

# The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220  
September 2008 [www.christchurchpok.org](http://www.christchurchpok.org) Volume 62 – Issue 8



## Rectory House Blessing and Rededication with Bishop Sisk

4:00pm on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

At the end of this month Bishop Sisk will be with us at Christ Church to rededicate and bless the Rectory at the corner of Barclay and Carroll Streets. The Rectory was built in 1903, and dedicated as the *Albert Tower, Jr. Memorial Rectory*.

It was Mr. Tower who provided fully 50% of the cost of building the 1888 Church, as well as 100% of the Church Tower built the following year. Mr. Tower was truly the great benefactor of the parish at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Following his death, his family made a further gift to the parish, in the form of the Rectory dedicated to his memory.

We are not sure how the Rectory was used in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Rev. Alexander Griswold Cummins (Rector from 1900-1947) no doubt resided there following its construction in 1903. Following his marriage, he and his wife Evelyn Atwater Cummins resided in Atwater family homes in Poughkeepsie. Following the retirement of the Rev. Cummins, we know that the Rectory provided a home for successive Rectors: James A. Pike, Robert Terwilliger; Rhys Williams; William G. Weinbauer; and John L. Kater, Jr.

Following the 1982 fire that destroyed the 1920's era Parish House (approximately where the parking lot near the playground is now located) The Rev. John Kater moved out of the Rectory and into private housing. The Rectory then became the 'Christ Church Parish House' – where it experienced almost 25 years of service to the parish and community. In 2006, following the arrival of Fr. Blake as our 21<sup>st</sup> Rector, renovation began to return the Rectory to its original intended use as a home.

Plan to be present on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, as the Bishop recognizes the blessing that this building has always been to the Parish and the larger community, and dedicates it anew as a home.

In addition to the current Rectory on the parish campus, earlier Rectories of Christ Church include, among others: what is known as the 'Glebe House' on Main Street; a home on the corner of Academy & Cannon (the site currently of a deli and bar); and a home located on the corner of Barclay & Hamilton (at the site of the present day River Church parking lot).

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## Update on First Presbyterian Potential Move to the Christ Church Campus

We have heard from our friends at FPC in Poughkeepsie that they *will not* be seeking to relocate their worshipping community to the Christ Church campus. After a season of discernment and prayer, First Pres will relocate to the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church. We wish them Godspeed on their journey.

## Tower Update



On August 24, 2008, Barry Donaldson of Lichten Craig Architects, LLP provided an update to the parish on the tower restoration. Barry started off with pictures of the scaffolding erected in February of this year and brought us up to date with pictures of the restored cross and cap stones. In February and March, when cold winds were blowing, stones were marked for removal or retooling. One of the first actions was to remove the trees growing in the spire. This necessitated removal of stonework before the roots could be removed. Herbicides were applied to the finer roots that formed a web in the brick

masonry behind that stonework.

Following the resetting of the stones, the spire and dormers were cleaned so a match with new stone could be achieved. The change in the color has been dramatic. The stones marked for removal or for removal of the facing to accept "dutchman" have been removed. A particular area of note is the frieze around the base of the spire where several rusticated stones required removal and replacement. These rusticated stones are interspersed with carved decorative stones of acanthus leaves of various designs that have remained remarkably intact. Cleaning them has revealed their intricate and decorative design.

The issue of stone textures has also been a subject of serious consideration. Weathering has obliterated some of the various textures carved into the stones. In some instances, recarving the texture has been an option. Where stones are to be replaced, there has been a requirement that the new carved stones match the original design. This is being achieved with a combination of carving by the stone supplier and additional finish carving by the stone masons of Monaco Restorations, Inc on site.

The most recent work has secured the wobbly cross at the top of the spire. Several of the top solid blocks of stone had to be removed, assessed for their integrity, repaired with epoxy and stainless steel clips, and reinstalled before securing the cross. Repointing of the entire spire has been completed with mortar made to the specification of the contract and matched to the original. Lightning protection is being installed from the top of the cross to base of the structure and grounded on the water pipes on the Academy St. side of the undercroft.

