

The Courier

Volume 59, Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2005

DO YOU MEAN ME? YES, YOU.

Inside This Issue

Journey/Note from God	2
Eyes Wide Open	3
Help Wanted/Haitian Art/Holy Cross/Newsletter	4
Trail Bosses	5
Doing Church	6 & 7
Annual Meeting/Breakfast/Adult Forum	8
Advertisements	9
Ways in the wilderness	10
Calendar	11

“Sending particular messages to particular people or groups of people by writing to a general audience is always risky. But there are two reasons to do it.

One reason is that every bit of news can’t be tailored specifically for each person or group, and the other is that we often hear better when we overhear. Consider that the following messages may or may not be for you, but that you are hereby entitled to listen in.”

“The subject is money, and how money supports the spiritual and temporal mission of Christ Church. C’mon, don’t tune out now---just about 350 words to go.”

“First, I’m talking to **you who give generously**, on the record, in proportion, (often growing proportion) of what you have. Blessed are you. Thanks be to God for you. You are those who don’t have to be asked more than once. Many of you give because it’s embedded in your souls to do so. You’ve made it a joyful habit. You know the spiritual and psychological benefits of proportional giving.”

“I’m also talking to **you who do all the above and do it by pledging early** in the year (or before the calendar year begins). Blessed are you. We take fiscal governance and stewardship very seriously here, but there’s a limit to how far we can budget without real pledges in hand.”

“And **you who give but without a pledge card** and---surprise!---on no fixed schedule and often late in the year. Your giving matters. Blessed are you. You’re on the way to the real thing, which is purposeful, proportional giving “off the top.” It’s taken plenty of us years to understand and incorporate that practice in our lives. Keep at it.”

“And **you who have given before, but not yet this year**. We count on you. We are patient. You have shown---a goodly percentage of you---that you’ll come through. It’s no secret that we have built a certain part of our income budget on you. Enough said.”

“And yes, I’m talking to **you who** (may be in any of the above categories and still) **insist—based on wishful or willful thinking, or bad information, or all of these--- that Christ Church is “rich”** because of our endowment and therefore you’re off the hook. While in the past we have funded approximately 30 to 40% of our budget from endowment income, that amount has been declining steadily over the last few years.”

“And finally **you who are new or otherwise haven’t yet given**. Join in this great family committed to a generous, exciting, growing ministry. It will be the most satisfying gift on your list---or at least I believe so.”

“All of you: watch for the Pony Express, our fall giving campaign, and give as generously as you can to the life and work of Christ Church.”

“Yes, **you.**”

The Stewardship Committee
Adam Bartholomew, Marge Bliss, Carlie Graves, Loyd Lee, Susan Russell

Borrowed heavily from Bill Tully’s remarks in **Crossroads**, October 10, 2005



JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD NEWS

On October 23, a group of 26 youth and adults met at Christ Church for the monthly J2A event. We celebrated a stand-up Eucharist with Adam celebrating and John McCleary playing guitar, and then shared pizza and drinks before driving to Stanfordville to Frankenstein's Fortress. The girls screamed their way through the exhibits while the older guys tried to shake the actors out of character, but everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who drove, helped set up and clean up, and provided soda or food.

NOTE FROM GOD

Nov. 6	Psalm 70 I Thessalonians 4:13-18	Amos 5:18-24 Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 13	Psalm 90:1-8,12 I Thessalonians 5:1-10	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Matthew 25:14-15,19-29
Nov. 20	Psalm 95:1-7 I Corinthians 15:20-28	Ezekiel 34:11-17 Matthew 25:31-46
Nov. 27	Psalm 80:1-7 I Corinthians 1:1-9	Isaiah 64:1-9a Matthew 13:24-37

"The Courier" is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie, New York. Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Sunday mornings at 8:00 (Rite I) and 10:00 (Rite II), and in the afternoon at 1:00 in Spanish.

Deadline for submission of material for "The Courier" is the **third Sunday** of the month. Photographs are welcome with articles for the newsletter, and to be best reproduced should be developed on a CD.

