

# The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220  
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www.christchurchpok.org

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*Bountiful God, source of all that we have and all that we are, we give you thanks. Strengthen us in our efforts to be good stewards. Inspire and guide us in the ways of stewardship that our use of your gifts to us might bring us ever closer to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your great gift of love to us. Amen*

*Parish Stewardship Prayer, 2008*

Friends –

There was wonderful turn-out of parishioners on hand for the stewardship gatherings in the Rectory last month. I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the tour, the skit, and the question and answer sessions. Your love and care and concern for the parish was evident by the questions you asked, the suggestions and you made, and most of all, in the enthusiasm that you expressed about our life together as a parish. Your financial gifts in support of the parish and our ministry together give a strong indication of the vitality of our common mission. Thank you for your gifts.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Courier* you will find a few pictures of the progress being made in the Rectory. Progress on the repairs and renovations continue, and we hope that the project will draw to a close prior to the end of the year. Thank you to all who have been supportive during the year-and-a-half of nomadic living.

You will also find pictures of the repairs that are underway on the roof of the church. After the Vestry engaged the parish in a conversation regarding the disposition of the generous bequest from Loyd Lee, the decision was made to concentrate on ‘envelope issues’ – the roof, skylights, gutters, etc. Strong concern was expressed regarding the preservation of the fabric of the buildings. Loyd’s gift has enabled the parish to tend to a great deal of the deferred maintenance on the roof and gutters in a single effort. We are thankful for the love and concern for the continuation of the ministries of the parish, as evidenced in the gift from Loyd.

The leadership of the parish also heard a good deal of enthusiasm regarding the potential to take advantage of Loyd’s gift as a kick to a ‘matching-gift’ campaign. How might our common life be affected if we challenged ourselves to ‘match’ Loyd’s gift of \$90,000?

We are blessed in so many ways. As Thanksgiving Day draws near, remember the parish in your prayers, and give thanks.

*Blake +*



## Gourmet Dinner Fundraisers

No, the Flads did not serve locusts and seeds for their fund-raising dinner. What they *did* serve were delicious (albeit adventurous from some of the diners' points of view) offerings from about 8 different areas of the Mediterranean where the Apostle Paul would have traveled including Ephesus, Thessalonica, Corinth and Greece. There were stuffed grape leaves, hummus, olives, and pistachios for starters with a Greek wine. And the entrée was a chicken with olives and tomatoes dish accompanied by an eggplant salad with goat cheese, cucumbers in yoghurt, and tabuleh. Dessert was baklava, halvah, and dried apricots. Oh, and there was a scrumptious apple pie from Poughkeepsie made with apples Mary picked herself.



At the Browns' dinner a week after the Flads', guests were treated to an elegant, Halloween-inspired table setting and were gifted with individual ceramic ghosts and witches with flower vases to take home as favors. Another Mediterranean-inspired meal began with a salad of dates, carrots, and Mandarin oranges; which was followed by stuffed lamb, tabuleh with butternut squash, and red peppers stuffed with feta cheese and eggplant. A scrumptious poached-Seckle Pear tart finished this fabulous meal.

At all of the dinners so far people have said that the best part (and it is a challenge to out-do the incredible food), but the best part is the fellowship and meeting new people and getting to know them. At one point last evening, Kathy Brown came in from the kitchen and announced, "You've made it to the rowdy table. It's just too bad you have nothing to talk about," because the conversation was so lively and LOUD.

There are still two dinners left to go this fall, but for those of you who have been unable to attend any of these, we are happy to let you know that we will be doing another round in the spring, probably in April and May. So, plan to make space on your calendar next year for this kind of an adventure, and if you would like to host such a dinner, let Marge Bliss know.

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## Youth Contribute To The Crop Walk



Both the Rite-13 and the J2A classes participated in working for the Crop Walk this past month. The boys of the Rite-13 class went apple picking with their teachers Mary Flad and John McCleary the day before the event and sold \$64 worth of apples to parishioners on Sunday morning before the walk itself. They were sold out so there were no apples left over to hand out to the walkers later. And the members of the J2A class who have been getting to know each other and their new teachers since September also participated by walking in the Crop Walk with teachers Celia Serotsky and Harvey Flad. Both classes have also done other activities besides regular classes on Sunday mornings.

The J2A class cooked a meal together, and the Rite-13 class made pizza and watched the movie "Millions" at the McCleary home.



## Owen Chooses Splashing For Baptism

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Claire DeCordova and Owen DeCordova were welcomed into the Christ Church congregation by the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

They followed in the tradition of their father and grandparents Noel and Debbie DeCordova who were baptized before them at Christ Church. The highlight was when Father Blake asked Owen if he wished to be splashed or poured on and he delightfully chose splashing.

Parents, Michael and Anna DeCordova were joined by several out of town members of the family including Michael's brother and family.

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## American Boychoir Housing

We are hosting the Poughkeepsie concert for the American Boychoir on Saturday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup>. A portion of our responsibility as host is to provide housing for the choristers. The young men must be housed in pairs. If you are interested in hosting a couple of the young choristers on Saturday night following the concert, please call the parish office.