The scaffolding at the top of the spire will be removed the first week of September, soon to be followed by the scaffolding on the east, south and west elevations. Work will continue on the restoration of the north elevation down to the ground. Expected completion is mid-October.

The many benefactors of this work have been faithful to their monetary pledges, and include the State of New York Environmental Protection Fund, the Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Trust, New York Landmarks Conservancy, The Episcopal Diocese of New York, the McCann Foundation, and The Jeanette Schlobach Trust as well as the parishioners of Christ Church. Our thanks also go to Monaco Restorations, Inc. for their incredible attention to detail and skill in the restoration of this stonework, and to Lichten Craig Architects, whose on-site representative, Barry Donaldson, has provided consistent and professional inspection of the work being accomplished.

## Drop-in Time for Women

The Community Ministry Team is exploring the possibility of providing the Newton Community Room for a weekly drop-in time during the day for women in our neighborhood and community to come for activities – such as yoga, exercise, zumba, knitting, quilting, or any similar activity. Perhaps on a Friday morning, or any day after 2pm.

Would you be interested? Do you know someone who would be interested in this kind of opportunity? It would be free of charge, and open to all. It would be a social service and fellowship opportunity for women who are in need of a place and time for healthy activity with other women.

Please contact Fr. Blake to discuss any ideas or if you would like to volunteer.

### Christ Episcopal Church

**Rector:** The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider  
**Music Director:** Laura Russell  
**Parish Administrator:** Michele Haynes

**Property Steward:** Notoe Hodge  
**Rector's Warden:** Michael George  
**People's Warden:** Bill Moran

### Courier Editorial Board

Sally Vasse, Marge Bliss,  
Jeanne Marie Perry, Editor

### Next Courier Deadline: Sep 19, 2008

Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry at [sadlbum52@aol.com](mailto:sadlbum52@aol.com)

## Grounds Update

You may have noticed that the lawn this year has not been quite as manicured as last year. In 2007, we had weekly lawn service provided by Lehigh Landscaping, and the lawn was mowed and trimmed weekly. The service that Lehigh provided was exemplary. In reviewing the needs of the parish in 2008, it was determined that we could better use some of the lawn money for other property issues, and Dan Plunket, who did our plowing over the winter, offered to mow the lawn on a bi-weekly basis.

The weather this year has provided us with a green and growing lawn, which occasionally looks a bit long at the end of 2 weeks. But we want you to understand that the money saved on lawn mowing has been used for other property purposes.

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## Sunday School Resues September 14th

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum for our pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children will resume at 10:00am on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Teachers Jennifer Hammond-King and Cynthia Lee will once again lead our children through the stories of our faith and the primary lesson that the Good Shepherd of us all loves them unconditionally.

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## News From Summer Camp

The last day of our 6 week summer camp ended Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Reports from Campers, Parents, Friends and Staff indicate that it was a wonderful 6 weeks.

Assistant Director Christina put together a slideshow that was presented during our Celebration on the last night of camp. You can view the video by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search for "center of the square camp" in the search box.

One of our goals is to have all the campers experience as many educational and fun activities as possible within the 6 weeks of this camp. As you will see in this slideshow, we did just that!

*The Center of the Square  
Denise Quis*

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## Feeding the Homeless

*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

*Matthew 25:35*

One evening every month members of Christ Church's Community Ministry Team go the Hillcrest House, an overnight shelter providing services for up to fifty homeless adults each night of the week. As part of the shelter's Adopt-A-Night program, volunteers staff the shelter from 8:30pm until 11:00pm and provide the guests with a light meal and friendly conversation.

