at 845.452.8220 or rector@christchurchpok.org

- Blake+

The Rev. Gerald W. Keucher to Preach and Teach on Sunday, September 23rd

A long-time friend of our parish, Diocese of New York Chief of Finance and Operations, will be in Poughkeepsie at the end of the month. Jerry will preach at both services on that Sunday, and lead a dialogue discussion about Stewardship at Adult Education following the 10:00am service

Fall Stewardship Campaign

This fall our stewardship and annual pledge campaign celebrates the reopening of the Parish House as the Rectory. Gatherings will feature a slide show of the renovation and a discussion of stewardship at Christ Church.

You are invited to a celebration of stewardship at the newly renovated Rectory. We will hold three events, each with an identical program.

Sunday, October 7 at Noon
Sunday, October 14 at 5:00pm
Sunday, October 21 at Noon

After more than a year of nomadic living, Fr. Blake is nearing the time when he will have a home and a gracious space for extending parish hospitality. We give thanks to God for this blessing. Reservations will be taken beginning mid-September. Children are welcome at each of the gatherings.

First Day of Sunday School

September 9th for Catechesis
September 16 for Rite 13 & J2A

The downstairs rooms are being cleaned and painted and put back together in preparation for Sunday School. New teachers and old have been working together to be ready for Sunday School to begin on September 9th for Levels I and II of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Cynthia Lee and Jennifer Hammond-King will return this year as lead teachers with a new crew of assistants.

Rite 13 and J2A classes - for middle and high schoolers - will begin on Sunday, September 16th. This year, both of these groups will meet at 11:30am. Rite 13 teachers are John McCleary and Mary Flad with Jeanne Marie Perry as backup. Celia Serotsky and Harvey Flad are serving as teachers for the J2A class with Jackie Vierno and Martha Thornley as backups/

There will be a parent meeting for all levels from age 3-18 on Sunday, September 9th after the 10 o'clock service. Thanks to all who give of their time and energy towards the spiritual development of our children.

Be a Part of EfM – Education for Ministry



EfM is a program of in-depth theological education developed by the School of Theology of the University of the South. Groups of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor meet for two and a half to three hours every week over the course of a typical school year.

Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom. In the first part of the seminars, members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them. In the second part of the seminars, participants use scripture, text or personal experience to try to find and understand the presence of God in their everyday lives.

There are several EfM groups that meet in the Poughkeepsie area. Depending upon interest within our community, we could host a group here at Christ Episcopal Church. If you would like more information, contact Jeanne Marie Perry who is participating in a group located in Westchester County or speak to Fr. Blake.

Additional information can be found on the website:
www.sewanee.edu/EfM/index.htm

Region II Stewardship Conference

On Saturday, July 28, the members of the Christ Church Stewardship Committee attended a conference at the Cathedral House in the Diocese of Newark. The conference was led by Terry Parsons, Staff Officer for Stewardship for the National Church.

The most important point that was raised at the meeting was that people attend church for different reasons. Beyond that, our individual needs affect the types of programs for which each person is looking. In order to effectively minister to the congregation and encourage participation in the overall life of the church, church leaders need to understand the needs and expectations of each member of the parish.



Overall, the meeting's emphasis on stewardship as part of individual spirituality

was very enlightening.

- Jeanne Marie Perry

Christ Church Goes to the Ball Game

On Sunday, August 19, several parishioners and friends of Christ Church attended an action-packed Hudson Valley Renegades baseball



game at Dutchess Stadium. The Hudson Valley Renegades managed to beat the Aberdeen Ironbirds by a whopping 8 – 4

And on the Sixth Day, God said It was good!

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, September 29th at 1:00pm



Urban Park at Christ Episcopal Church
20 Carroll Street in Poughkeepsie



Presented by:

Christ Episcopal Church
First Congregational Church
First Presbyterian Church

Water, Treats & Medallions *for the Pets*
Food and Drink *for the Humans*

All pets must be safely
under control: leash, carrier, etc.

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all*

For more information

845.452.8220

www.christchurchpok.org

A New Place to Set – For Everyone

Thanks Be to God – the appeal launched this summer by the Vestry to provide new pew cushions and accessible seating to those living with disabilities is a success.

