

The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220
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We are a Community that Lives in Hope – Not Fear

Dear Friends –

Time and time again, our common life in this parish continues to amaze me.

During a season when the national economy is in significant disarray, Wall Street is tumbling, and Main Street is hurting, we asked ourselves the question – *what percentage of my income is God calling me to give to the mission and ministry at Christ Church?* The answer was outstanding. The number of individuals and families making a pledge to the church increased, the average pledge increased, and the total pledged increased. With governments and many institutions expecting less, you have given more. We are truly a community that lives in hope – not in fear.

As the Fall has progressed we have witnessed a corresponding amazing response to the new Spiritual Formation initiative that is underway in the parish. Interest in Bible Studies, Book Groups, an Arts & the Spirit group, and groups engaged in Prayer and Meditation has been significant. It is anticipated that these groups will meet during the day and in the evening; at the church and in private homes; a few led by myself – with most led by members of the parish. This speaks not only to the width and depth of interest in these programs, but also to the resources that are held within the lives of our parish. At a time when the demands on your personal time and energy are every-increasing, the response to participate in programs such as this – and to lead them – is a remarkable testimony to the desire of the parish to pay attention to matters of spiritual concern. We are truly a community that lives in hope – not in fear.

This issue of *The Courier* was delayed hoping that the parish would receive good news regarding the application that our parish and St. Paul's jointly made to Episcopal Charities for a \$100,000 grant to open the *Dutchess Collaborative Reentry Project*. Late breaking news – ***we have been awarded the grant!*** Be on the watch for more information in the coming weeks. The DCRP will provide a single point of entry, where those recently released from jail or prison will be able to access services and information to assist in their reentry into civil society. We are negotiating with the Family Partnership Center, with hopes that space for the DCRP can be found in that facility – where many of the services needed by those formerly incarcerated are already located. This is a brave and bold step by parish – to engage a population that is truly considered to be 'among the least of these' by our society. We are truly a community that lives in hope – not in fear.

Being mindful of the responsibility to fund our mission and ministries and maintain our facilities, tending to the building and strengthening of our spiritual lives, following the mandate of Jesus as expressed in Matthew 25 – the common life of our parish continues to amaze me. We have been called to an incredibly wonderful, exciting, challenging, and inspiring journey. As we go forward to do the work that God has given us to do, may we always journey in hope, and not in fear.

Blake+

TOWER UPDATE

Following the optimistic report on the progress of the tower restoration in the August *Courier*, work ground to a halt in September. The contractor's insurance and work permit expired and there was great confusion about the actual cost of insuring the project by a Massachusetts contractor doing work in the State of New York. Additionally, the whirlwind of the national credit crisis caught the contractor up short in his ability to pay his suppliers.

Once again, Lichten-Craig Architects, PC came to the rescue. Kevin Lichten and Barry Donaldson successfully renegotiated the contract with the project superintendent, Alan Hasbrouck, and got the project back on track. The work permit from the City of Poughkeepsie has been reissued and work has resumed.

During all the renegotiation, it came to our attention that reimbursement from our grant with the State of New York was 4 weeks overdue. A call to our project contact at the Taconic Regional office of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation set in motion a review of our payment request from the controller's office and a resubmission of the RFP to the controller's office. Reimbursements are back on schedule and we are thankful for the concern and quick response of Ron Rader and Erin O'Neill of NY State on our behalf.

The good news is that work has resumed, all liens on the project have been retired, and the weather seems to be moderating for November. The "bad" news is we lost almost 5 weeks of moderate weather in which to complete the project. The estimated completion date of October 15th has come and gone. We will keep you posted about the progress.

It is our hope that the project will be completed and the parking lot will be reclaimed for use prior to the first snowfall.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES OCT. 26TH

The Stewardship Campaign ended on Sunday, October 26, 2008, with a powerful sermon by The Rev. Andy Dietsche, the placement of Commitment Cards on the altar, and a catered luncheon at The Vassar Alumnae House. In the two weeks prior to Consecration Sunday, the congregation heard from several parishioners about their personal response to financial stewardship at Christ Church. Andy's message that defined "fear" as the opposite of "hope" resonated loud and clear on Consecration Sunday. Almost 60 families/giving units placed their commitment cards in a special offering plate by walking forward to the plate after careful consideration of their personal theological and giving convictions.

The results were announced at the luncheon and, in the haste of tallying the commitment cards, a 1% increase in giving was reported. After a review of the tally thus far, giving is up an *impressive 6%*. For those not able to attend Consecration Sunday, commitment cards were mailed the following week. It is our hope that all responses will be received no later than November 15th.

The luncheon proved to be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship that we at Christ Church are not always able to attain due to the limited seating in the Newton Community Room, which precludes a full parish gathering as we experienced on Consecration Sunday.

After the positive reviews of this experience, we expect that our numbers will increase next year from the 100 parishioners who enjoyed this Sunday afternoon luncheon.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF INMATES

Our parish family will collect gifts for the children of women incarcerated at the Beacon Correctional Facility, beginning November 16 through December 7. Gifts this year are directed towards ages three through thirteen. Please donate only toys, games, and playthings. Please bring your unwrapped gifts and place them in the collection basket at the entrance to the church.