We go in teams of three and new volunteers are always teamed up with more experienced ones. Volunteers are usually scheduled to serve about once every six months. Participants in this program often feel that they are the ones who have been truly blessed by this experience. One volunteer summed it up as follows:

*The best part of this ministry is in the appreciation expressed by the guests, our homeless brothers and sisters. I'll never forget seeing "the face of Christ" in one man that night in June, and hearing the thanks expressed by many.*

In order for us to continue with this important ministry to some of God's least fortunate children, additional volunteers are needed to help prepare the food – at your home or the church. Volunteers are also needed to staff the hours at Hillcrest House. If you would like to volunteer for this outreach program, please contact Jeanne Marie Perry at [sadlbum52@aol.com](mailto:sadlbum52@aol.com).

*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40b NRSV*

**Join the Sisters at the Convent of Saint Helena  
in worship and prayer, rest and retreat...**

**Sep 19-21 There Is A Balm in Gilead, Christian Resources for  
Cultivating Wholeness with Dr Kathleen Bishop and the Rev Dr James  
Jones.**

Difficult emotional states such as anger, fear and depression produce acute stress that can lead to illness of body, mind and spirit. Our Christian tradition provides images of safety and refuge, dwelling places where we might say, "The Lord is at my side, therefore I will not fear". This workshop's intent is to lift up mind-states that heal from the deep well of traditional Christian spirituality and teach participants how to train the heart and mind to dwell in them. \$225 includes program, lodging and meals.



This is the last program that will be offered at the Convent in Vails Gate. The Order of St. Helena is closing this Convent, as well as the house in Manhattan. They are consolidating all of their members to the Convent in Georgia. We will miss their presence – as individuals and as an Order – in the Mid-Hudson

The Convent of Saint Helena • PO Box 426 • Vails Gate NY 12584 • 845-562-0592 • VailsGateConvent@osh.org

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**SPIRITUAL FORMATION POSSIBILITIES**

In order to plan for some of the specific activities that generated the most interest at the recent 'Dot Survey', the results have been distilled below. If you have an interest in any of these proposed activities, please take a moment to let the parish office know. You may use this page of the Courier as a worksheet and return it to the office, or send a note via email, or by phone.

You are invited to check as many options as you choose. A discussion will be initiated among those who express common interests.

**Book Groups**

Novels – Theological & otherwise; Church History; Theology;  
Meditative Studies; Study of the Book of Common Prayer

**Focus Groups**

Environment; World Hunger; Church Issues; Justice For All follow-up/actions;  
Interaction with Guadalupe congregation

**Arts & the Spirit** – Visual Arts; Liturgical Drama; Drumming; Liturgical Dance; Poetry; Journaling

**Bible Study** – Small groups; Bible Basics; Lectionary, Etc.

**Prayer & Meditation Groups** – Instruction and Practice

**Work on specific Intergenerational Activities** –  
Bringing together childhood, youth, and adult spiritual formation

**Weekday Play Groups** for toddlers

**Retreats**

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## Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm



Bring your pet to the Christ Church

Walley Playground on Saturday afternoon, October 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll sing a little; play a little; thank God for the gift of all creatures great and small; and anoint the little critters with oil, a blessing, and a pray. Invite your friends & neighbors to bring their pets – this is a wonderful and unique demonstration of our parish hospitality.

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## Hot Parish Breakfast Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

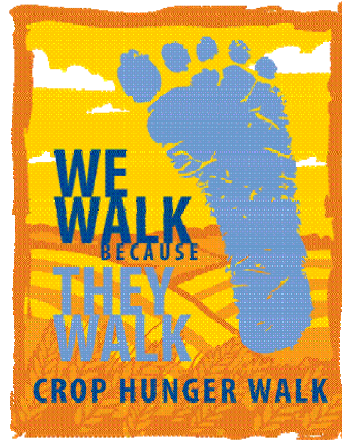


Join the parish family as we set-down for our monthly Parish Breakfast on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Serving will

begin at 9:00 and continue until 9:45am. Bring along a plate of sweets or fruit for the table if you'd like – and why not bring a friend to breakfast and to church, as well?