The overwhelmingly generous response by members of the parish was wonderfully echoed in the response from ‘friends of the parish’. Many former members who have relocated to other parts of the country have stayed in contact with the parish. The goal of replacing our old pew cushions and making modifications to the pews for wheelchair seating was presented to ‘friends of the parish’ and many of them responded in marvelous fashion.

It is with joyful thanksgiving to God that we are able to announce sufficient gifts have been made to this campaign so that we will be able to replace the cushions, inclusive of: All the pews in the nave

- ❖ All the pews in the choir transept
- ❖ The kneeling cushions at the altar rail
- ❖ The kneeling cushions used at weddings
- ❖ Even seat cushions for the Rector & Acolytes!

It is also our desire to provide seating that does not require being either behind a column or in the Crossing for those in wheelchairs and with other disabilities. Conversations are underway with several area carpenters to determine the most practical way to modify several of the pews. This aspect of the project will be undertaken with the greatest of care and deliberation to preserve the dignity of the architecture of the nave, while at the same time respecting the dignity of those who come to this place to worship.

Following is a list of those who have subscribed to the support of this project, as of August 31st. We will be preparing a *Book of Remembrance* to permanently record these gifts – including the notation regarding a gift being in memory or honor of an individual. Please contact the office if we have made an error in recording your gift.

Given to the Glory of God by

Joan Alrdich	John & Pat Isbirian
Jane Belford	John Ferrell
Jim & Marge Bliss	Anthony Kalicicki & Nicole Beck
Sandra Braundgard	Nicholas & Barbara Lupoli
Jim & Kathy Brown	Mary Maltzoff
Juliett Butler	Carlie Graves & John McCleary
Vivan Cadbury	Barry & Jean Menuiez
Cope Craven	Dave Newsome
Joe & Mary Lou Crown	Kay Pearson
Stephen & Amith Currie	Marcia Richter
Michael & Anna Decordova	Nino Romano
Noel & Deborah Decordova	Bob & Diane Sherer
John & Cynthia Diwiddie	Anne Strain
Paul Frazer & Laura Russell	Dennis Swetz
Michael & Phyllis George	Bob & Ellie Vermillion
Carla Gude	Jackie Vierno
Louise Im	Sean White
	Michael Wood

To the Glory of God and in Memory of

Arthur Ackert, Sr.

by Arthur & Karen Ackert, and
John & Ruth Ackert

Eleanor, Anthony & Anthony Jr. Germinaro

by Hugo & Arlene Becker

Lawrence & Jeannie Scott

by Louise Crans

Loyd E. Lee

by Cynthia Lee and Ruth Anderson

John M. Fairbanks

by Ruth Fairbanks

Charles Arena

by Catherina Arena & Nancy Lutz

John Easton

by Lillian Easton

Kardyne Steacy, Harvey's Sister

by Harvey & Mary Flad

John Macquarrie

by Robert & Evelyn Fortna

Barbara B. Gifford

by Pres Gifford

Elmer & Mabel Quick

by Lillian Goldsbury

Elsa & John Butler

by Gail & Lavergne Gardner

Horace & Lois Graham

by Michael & Clare Graham

Barbara Mary Conibear Harmelink

by Herman Harmelink

Adelia W. Puff, Clarence Puff, and

Winston Long, Sr.

by Elizabeth Long

The Very Rev. Joseph Im And Maria Choi

by Sam Im

Kirk Rumble

by Ben & Judith Kohl

Robert Mansfield Edelin & Charles S. Johnson II

by Norma & Jeh Johnson

Patti Leach

by Alexander & Karin MacPhail

Edmund Burke, Episcopal Priest 1821-1890

by James & Christine Oppenheimer

Stephen Lacobee

by The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider

Bob & Will Rogers Rider, Sr.

by The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider

William H. Rhodes, Jr.