The Rev. Arnulfo Arámbulo, Latino Ministry

Laura Russell, Music Director

John Sullivan, Organist

John Colclough, Sr. Warden

Marge Bliss, Jr. Warden,

Michele Haynes, Parish Secretary

J. Peter Pelton, Property Steward

Richmond Notoe Hodge, Sexton

The church office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tel.: (845)452-8220

Fax: (845)452-8236

Email:

christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com

Web page: <http://www.christchurchpok.org>

Mission Statement for Christ Church: Christ Church provides a spiritual home for a diverse community of people united in the Eucharist, respectful of history and tradition, and actively engaged in Christ's ministry for today's world.

EYES WIDE OPEN, AN EXHIBIT ON THE HUMAN COSTS OF WAR IN IRAQ

On Tuesday, November 15th and Wednesday, November 16th The Office of Spiritual and Religious Life at Vassar college, in collaboration with many others, will be hosting this event. EYES WIDE OPEN, a non-profit, non-partisan project run by the American Friends Service Committee, will be set up on the alumnae house lawn, weather permitting. Ur rain space is the Vassar Chapel.

Tuesday, November 15th 12-5PM: “Artists Reflecting on the War” will take place in the field or chapel with EYES WIDE OEN. At ten o’clock, students will begin reading poems and prayers on peace. Afternoon contributors include local and visiting poets, writers, dancers, and musicians. Celeste Zappala, GOLD STAR Mother, will speak and the Al’Kebualan Drumming circle will play.

From 5:30 until 7:30PM: There will be a silent art auction and reception in the Alumnae House.

Pre-registration for this event is recommended. All proceeds from this evening go to The American Service Committee in their work with EYES WIDE OPEN.

For more information, please contact Judith Nichols:
jnichols@vassar.edu

HELP WANTED: Center of the Square has an opening in the Climb the Beanstalk Story Adventure Program on Mondays and Wednesdays for two hours from 2:15 to 4:15 each day in the Undercroft of the Church. Interested?? Please call Rosemarie Calista at 471-0313 for more details. We also need volunteer readers on those days.

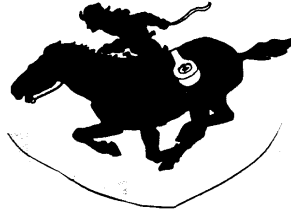
HAITIAN ART & HANDICRAFT SALE: A small sample of what will be available at Trinity Episcopal Church's sale of original Haitian art is on display today in our Community Room. Stop by, soak in a bit of color, and ask questions about Trinity's goal of building a school in Chermaitre, Haiti using the funds raised in partnership with the Vassar Haiti Project and sent through ERD. You are enthusiastically invited to the sale itself in Trinity's Fellowship Hall at Rts 9 & 52 in Fishkill: next Friday Nov 4 from noon-8pm; Sat Nov 5 from 10am-5pm; and Sunday Nov 6 from 9am-2pm. Park near Taco Bell. Wheel-chair accessible. All purchases 50% tax deductible MC/Visa but cash/checks preferred. Even if you don't have any Christmas shopping to do, come revel in the joy of Haitian art. Call Linda Wood (463-0152) for more information.

A VISIT TO HOLY CROSS MONASTERY: On Wednesday, November 30, several members of Christ Church will be visiting Holy Cross Monastery in West Park for mid-day Divine Office and lunch. If you would like to spend a little time at this beautiful, quiet and tranquil place, think about joining us. We will be car-pooling from Christ Church, leaving at 11 a.m. and returning by 3 p.m. Space is limited; call Michele Haynes at the church office to add your name to the list. Reservations must be made by November 20.



The **DEADLINE** for input for the December issue of "The Courier" is Sunday, November 20. Please be sure to have all information to Michele Haynes (452-8220 or e-mail at christchurch-pok@choiceonemail.com) by that date. Any form of input is gratefully received. You don't have to be experienced in writing to submit anything. I will make it work for you! Thank you.