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## Crop Walk Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>



Christ Church will once again field a team of walkers in the annual Crop Walk, organized locally by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council.

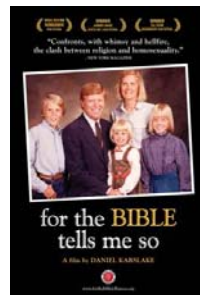
You'll have a chance to support the Crop Walk – either as a walker, or by making a pledge in support of our Team – during the month of October at church, or by emailing [office@christchurchpok.org](mailto:office@christchurchpok.org).

Walkers from our parish will be commissioned at the end of the 10:00am Eucharist on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>, and lead

the procession at the end of the liturgy – going forth *to do the work that God has given them to do*.

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## For the Bible Tells Me So Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm Newton Community Room



Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating homosexuals and Christianity too wide to cross? How can the Bible be used to justify hate? These are the questions at the heart of Daniel Karlslake's *For The Bible Tells Me So*. This provocative, entertaining film concisely reconciles homosexuality and a literal interpretation of Biblical scripture.

Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families – including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson – we discover how people of faith handle, or sometimes tragically fail to handle, having a gay child.

Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, *For The Bible Tells Me So*. offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

No admission charge. Bring family, friends & neighbors. Refreshments will be available – as well as a time for discussion following the movie.

**Diocesan Choral Evensong  
Honoring 25+ Year Members of Parish Altar Guilds  
Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**



Join the Episcopal Diocese of New York at Christ Episcopal Church as we host a service of Choral Evensong, held in honor of members of parish Altar Guilds from across the Mid-Hudson Region who have served twenty-five years or more.

Our Parish Choir will provide leadership in the service, with other area choirs invited to participate. Celebrant for the service will be The Rt Rev. E. Don Taylor, Assisting Bishop of the diocese.

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**Youth Program Fall Kick-Off  
Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
Lunch at the Rectory**

Calling all Christ Episcopal Church Middle School & High School Youth, Parents and Sponsors! Our Fall season of Christian Formation and social events will begin on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> with Lunch in the Rectory at Noon.

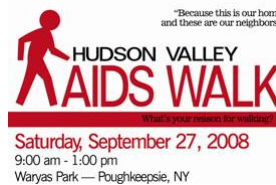
This will be an opportunity for conversation between the Teachers and Parents of the Rite 13 and J2A Programs, as well as the J2A/Confirmation Sponsors. Bring the entire family – don't leave anybody home because they are too young. Everybody can enjoy lunch – and we'll have something to keep the younger set occupied.

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**Annual Hudson Valley AIDS Walk  
Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Look for opportunities to join the walking team – or support our team with your financial contribution – during the next few weeks. Christ Church will be fielding a team in this year's walk. Details on participation as a walker will be available in the Newton Community Room, and via the parish webpage.

You can make a pledge of financial support for the parish team on any Sunday in early September, or by emailing [office@christchurchpok.org](mailto:office@christchurchpok.org).



*Did you know that the Hudson Valley has the highest rate of new HIV infection in NY outside of New York City?*

**Property & Grounds  
Clean-Up Day**



**Saturday  
September  
20<sup>th</sup>**

In anticipation of Bishop Sisk's rededication of the Rectory, make plans to spend an hour or two helping to spruce up the Church & Rectory grounds on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll start at 8:30am with lots of coffee, juice, and pastries – and a long, long list of tasks to undertake. There are projects large and small – weeding, raking, trimming, planting, and just generally tidying up.

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**Save the Date!  
Fall Tag Sale  
Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**



It's time to start your Fall cleaning and setting aside your collectibles for the parish's Fall Tag Sale in October.

Late in the week prior to the Tag Sale, we will be able to come by your home and pick up any items that you can't get to the church.