by Barbara Rhodes

Carl Tarricone

by Arnie & Celcia Serotsky

Charles Seifts

by Margaret Seifts

Frederick Schultz

by Suzanne Schultz

Helen Garnot

by Ralph A. Smith

The Rev. Carl Stridsberg

by Albert Stridsberg

Pamela Moran

by Martha & Jim Thornley

The Rt. Rev. William Weinbauer, 17th Rector of
Christ Episcopal Church

by Jean Weinbauer

To the Glory of God and in Honor of

Our living former Rectors:

The Revs. Rhys Williams, John Kater,
David Tomme, and Michael Phillips
by The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider

Pat & Steve Snider

By Anne Snider Reece

The ministry in music to this parish of John Sullivan
by The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider

The ministry of the Choir at Christ Episcopal Church
the pew cushions in the Choir transept
are given by Eric and Tammie Zavadil

Almighty God, all times are your seasons, and all occasions invite your tender mercies: Accept our prayers and intercessions offered in the parish of Christ Church. We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of your people, and for the work of many hands, which have beautified this place and furnished it for the celebration of your holy mysteries. Accept and bless all that our mothers and fathers in the faith have done before us; what we do in our own generation; and what our children's children will do in the days to come. Grant that in these earthly things we may behold the order and beauty of things heavenly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Grounds Receive a Clean Up

Thanks to Anne Strain, who directed the wonderful crew from Organic Matters to the Christ Church grounds in late August. All of the hedges received a thorough trimming, weeding, and general cleaning up.' The property looks much, much tidier for the beginning of the fall program activities. Thanks, Anne!

Mid-Week Eucharist

The weekly mid-week Eucharist is moving to 11:00am on Wednesdays.

Lunch N Listen Series to feature Organist Eric Hepp

The free Lunch N Listen concert series will present Eric Hepp, organist of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Wednesday, September 12, at noon.

The concert will showcase recent additions to the organ in the first phase of its restoration and will feature works by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Dubois, Frank, Bales and Lasky. The Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran will be open at 11:30 a.m. for "brown-baggers," with coffee and tea provided. Light refreshments will be provided at 12:45 p.m. following the concert.

Community of Hope in the Hudson Valley



The Community of Hope trains volunteer lay people to participate in Christian communities committed to pastoral care. Pastoral care is when a person is being "present" in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously or unconsciously representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs.

This training is considered to be especially effective for those considering our new jail/prison ministry. Local Community of Hope lay pastoral training will begin Sept 9th for 10 weeks, Sunday afternoons from 2-5pm at Grace Church in Millbrook. One of the sessions will be taught by Father Blake. Those interested please contact Alice Bunnell at 452-7031.

Upcoming Events Order of St. Helena's, Vail's Gate

website: www.osh.org

tel: 845-562-0592

email: vailsgateconvent@osh.org

September 7-9: *Vessel of Peace* led by Sr Ellen Stephen, OSH

A retreat on the spirituality of emptiness and fullness with themes from her book, *Vessel of Peace: A Guide for Pilgrims of the Spirit*, recently re-issued by Abingdon Press. ES will offer these meditations: "Making space for the 'sound of sheer silence'", "What do we choose to empty ourselves of and how?", "What do we choose to fill us?" and "Our supreme fulfillment, the Eucharist."

September 14-16: "*R and R*" at St Helena's: A Twelve Step Retreat led by Br Brice Byczynski, FMS

Join with similar-minded individuals seeking and sharing the blessings of the "spiritual steps" of our common journey of recovery. Give your God/Higher Power time to teach you and to reveal the path to a fuller life in the purposes and practices of a "more sober, saner, and more spiritual life."

October 12-14: *River of Joy*, watering the seeds of everyday happiness through spiritual practice, led by the Rev Dr James Jones and Dr Kathleen Bishop

Are some people just born happy or can happiness be learned? Is happiness a worthwhile spiritual goal? Explore these topics in light of Christian teachings along with findings gleaned from the emerging field of positive psychology in this weekend retreat. *River of Joy* will alternate periods of contemplative practice with times of experiential learning.

Registration for all events: Registration due 3 days prior to start of retreat. Full weekend cost is \$150, which includes 6 meals and lodging.