## Stewardship at Christ Church

Following is a parishioner's reflection on one experience in her stewardship journey. If you have stewardship stories or thoughts, you can submit them to the editor at [sadlbum52@aol.com](mailto:sadlbum52@aol.com).



I have been paying my pledge by the end of the year, or at least by the first weeks in January. Usually I would get behind and have to catch up at the end. I believe the way I spend money is a reflection of my spiritual health, and I think and pray about the amount of my pledge. That part was a spiritual exercise, but after I signed my pledge card, I quit praying about it. I paid it all in the end, but it wasn't very different from paying off Sears for the new washer before the end of the interest free period. I don't think it was wrong, but it wasn't very transformational either.

At a stewardship workshop this summer, I heard again about first fruits giving, giving to God first whatever proportion of income I had pledged and then deciding how to spend the remainder. The next payday, I got my paycheck and immediately wrote a check to Christ Church. It did feel different. I said thank you for my work and the income it provides. I thought about God's ownership of everything. I was aware that I was only returning some of what I had been given. I was aware of being steward and not owner of the remainder. I was also aware of some anxiety about whether I would have enough left. I decided to trust, and for a moment I felt that God and I were in a partnership here. It was great!

By the next payday, I had forgotten my recent revelations. Sometimes on this stewardship journey I just fall asleep, or get off the path, or something. But then I remembered that moment of feeling in partnership with God. For that moment, our relationship was not a matter of belief or faith. It was a felt experience. How could I forget something so good in just two weeks? I don't know. I suppose for me, conversion is a process and not a single blinding event. Clearly though, the next step in giving, for me, is becoming a first fruits giver. That is my intention for the coming year. I want to have that relationship experience again.

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## Catechesis learns about the Altar and the Liturgical Calendar

The students in the two levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd have begun the year by learning about worship. The Level I class, taught by Jennifer Hammond-King, has listened to and learned about the Good Shepherd by working with the figures for that story and have become aware of the place of the altar in our worship. Lori Kossman is assisting at that Level.

Cynthia Lee's Level II class has been studying the liturgical calendar and the meaning of the colors of the liturgical seasons. They have made booklets to take home which they can then use on their altars that they have been encouraged to set up at home. In the beginning, they each created a prayer card with a prayer that they could feel comfortable with to use at the beginning of each class. They are getting to know Lorenzo Colombo who is the new assistant at this Level.

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## Second Annual Cranberry Sunday

The Community Ministry Team will be hosting another *Cranberry Sunday* on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Come prepared to be treated to the taste, smell, and texture of a variety of delectables.

Proceeds from the sale of take-home good (made from scratch – including the crust – apple and pumpkin pies) will be contributed to *Episcobuild*, a multi-parish effort to provide affordable housing. Watch for news of Christ Church's participation in *Episcobuild*.

If you'd like to join the cooking crew for Cranberry Sunday, contact Karla Friedle: [kfriedle@hjmus.com](mailto:kfriedle@hjmus.com) or 845.473.1337

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## Advent Quiet Day

*Enter into a day of Advent silence and stillness, pondering and prayer*

December 8, 2007 at Holy Cross Monastery  
9:30am – 3:30pm

\$20 fee includes lunch. Scholarships available – please see Fr. Blake.

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### **American Boychoir - Voices of Angels**

Take a journey through time and tradition  
with carols spanning centuries from around the globe

Dec 1 at 8:00pm  
Christ Church

Adults -- \$20  
Under 12 -- \$5

### **Conference on Caregiving**

*Using Your Head & Your Heart*

Saturday, November 17  
9:30am – 3:30pm

Our Lady of Lourdes High School

A FREE conference dealing with issues surrounding the provision of care for the ageing.

Parishioner Shari Hubner  
will be speaking on:

***Understanding Elder Law.***

Call 845.483.5528  
for more information.

### **Christian Peace Witness for Iraq**

Holy Cross Monastery

Every Saturday  
November 3 – December 29

Matins at 7:00am

Eucharist at 8:30am

Midday Service  
for Peace  
at Noon

Silent Vigil at all other times

Holy Cross Monastery  
is located on Route 9W  
in West Park.

[www.holycrossmonastery.com](http://www.holycrossmonastery.com)

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## The Lee Bequest at Work



Repair has begun on the roof of the church! We have a significant amount of deferred maintenance on the slate roof, valleys & gutters on the church. You may have noticed the buckets and cans that appear in front of the pulpit when it rains – or when the snows begin to melt.

With gratitude for the love and concern for the parish which Loyd Lee evidenced in his legacy, the Vestry has authorized just over \$20,000 worth of repairs to the ‘fabric’ or ‘envelope’ of our buildings.

This does not include any work on the Tower Renovation project – about which we hope to have news before the New Year. This current project that is underway also does not include any work on the ‘flat roof’ and skylights in the hallway that is between the Newton Community Room and the Parish Offices. The parish will be in dialogue and conversation regarding that work – which is also a significant piece of deferred maintenance that we need to address. Stay tuned!