Michele Haynes



TRAIL BOSSES NAMED

Eleven persons have signed on as Trail Bosses for our Pony Express stewardship campaign.

Under the Pony Express plan, every church family becomes a Route Rider, relaying a Saddlebag to one other family in their neighborhood or geographical area. Each Trail Boss will make sure that the Saddlebag keeps moving from home to home as quickly as possible.

On Sunday, November 6, at 9 a.m., the Pony Express campaign kicks off at our monthly Church Breakfast. At that time, each Trail Boss will receive a Saddlebag and be briefed on campaign responsibilities.

Our 2005 Trail Bosses include Louise Im, Jean Menuetz, Gordon and Betty Plowe, Jim Bliss, John McCleary, James Monteith, Arthur Dutton, Angela Colclough, Loyd Lee, and Peggy Kraft. Thanks to all of them for their valuable help.

From the Stewardship Committee:

Marge Bliss
Carlie Graves
Susan Russell
Loyd Lee
The Rev. Adam Bartholomew

DOING CHURCH 2005

A van load of parishioners, Peggy Kraft, Bill Moran, Sally Vasse, Mary Lou Logan, Sue Hackett and I, went down to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (Manhattan) a couple of weeks ago to take our pick of workshops from among many offered in this wonderful one-day conference organized by the diocese. The workshops ranged from Altar Guild 101 to Community Organizing (Richard Witt) and Biblical Storytelling (our own Adam Bartholomew). After what seemed like weeks of rain, the day gradually turned from misty to dry, warm and sunny.

I learned a lot about Christ Church by putting it into a larger perspective, and a lot about the most effective means of growing a church as well. The first major study of U.S. congregations (all types) since 1900 has recently been completed and one of its authors, Cynthia Woolever, a sociologist who teaches at the Hartford Seminary, was on hand for several workshops. The study surveyed about 2000 congregations of all denominations and 300,000+ worshippers to find out what is important to worshippers, who are they, what makes a strong congregation or church, and what growing churches have in common.

Our self study last Spring has provided us with plenty of statistics – comparing some of the results of our self study with other congregations, it's easier to see what we have in common with other churches. For instance, our gender ratios, 63% female vs. 37% male, are consistent with the usual 60/40 mix. Most (89%) church congregations are more highly educated than their surrounding communities; that is especially true here. And in fact most churches do not match the surrounding population in terms of age (84%, we are older), and about half do not match by ethnicity (47%). Most worshippers are more involved in their communities than the average population, and at Christ Church, where 85% of us volunteer for the church or other community organizations, that also holds true. More than half of all congregations (63%) have less than 125 as average Sunday attendance; Christ Church's is around 100.

The study also looked at factors that growing churches have in common. One finding is that **growth in congregations is independent of the age of the congregation, of its size, and of the population growth around the church.** In fact, in contrast to large congregations, small congregations (less than 125) are more likely to excel at providing a sense of community to their worshippers. **The key to church growth is identifying your strengths and building on them to shine the light of Christ into the world.** What doesn't work is relying on the magic formula approach, such as:

- Congregational size (always larger)
- Worship style (especially music)
- Leadership ('if only we have the right priest, etc.')
- Congregational mission
- The minimum factor (focus on weaknesses and try to fix)
- Context/location (e.g. in fast growing area etc.)

At Christ Church, our strengths, the things most of us value about the church, include:

- Meaningful worship, especially in music, preaching, liturgy, lay participation in the service, and our beautiful and historic worship space
- Spiritual growth
- A welcoming atmosphere
- An opportunity to support community outreach programs
- Youth and children's ministry (this is not widely known, but among Sunday School families, it is considered a strength)
- Social responsibility
- Diversity and tolerance

Growth was the number one concern among Christ Church survey respondents – when the question of growth is looked at in terms of our identity, it becomes less a question of “How can we grow?” and moves towards “How can we do better at shining the light of Christ into the world?” And, given what we value, this in turn might translate to questions such as:

- How can we strengthen and make even more meaningful our worship experience?
- How can we better serve our youth and children?
- How can we provide a friendlier, more inviting place, with an increased sense of belonging and community?
- How can we increase our sense of social responsibility, and our diversity and tolerance?

