

Christ Episcopal Church
20 Carroll St.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.452.8220
christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com

RECTOR: The Rev. Wm. Blake Rider †
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Laura Russell
ORGANIST: John Sullivan
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Michele Haynes
PROPERTY STEWARD: Notoe Hodge

WARDEN: Marge Bliss
WARDEN: Michael Wood

www.christchurchpok.org

SUNDAYS
Worship @ 8:00 AND 10:00 AM

Junior Youth Sunday School @ 9:00 AM
Pre-K and Grade School Sunday School @10:00 AM
Senior High Sunday School @ 12:00 PM
Adult Forum @ 11:30 AM

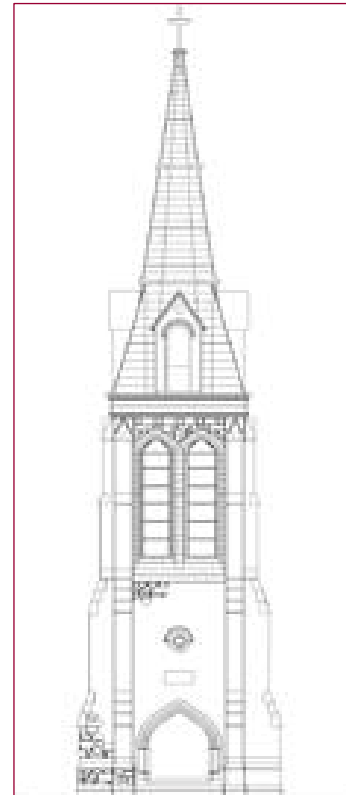
Misa en Espanol @ 1:00 PM

THURSDAYS
Eucharist @ 10:00 AM (RECTOR'S STUDY)

FOR VISITING
Church Entrance: Academy & Barclay Streets
Office Entrance: Carroll Street
Parking: Lots on Carroll or Barclay Street

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.

9 AM Junior Youth Group
(Rite-13) Basement classrooms.

10 AM Eucharist with Music
Choral and organ music provided by the Christ Church Choir, led by Laura Russell, and by organist John Sullivan

10 AM Sunday School
Basement classrooms, ages 3-11.

1 PM Misa en Español

Thursdays

10 AM Eucharist
In the Rector's office

Friends,

Our first few months in ministry together continue to be exciting, transforming, and challenging. More and more people are seeking out our worship services, as a part of their spiritual journey. Attendance at Sunday worship, Adult Education, the Fall Ministry Fair, and social events is increasing dramatically. The number of children and young people who are learning about God, and themselves, in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Rite 13 and the Journey to Adulthood confirmation class increases on an almost weekly basis.

Transformation abounds! The Community Ministry Committee has found new life and mission. They are exploring many opportunities for the parish to engage in the work of ministry in our local neighborhood, within the City of Poughkeepsie, and internationally.

Transformation is even evident in the physical property that is our legacy to maintain and nurture. The new floor in the crossing of the nave has dramatically changed 'the look' and especially the sound of our worship services. The basement classrooms are also transformed and renewed in purpose. Your faithfulness in the ongoing financial support of the parish enabled this vitally important work. Thank you for your generosity.

We are in an exciting and transforming time in our life together -- and a challenging time.

During this season we are in the annual Stewardship Campaign. This is a time when we are each asked to reflect on how the excitement and transformation in the *life of the parish* is translated and realized in *our own individual lives*. Recently in scripture and sermons, we've heard about this challenge from a diverse group:

- From the disciples whose ideas of leadership and discipleship were in need of transformation.
- From the rich young ruler. Did he 'possess' his wealth and belongings? Or was he a 'steward' of those gifts?
- We met blind Bartimaeus. He knew the transforming power of an encounter of God.
- And we encountered Mary & Martha, in their grief over the death of their brother Lazarus. Martha's belief in what it meant to encounter God was challenged – and transformed.

How have we responded to our encounter with God 'along the way'? Are we excited – transformed – challenged? As we continue our journey together, I find that my life is changing. I hope that yours is too.

I also hope that each of you will be able to attend one of our Stewardship gatherings this Fall. We need to share our stories of excitement, transformation, and challenge. We need to remember our past, and most importantly, dream about our future together. See you in church!

Grace & Peace,

Blake†

Hard Numbers Concerning the Rectory

The Christ Church Vestry faced difficult choices in addressing the budget deficit this past year. One of many issues involved the expenses associated with the long-standing practice of using the Parish House for program space, rather than as a Rectory.

- A major expense was the diocesan requirement to pay the Rector a Housing Allowance
- Additional expenses included maintenance and utility costs
- Those expenses were offset, to a small degree, by rent paid by the Daybreak program

The table below provides the costs associated with the use of the Parish House as program space, from 2000 – 2005. During that six year period, the parish spent over \$149,000 as a result of the Parish House being used for program space.