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## Rectory Renovation Continues



Here are a few pictures of work in progress in the Rectory: the kitchen is now being installed, as well as a new deck on the front porch. We hope that Fr. Blake will be able to move into the Rectory after the first of the New Year. Tours are available to anyone who would like to take a peak, please let Fr. Blake or any member of the Rectory Renovation Committee know: Louise Crans (chair), Michael Wood, Mike George, Marge Bliss, and Carlie Graves.



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## Retreat at the Convent of St. Helena Dec 7-9 in Vails Gate, NY

### *Advent Retreat* **The Wisdom of Advent: How You Get There Is Where You'll Arrive**

*There has been a resurgence of interest in the Wisdom tradition in Christianity and its potential for facilitating awakening and transformation. We will spend time looking at the Advent people of Scripture from the Wisdom perspective and listen with the ear of the heart for what they have to teach us. The retreat will be led by Sr. Claire Tenny, a novice with the Order of St. Helena.*

*More information at [www.osh.org](http://www.osh.org). To register call Sr. June Thomas at 845-562-0592 or email at [sisters@osh.org](mailto:sisters@osh.org).*

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## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, following the 11:00am service.

A report on the ministry and activities of the parish will be presented, including a report from the Treasurer. We will also elect the Class of 2008 of the Vestry. The election polls will open following the 8:00am service.

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## Haitian Art event at Zion

Haitian Art, Entertainment and Cuisine will be on hand at Zion Episcopal Church on the weekend of December 1-2. A sale of 200 original Haitian paintings, handcrafts, silk scarves, and iron sculptures will support the scholarship program in Darbonne, Haiti and the building of a primary school in Chermaitre, Haiti.

The Haitian weekend begins on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> (9:00am - 4:00pm) and continues on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> (8:30am - 3:00pm). For more information, call 845.297.9797.

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## Justice for All Speaker's Forum

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm  
Universalist Unitarian Fellowship

Maureen Casey will speak on "Sweat-Free Trade" at the monthly program of the Justice for All Speakers' Forum. Poughkeepsie's UU Fellowship is located at 67 South Randolph Ave in Poughkeepsie.

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## Christ Church Capital Campaign: 2002 – 2007

A Capital Campaign was launched by the parish in 2002. Following is a brief recap of the results to date:

102 Pledges, totaling	\$415,885
Gifts received through November 12, 2007	\$357,357
Balance to be collected	\$58,525
Cash Balance on Hand	\$54,595

The major expenses have been as follows. These are 'rounded figures'.

\$16,000	Interior and Exterior of the buildings
\$25,000	Campaign Expenses
\$43,000	Exterior electrical work
\$16,000	Landscape Architect
\$23,000	Trees, Plants, and Labor
\$108,000	Parking
\$ 70,000	Tower Project
\$2000	Misc.
<b>\$303,000</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>

A complete report on Campaign Expenses is available for review. Please contact Campaign Treasurer, Anne Strain if you have any questions. Anne can also provide a current statement of the status of any individual pledges.

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## Christmas Gifts for the Children of Inmates

Christ Episcopal Church, along with Trinity Episcopal Church, Fishkill, is once again collecting gifts for the children of inmates at the Beacon Correctional Facility for Women will be collected during the month of November. Please bring your *unwrapped gifts* and place them in the collection basket at the entrance to the church.



**Saturday, December 1 at 8:00pm  
Voices of Angels**

Take a journey through time and tradition  
with carols from around the globe and popular holiday favorites

With a program as diverse and dynamic as the boys themselves, audiences are sure to be mesmerized by a memorable performance by the incomparable and electrifying voices of The American Boychoir

Tickets  
\$20 adults – \$5 under 12

Purchase online at [www.christchurchpok.org](http://www.christchurchpok.org) or at the door

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**Christian Peace Witness for Iraq**

Holy Cross Monastery  
Every Saturday, November 3 – December 29, 2007

Matins at 7:00am  
Eucharist at 8:30am  
Midday Service for Peace at Noon  
Silent Vigil at all other times

Holy Cross Monastery is located on Route 9W in West Park.

[www.holycrossmonastery.com](http://www.holycrossmonastery.com)

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**Cereal Sunday on December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The Community Ministry Committee, which coordinates our ministries and activities in the area of Outreach, has announced that the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sunday of Advent this year will be Cereal Sunday. Each member of the parish is encouraged to bring a box (or two) of breakfast cereal to either of the worship services on that day. Our gifts of food will be presented at the altar during the offertory, and then delivered to the Dutchess County Homeless Shelter.

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**Our Gifts of Food each Sunday**

Gifts of food are brought forward at the Offertory each Sunday at the 10am service, as a part of our parish living into the message from Matthew 25: *I was hungry, and you fed me.*

For many years, the gifts of food from Christ Church were taken to a local food pantry. Recently, our gifts have been distributed each week to members of the Guadalupe congregation.

From time-to-time (as with the Cereal Sunday described above) the Community Ministry committee will promote a specific special collection which will be directed elsewhere.

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**Courier Editorial Board**

Marge Bliss, Carlie Graves,  
Jeanne Marie Perry, Editor

*Next Courier Deadline:* November 16

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