Some answers that spring to my mind are:

- **Include more of the younger members in the service**, beyond their traditional acolyting role, for instance in reading the lessons, ushering, and presenting the offerings
- **Start a group for newcomers**: did you know that people attending the church for less than 4 years are the second largest group in the congregation, after those attending the church for 30+ years?
- **Build more communication between the congregation, the youth groups, and the Sunday School**
- **Practice recognition of the gifts of those who come to us**

Perhaps you have some answers as well. And really only one is needed:

We must look for, find, and finally recognize our individual and collective gifts from God. God has given us all that we need to do His will for us.

Faithfully yours,
Carlie Graves

2005 ANNUAL MEETING: The Christ Church 2005 Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 4. Please have your reports to me no later than Friday, November 19 to allow enough time for me to prepare the report in a timely manner. Thank you. Michele—452-8220.

BREAKFAST: Next Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 in the Newton Community room, we will open the Pony Express with a “Trail Breakfast.” Remember to bring a dish to share to compliment the sausage and eggs that will be provided.

CALENDAR OF ADULT FORUM SERIES ON FAITH AND BELIEF

- October 30:** The Stewardship Campaign
Loyd Lee, Marge Bliss, and Fr. Adam
- November 6:** Belief in the ancient world: perspectives in the world
in which Christianity took shape
Rob Brown
- November 13:** Belief among contemporary Episcopalians: our own
perspective
Barry Menezes and panel
- November 20:** Belief in the contemporary ecumenical context
Rev. Herman Harmelink

**PRE-PAID LEGAL SERVICE, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Barbara C. B. Harrington
*Independent Associate -Small Business,
CDLP & Group Benefits Specialist*

36D Gloria Drive, Staatsburg, NY /USA 12580
Office 845.229.6842
Fax 845.229.6400
barbharrington@optonline.net
prepaidlegal.com/hub/barbaraharrington

Serving North America's families since 1972

**PPD
Listed
NYSE.**

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL



**LICENSED
ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTOR**
Fully Insured

Phone 845-452-3520 Fax 845-454-0346
4 Buckingham Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
www.manninoelectric.com

STEVEN REIYEA
Certified Arborist
email:redced24@msn.com

845-297-4247
Fax 297-4928
www.redcedararborists.com



Red Cedar
Arborists & Landscapers, Inc.

28 Bill Horton Way, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

PLASS THE PLUMBER

SINCE 1898

*Celebrating 103 Years
of providing*

*Peace of Mind & Comfort
Through*

Efficient Installation & Service

HEATING & PLUMBING

BOILERS

WARM AIR FURNACES

STEAM HEATING

WATER HEATERS / FAUCETS

454-1090

Commercial & Residential

Licensed & Insured

**Hudson Valley Heating Co., Inc. &
JJC Electric** *Licensed Electrical Contractor*

Eugene Clarke 4 South Clinton Street
Joseph J. Cervone Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT Phone: 845-452-5400

Web address: www.hvh-jjc.com Phone: 845-471-1144

E-mail: Info@hvh-jjc.com Fax: 845-452-1606

AN INDEPENDENT LENNOX DEALER

WAYS IN THE WILDERNESS

Wilderness: “an empty or pathless area or region” (Webster). Americans associate wilderness with any landscape that is wild and uninhabited—such as the Adirondacks, which, according to the state constitution “shall be forever kept as wild forest lands”. In the lands of the Bible, however, wilderness is desert: “associated with death and primeval chaos...a sacred area that had, as it were, gone awry and become demonic.” (Karen Armstrong in A History of Jerusalem)

The wilderness has deep roots in western monotheist religions. The Israelites under Moses spent forty years wandering through the Sinai desert. “The Spirit immediately drove Jesus” after his baptism, “out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan.” (Mark). Cynthia, my sister Chesie, and I, spent sixteen days following these paths through Egypt, Jordan and Israel as we took a course taught by St. George’s College in Jerusalem.