Upcoming Events Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY

www.holycrossmonastery.com

845-384-6660

email: bede@hcmnet.org

September 10 – 14 (Monday – Friday): It's All Greek to Me. A one-week introduction Led by Canon Tony Cayless

In this one-week intensive program participants will learn the basics of how to read and understand enough Greek to read the prologue of St. John's Gospel, and the Lord's Prayer in the original text. Although participants do not need to know a word of Greek before the program, this program will also be of interest to those who have some Greek, but have forgotten much of what they learned. All materials will be provided. Fee \$600; Deposit \$100

September 25 – 28 (Tuesday - Friday): The Tent of this Kingdom -A Retreat for Adults Who Work With Youth Led by Br. Randy Greven/OHC and Jenifer Gamber.

Youth leaders are invited to gather for a time of renewal, refreshment, and inspiration on the peaceful banks of the Hudson River. This retreat is designed to encourage those who work with youth in their personal journey and equip them with new perspectives and insights for ministry. Together we will engage in a creative balance of readings, discussion, presentations, and individual and corporate prayer, including the daily rhythm of the monastic offices. Drawing on the wisdom of St. Benedict grounded in the practicalities of life in community, Br. Randy and Jenifer will explore the places and ways of identity and growth, acceptance and holiness - the "tents" we live in and offer to youth - and how they form and fit us for our goal, the Kingdom of God. Fee \$300; Deposit \$80.

BachFest at Christ Church



Saturday September 8 at 3:30 pm

Chamber Music by J.S. Bach
Tickets: \$10 at the door

Saturday September 8 at 7:30 pm

Bach's B Minor Mass
Tickets: \$10 at the door

Brass Roots Trio - American Vespers

Friday September 14, 2007 at 8:00 pm

Horn, Piano, Trumpet and a brilliant Tenor explode into an extraordinary blend of classical chamber music with Shaker & Appalachian melodies, Southern Spirituals, Gospel, jazz and sacred music. American Vespers is a program you don't want to miss.

Tickets: \$20; \$5 for children 12 and under



Gourmet Food Groups



Beginning in September you will have the opportunity to enjoy fine dining and good company in the homes of several members of the parish. Here's how it works: each host/hostess will provide a complete dinner; those of us who enjoy the dinners will pay \$25 each; all of the proceeds go to the parish.

Make sure that you come to church on Sunday, September 9th, to sign up for the dinner you want to attend. The parish office will take phone reservations, beginning Tuesday, September 11th.

Friday, Sept. 14th

A Mediterranean Meal with leg of lamb

Home of Jim and Kathy Brown - \$25 per seat – 8 seats available

Sunday September 16

Dining at the Copper Penny Inn

Local Lamb with a bountiful harvest from the host's garden, home grown, home made, and organic

Home of Mike and Anna DeCordova – \$25 per seat – 8 seats available

Friday Sept. 21st

Indian cuisine with a full Indian experience

Prepared by friends who are visiting from India

Home of Susan Russell and Carol Reichart – \$35 per seat – 6 seats available

Friday Sept. 28th

Italian – all Barone family recipes

Home of Jim and Marge Bliss – \$25 per seat – 8 seats available

Sunday, Sept. 30th

Fusion of Contemporary American and Classical French

Prepared by Paul Frazer, Jr., a graduate of the CIA

Home of Paul Frazer and Laura Russell – \$25 per seat – 8 seats available



Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

Sunday September 23

**4:30pm - Organ Recital by Craig S. Williams,
Organist at Cadet Chapel, West Point**

5:00pm - Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong is a service of reflection - of leaving oneself open that God may speak to us through the psalms and readings and canticles, hymns, and anthems which are the core of the service.

In the Anglican tradition music finds a unique and natural setting in the ancient office of Evensong, a combination of the medieval offices of Vespers and Compline found in the Book of Common Prayer. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way.

Presented in conjunction with our local AGO Chapter, this service will feature several different organists from a variety of faith traditions. The service is open to all. A Reception will follow in the Chapel and Crossing.

Incense Alert - this service will include incense in the procession.

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:00am Eucharist and Sermon – *A quiet, traditional service.*

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

10:00 am Sunday School

11:30am Christian Formation for Youth & Adults

Wednesdays – *note new day - 11 AM Eucharist In the Rector's Study.*

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