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	Total
Housing Allowance	-\$ 848	-\$ 19,550	-\$ 18,696	-\$ 18,357	-\$ 17,910	-\$ 16,933	-\$ 92,294
Parish House Expense	-\$ 22,912	-\$ 17,308	-\$ 20,252	-\$ 11,055	-\$ 8,000	-\$ 7,300	-\$ 86,827
Income from Daybreak	\$ 6,380	\$ 5,520	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 3,700	\$ 4,200	\$ 29,400
Total:	-\$ 17,380	-\$ 31,338	-\$ 34,148	-\$ 24,612	-\$ 22,210	-\$ 20,033	-\$ 149,721

When our new Rector was hired, he and the Vestry investigated several housing options, including the purchase of a new Rectory in the neighborhood, and continuation of the housing allowance. After some serious house-hunting and number crunching, a decision was made to convert the Parish House back into a Rectory.

A group of parishioners, including members of the Property Committee, the Vestry, and parishioners involved in property management and renovation, was brought together. This group met weekly for almost two months and considered a wide variety of floor plans and living arrangements. At one point, six different configurations were on the drawing board!

It was the unanimous recommendation of that working group, agreed to by the Rector and endorsed by the Vestry, that the only truly viable option was to convert the entire building back into a single-family home. Returning the Parish House to its original purpose as a Rectory will save the parish a considerable amount of money over the coming years.

We anticipate that early in 2007 the parish will be able to celebrate the renewal of our historic Rectory back into a beautiful home and center of parish hospitality and entertainment. If you have any questions regarding the decision-making process or plans for the Rectory, please contact either of the Wardens, Marge Bliss or Michael Wood, or the Rector.

Worship:

Attendance UP UP UP

You may have felt things were a little different in church this summer – and it's true, summer attendance was up over 30% from last year. Of course, having our new Rector on board has contributed significantly. We also did three things differently this summer to experiment a little:

- Summer Sunday School every Sunday!
- Summer music programming
- Retained the 8am & 10am worship schedule

Special thanks to Cynthia Lee for her summer Sunday School teaching, to Laura Russell for organizing summer music, and to Fr. Blake, for continuing the regular worship schedule.

– Peggy Kraft, Growth & Communications Committee

Invitations into the life of the church...

- The **Growth and Communications Committee** is responsible for the Courier, website updating, press releases, and lots of other things...if you enjoy writing, communication, photography, or research, please join us! Meetings 1st Tuesday of each month @7:30 pm. –*Carlie Graves*
- **Volunteers needed for the Pantomime of the Seven Deadly Sins**, both backstage and front, to be held Friday, Dec. 1, following the Stewardship Potluck. Contact James Monteith (471-1050) if you'd like to lend a hand.

Contributors to this issue

Marge Bliss, Warden
Alice Bunnell, Community Ministry
Mary Flad, writer-at-large
Karla Friedle, Fellowship
Peggy Kraft, Growth & Comm. Committee
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Loyd Lee, Treasurer
Yvonne Poley, Fundraising & Youth
Wm. Blake Rider, Rector
Michael Wood, Jr. Warden

Editor

Carlie Graves, Growth & Communications Committee

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November

Current Crisis in the Church

Bishops who are gay – yes or no?
Blessing of same-sex unions – yes or no?
After Church - 11:30-ish in the Chapel

Nov 5 - Background

Nov 12 - The case 'against'

Isn't this against scripture?

Nov 19 - The case 'in favor'

Isn't this a matter of justice?

Nov 26 - Parish Discussion

What is the mind of Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie?

Nov 19: First Annual Cranberry Sunday!

Cranberry relish for your Thanksgiving table or as a gift – A fundraiser brought to you by Community Ministry on behalf of Christ Church.

Stewardship gatherings will be held throughout November and December. Come and chat with Blake and other parish leaders about the role of stewardship in the life of the church, future plans, and personal stewardship. Contact Michele Haynes in the Parish Office(452-8220) or Carlie Graves (485-9596) if you do not receive an invitation. Thanks!

December

Friday, Dec. 1, 5:30 pm: Stewardship potluck & Pantomime: The 7 Deadly Sins

Pantomime by James Monteith & Nick Currie

Sunday, Dec. 3: Annual Meeting & Parish Breakfast @ 9:00 AM.

Also last chance this year for CC tshirts, totes, & boxer shorts

Intergenerational Craft Workshops

Looking for gifts for Christmas? Come and join in the fun of making crafts that might work as gifts or for your own home. *Sponsored by the Youth and Children's Programming Committee* All workshops @ 11:30 pm.

December 3 – Advent Wreath Making

December 10 – Rosary Making

December 17 – Making Pinatas

New to the Episcopal Church?

These Classes are For You!

9:00 am in the Rector's Study

Nov 5 - Brief history of Anglican/Episcopal Church

Think it all started with Henry VIII and his desire for a male heir? Think again! The Church in England was worshipping before the Council of Nicaea met in the 4th Century. Are we Catholics or Protestants?