The purpose was threefold: to introduce the twenty participants to the spirituality of eastern Christianity, especially in its Coptic (ancient word for Egyptian) and Greek orthodox communions, to visit monasteries and talk with monks in these traditions, and to develop our own spiritual response to the wilderness. The twenty participants included eight clergy (one bishop) from Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States. Our leaders were the Rev. John Tidy of the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem and the Rev. Mel Schlachter (formerly a co-rector with his wife at St. Margaret’s in Staatsburg).

Though deserts have their beauty and are not entirely hostile, these were hot, dry and sandy; resources are scarce and each person, especially if they experience them in solitude, is forced to confront their own being and to search themselves as they seek a closer understanding of God.

The founder of the Christian monasticism is ascribed to St. Anthony (c. 251-356 CE—yes, he lived to 105). Born into a wealthy Egyptian Christian family, he lost his parents at an early age. At age twenty when he heard the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10 he gave his wealth away and retreated to a desert, mountain cave. Achieving notoriety as a holy man, he attracted hundreds of men and women. He continued to live alone, occasionally leaving to preach or advise church leaders, but many others formed communities. In time these monasteries became central to the Coptic communion (and other orthodox churches) when it chose to appoint only monks to the office of bishop. This tied orthodox Christianity closely to desert ways and helps to account for its survival after fourteen centuries of living in a post-Christian world of Muslims.

We visited seven monasteries (four were Coptic) in deserts near the Nile, the Red Sea and in the Sinai Peninsula. They turn away young men and women due to lack of space to accept all applicants. Their influence on lay life was evident in churches we visited in Cairo. At one monastery we witnessed the extraordinary event of a young male baby, wearing a mitre, being baptized, confirmed and given first communion at the same service! We saw several “Moses’ wells” along the probable path the Exodus Hebrews took from Egypt. We stayed over night in St. Catherine’s monastery so we could climb Mt. Sinai the next morning to celebrate Eucharist at Elijah’s plateau as the sun rose. We then ascended the final seven hundred steps to the top. St. Catherine’s is the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery in the world, located at the foot of the mountain and where Moses saw the burning bush.




After that we spent three days and two nights living in the desert. We left our bus and roads behind, driven in four-wheel vehicles over terrain I thought would be impassible. We drank lots of water, ate our meals, and slept on the ground under a radiant, moonless, sky of stars (yes, with no tents and no toilets). We walked, we talked, we meditated, we prayed as we tried to imagine the treks of Moses and the Israelites, of Jesus in the wilderness, and of the lives of desert monks throughout the ages.

In Jordan, we visited the necropolis of Petra, which for a few centuries was home to early Christians. We worshipped in Arabic with an Anglican congregation in Amman. We visited ancient Christian sites, and saw the Promised Land where Moses saw it on Mt. Nebo. We ended our journey back in Israel with a visit to another monastery in the Judean desert, the same desert Jesus knew so well.

If you want to know more, check out St. George’s website: www.stgeorgescollegejerusalem.org. They offer several courses of pilgrimages and spiritual development, including some for youth.