## Upcoming Concerts Con Brio Presentations at Christ Church

**Friday, 9/19** at 7:30PM: Vocal Concert *Serious Business*

Hugo Wolf songs from the Moerike-Lieder, Vaughan Williams' "On Wenlock Edge", and Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder". Benedikt Kellner, tenor and Maria Rivera White, piano. Suggested donation: \$12

**Sunday, 10/12** at 4:00PM: *The songs of Max Reger - Little known out-of-print gems and masterpieces*

A concert of Max Reger songs sung by Sarah Levine Simon, Peter Ludwig, Christine Howlett, Shirley Perkins, Barbara Hardgrave, and James Ruff. Suggested donation: \$12

**Friday, 10/24** at 7:30PM: *Vocal Concert of English and American Art Songs and Folk Songs*

Performed by Paul Frazer, baritone and Laura Russell, piano. Music by Barber, Copland, Britten and Vaughan Williams. Suggested donation: \$12

**Sunday, 11/9** at 4:00PM: Evensong Service honoring Altar Guilds from the Mid-Hudson Region of the Diocese. Region-wide Episcopal Choir. Freewill offering

**Friday, 11/14** at 7:30PM: "American Songbook: An evening of 20th Century American Art Song"; songs by Barber, Ives, Bernstein, Libby Larsen, and John Musto. Shana Andrawis, soprano. Suggested donation: \$12

**Saturday, 11/22** at 8:00PM: The Kairos Consort will join the SUNY-New Paltz Concert Choir, College-Community Chorale and Chamber Singers in concert featuring *The Ecstasies Above* by British composer Tarik O'Regan. The work is scored for chamber chorus and string quartet and is based on the Edgar Allen Poe poem *Israfel*. The concert will also feature Bach's motet *Fürchte dich nicht* and Beethoven's *Elegischer Gesang, Op. 118*. Suggested donation: \$12

**Sunday, 12/21**: Advent Lessons & Carols Service - organ prelude at 4:30; service at 5:00PM Freewill offering

**Wednesday, 12/24** at 10:30 PM: Christmas Eve Choir Concert: Benjamin Britten "Ceremony of Carols". 11:00PM Festival Communion Service with Christmas Hymns and Readings. Freewill offering

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### Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk – October 11 at 9AM

The annual Memory Walk is the Alzheimer's Association's signature national event bringing together family, friends, caregivers and concerned community members — who all want to make a difference. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$200 million to help those battling Alzheimer's disease.

**Where:** Dutchess County, NY Dutchess Community College

**When:** Saturday, October 11

**Check In:** 9:00 am

**Length:** About 3 miles

Sign up to be a part of the Christ Church Team – either as a Walker or by making a donation.

Sign-up forms are at the church, or contact Jeanne Marie Perry: [sqadlbum52@aol.com](mailto:sqadlbum52@aol.com) or 845-878-7533

## Worship Schedule

### Sundays

**8 AM Eucharist and Sermon**

*A quiet, traditional service.*

**10 AM Eucharist with Music**

*Childcare available in the nursery.*

**10 AM Sunday School**

**11:30 AM Rite 13 and J2A**

**1 PM Misa en Español**

### Wednesdays

**11 AM Eucharist**

## Faith and the Public Square

### Adult Forum

**Sunday October 12 & 19th**



On successive Sundays in October we will hold Adult Forums that will focus a conversation on the issue of the role of religion in the public square, particularly within the context of our American tradition of democratic deliberation.

Our consideration will be directed toward the question of whether or not public policy decisions in the political arena should be influenced by our religious beliefs. Dr. Andrei

A. Buckareff, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Marist College will present one side of the question, with Dr. John Knight, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Coordinator, Catholic Studies Program at Marist presenting the contra position.

Andrei, along with his wife Lara Kasper, is a member of Christ Church. John is a regular participant in our worshiping community, as is his wife The Rev. Melody Knowles and their children Ella and Johnny.

This series is both timely and thought-provoking. Don't miss it!



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

845-452-8220

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

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