Nov 12 - History of Christ Episcopal Church

Our parish, founded before the Revolutionary War, is on the oldest in New York. A member of our parish helped organize the national Episcopal Church after the Revolution. Several of our Rectors have gone on to be Bishops in the Church. And one is even a Saint – with his own feast day on the Church calendar!

Nov 19 – Liturgy When and why do we stand, kneel or set? Why do some people make the sign of the cross, and some don't? Why isn't our language more inclusive? Are our liturgies new or ancient?

Nov 26 - Programs and Ministries of Christ Church

Find out the work that God has called us to at this place, and how you might find your own place.

Thanksgiving Weekend 2007

This Thanksgiving Weekend join the parish family in worship and then a social and fund-raising activity.

Thanksgiving morning at 10:00 am we will gather in the Chapel for a simple Eucharistic service. The service will feature hymns traditionally associated with Thanksgiving. Put that bird in the oven early in the morning, and come down to the church for praise God, reflect on this national day of prayer and thanksgiving, and celebrate the sacrament of holy communion.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents



The Mikado

Friday Night,
November 24, 2006

*This is the Friday
Night
following
Thanksgiving Day*

Will you be fed-up with turkey and dressing by the day after Thanksgiving? Plan to attend a new production of *The Mikado* with fellow parishioners from Christ Church, at a discounted price of \$18.00 per ticket (box office price = \$ 24.00). The G&S Society will make a donation back to the church, of more than 25% of any sales that we make.

Contact Laura Russell to purchase your tickets or make a reservation: lrussell@hvc.rr.com or (845) 485-1648.

Acolytes travel to National Cathedral

Many of our acolytes traveled to The National Cathedral in Washington, DC the first weekend of October for the 27th National Acolyte Festival. They took part in a procession of over 2000 acolytes and in the afternoon joined in on workshops such as "Holy Smoke" --all about being a thurifer- ie twirling the incense "thingy".

The acolytes included Nick Currie, John Graves-McCleary, Paul Lawson, Tonia Scott-Overfield, Alice Friedle, Anthony Graves-McCleary, Kadeisha Weise, Emily King, and Sean Spencer.

Special thanks to chaperones Amity and Stephen Currie, Becky Nielson, Karla Friedle, and Mike George, and to Yvonne Poley and Karla Friedle for their tag sale & cruise fundraising efforts, which raised over \$1100 to support the acolyte trip.

Marge Bliss

Pen Pals of Kyampisi Orphans in Uganda



One of the programs supported by the parish Community Ministry Team this year has been a pen pal relationship with children, orphaned by the AIDS epidemic, in Uganda. Parishioner Alice Bunnell traveled to visit the children this last

summer. She carried our letters to them, and returned with a package of letters and gifts from the children to their Poughkeepsie pen pals.

If you are not currently a pen pal and would like to become one, please contact Alice at 452-7031

Truly a Celebration



The Celebration of a New Ministry at Christ Church Poughkeepsie on the afternoon of October 29, 2006 – the formal installation of the Rev. Wm. Blake Rider as the 21st Rector – was quite a party. With more than two hundred in attendance, and the Bishop of New York, the Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk presiding, it seemed that everyone was quite ready to “shout for joy.” The choir, the organ, and a string quartet, and the singing of the congregation reflected the mood of the gathering. The procession of participants, acolytes and visiting clergy conveyed the sense that the world was watching this great event.



The reader of the Gospel was a visitor from afar, the Rev. Helen Morris Havens, who had been the Rector of Blake’s parish in Texas when he made the decision to attend seminary and seek ordination. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. Lloyd A. Lewis, who is the Molly A. Down Professor of New Testament at the Virginia Theological Seminary. He reminded us all that beginnings and endings can be the simple part of ministries and relationships – it’s what is in between that is likely to be complex and challenging.

Ritual gifts are given to the new Rector as part of the ceremony, and thirty members of the Christ Church community participated in the presentations, with Nick Currie acting as M.C. for the presentation of the gifts. Among the presenters were children and youth, members of Iglesia LaVirgen de Guadalupe, the Wardens, and representatives of various committees and participants in the church’s liturgical life. Two young children led the procession of presenters, pulling a wagon carrying an enormous Bible and a bag of apples symbolic of the season.

And then there was the reception: food and drink of great variety, with conversation and laughter and embracing. October 29 was the first day of the return to Standard Time, and so we left the building in darkness in the early evening, but with the sense that there is a new light in all our lives.

--Mary Flad



CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY INSTALLATION OF THE REV. WM. BLAKE RIDER AS THE 21ST RECTOR

CHRIST CHURCH
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK
†
THE RT. REV. MARK S. SISK
BISHOP OF NEW YORK, PRESIDING

OCTOBER 29, 2006

AFTER THE INDUCTION

The new Rector kneels in the midst of the church, and prays

O Lord my God, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; yet you have called your servant to stand in your house, and to serve at your altar. To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit.

Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do.

Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word.

Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry.
In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom.

All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.