Loyd Lee

NOVEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Noon AA/NC	2 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church/ AA7PM/	3 Noon AA/NC	4 Noon AA/NC	5 AGO 10-1 Church And 11-3/NCR AA/7PM/CR
6 8AM & 10AM HE 9AM Parish Breakfast 1PM Misa St. Joe's Fellowship 5:30pm/Chapel Brdavon 4:30-6:30NCR 7PM AA/NCR	7 Noon AA/NCR	8 Noon AA/NCR	9 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church AA/7PM/NCR	10 Noon AA/NCR 7:30PM Choir rehearsal /NCR	11 Noon AA/NCR 	12 Misa 3-4PM Church AA 7PM/PH
13 8AM/10AM/HE 1PM Santa Misa 7PM AA/NCR	14 Noon AA/NCR 7:30pm-Property Com. Mtg./LMR	15 Noon AA/NCR 7:30PM Center of the Square meets/ LMR 7:30PM Vestry/ LMR	16 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church AA/7PM/NCR	17 Noon AA/NCR 7:30PM Choir rehearsal /NCR	18 Noon AA/NCR	19 AA 7PM/CR
20  8AM&10AMHE 1-5pm Santa Misa "The Courier" Deadline AA7PM/NCR	21 Noon AA/NCR	22 Noon AA/NCR	23 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church AA/7PM/NCR	24  Noon AA/NCR Parish Office closed Happy Thanksgiving No choir rehearsal	25 Noon AA/NCR Parish Office closed	26 AA 7PM/NCR
27 8AM & 10AM HE 1PM Santa Misa AA -7PM/NCR 30 Quermes V. de-Guadalupe Kitchen/ NCR 1-5PM	28 Noon AA/NCR	29 Noon AA/NCR	30 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church AA/7PM/NCR			

HE—Holy Eucharist
MP—Morning Prayer
LMR—Lay Ministry Room
NCR - Newton Community Room
PH—Parish House

Christ Episcopal Church

We provide a spiritual home for a diverse community of people, united in the Eucharist, respectful of history and tradition, and actively engaged in Christ's ministry for today's world. We invite you to join us!

20 Carroll Street
 Poughkeepsie New York 12601

Phone: 845-452-8220

Fax: 845-452-8236

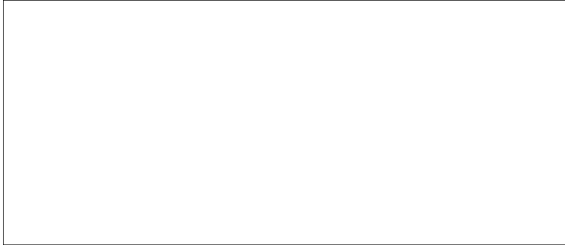
Email:
 christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com

On the web at: www.christchurchpok.org

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 WE PROVIDE A SPIRITUAL HOME
 FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF
 PEOPLE, UNITED IN THE
 EUCHARIST, RESPECTFUL OF
 HISTORY AND TRADITION, AND
 ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CHRIST'S
 MINISTRY FOR TODAY'S WORLD.
 WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!**

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage
Paid
 Permit #167
 Poughkeepsie, NY

Phone: 845-452-8220
 Fax: 845-452-8236
 Email: christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com



November Prayer Cycle
 In order to give emphasis to our ministry to one another, we have a Parish Prayer Cycle. Each parishioner or family is prayed for on a particular day. Here is the list of names to be kept in our prayers for each day during the month of November.

1. Fred Sentongo
2. John & Nancy Shackleton
3. David & Paula Sherwood
4. Richard Shore
5. Engrid Smith and Jovan, Okia, & Selena
6. Ralph & Margaret Smith
7. Hubert Smith, Jr.
8. Anne Strain
9. Richard Strain
10. Al Stridsberg
11. John Sullivan
12. Dennis Swetz
13. Richard & Sally Taylor
14. Matthew & Alicia Tether and Zoe
15. George & Lillian Garrett-Thomas

16. Jim & Martha Thornley
17. Susan Tobin
18. Linda Unger
19. William & Sally Vasse
20. Bob & Elly Vermillion
21. Jackie Vierno
22. Teresa Vilardi
23. Diane Wallace
24. Judith Weiner-Davis
25. Olga Whittaker
26. Albert & Janice Williams-Myers
27. Peter & Jean Winne
28. Michael & Linda Wood
29. Rosemarie Wright
30. Katrina Yabraes

Almighty God, look with favor on our brothers and sisters of this parish, especially (names). Strengthen them in their journey of faith, fill them with compassion for one another, and give them an awareness of your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.