Annual Cranberry Sunday November 23



Cranberry Sunday is coming again. Be prepared to be treated to the taste, smell, and

texture of a variety of delectables.

Proceeds from the sale of made-from-scratch pies and cranberry relish will be contributed towards a worthy cause – stay tuned!

Christ Episcopal Church

Rector: Fr. 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: Nov 21, 2008

Please send articles to Jeanne Marie Perry
at sadlbum52@aol.com

Taizé Prayer Service Wednesday, Nov 12 at 7:30pm

Be renewed by God through prayer, silence and searching. Taizé prayer is a wonderful way to become more peaceful and centered amidst a busy life. The service will be on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:30pm at St. Martin DePorres Roman Catholic Church in Poughkeepsie. The church is on Cedar Valley Road (off Rt. 376).

Glorious Day for Crop Walk

About 20 Christ Church members participated in the Annual Crop Walk on October 18th, Sunday afternoon. The Rite-13 class had picked apples the week before to sell to support the Walk, and they and the J2A (Confirmation) Class and sponsors walked together as a class project. Our church contributes around \$1000 each year to this worthwhile cause to abate local and global hunger.



PRAY FOR PEACE

Consecration Sunday Huge Success



Consecration Sunday on October 26 was a wonderful and inspiring event beginning with a thought-provoking sermon delivered by the Canon Andrew Dietsche, followed by members of the congregation coming forward to place their pledge cards in the basin to be blessed, and finishing with a simple but lovely buffet luncheon at Vassar Alumnae House. It was especially moving to see Owen DeCordova and Arthur Dutton, one of our youngest and one of our eldest members come up one after the other to deposit their respective family's pledge cards. At the lunch we were entertained by Kira Sherwood, a former member of Christ Church. Special thanks to the Stewardship Committee for planning this

event.



New Mission & Vision Statement adopted by Vestry

Working with information gathered at a parish-wide Adult Forum and followed up with work at two Parish Leaders retreats, a new Mission Statement and Vision Statement have been adopted by the Vestry. These two statements will serve to identify our parish as well as a benchmark against which existing and new ministries and programs will be measured.

Our Mission is to provide a spiritual home for all people, demonstrating God's unconditional love in the world around us.

Our Vision: Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, worshipping and learning together, we seek to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, serving our neighborhood, our city, and the world beyond – doing the work God has given us to do.

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
In the Newton Community Room



Celebrate – Reclaim - Renew

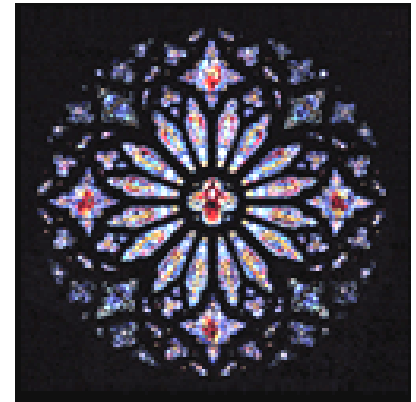
The Re-Opening of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

The Great Organ will again be heard, the legendary Bernini and Mortlake tapestries will be viewable, and the Great Rose Window will sparkle.

Sunday, November 30, 2008

2:00pm Open House:
An Afternoon to Visit

4:00pm A Service of Choral Evensong:
Prayers for the City and Diocese
of New York



The parish is working towards organizing a van (or two) to make the trip down to NYC for this special Sunday afternoon event, perhaps staying in the City, or stopping along the way home, for a relaxing dinner. Stay tuned for more details, or call the parish office.

Upcoming Concerts at Christ Church



Saturday, November 22 at 8:00 p.m. The Kairos Consort Choir will join the SUNY-New Paltz Concert Choir, College-Community Chorale and Chamber Singers in concert featuring *The Ecstasies Above* by contemporary British composer Tarik O'Regan.. **In the Church. Suggested donation \$12**

Wednesday, December 3rd at 12 Noon Lunch 'n Listen Concert at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church featuring the Christ Church Choir singing music for Advent and Christmas. **Free.**

On **Wednesday evening, December 3rd** members of Christ Church Choir will give a concert of Advent and Christmas music for the residents of the Manor at Woodside on Academy Street in

Poughkeepsie.

Many members of Christ Church Choir sing in Cappella Festiva, and they will be joining with the Vassar College musical groups to perform in the annual **Lessons & Carols concert in the Vassar Chapel on Sunday, December 7th at 7PM.**

Annual Cranberry Sunday on November 23

Cranberry Sunday is coming again. Be prepared to be treated to the taste, smell, and texture of a variety of delectables.

Proceeds from the sale of made-from-scratch pies and cranberry salad will be contributed towards a worthy cause – stay tuned!

Christmas Gifts for the children of inmates

Our parish family will collect gifts for the children of women incarcerated at the Beacon Correctional Facility. Beginning next Sunday, through December 7th. Gifts this year are directed towards ages three through thirteen. Please donate only toys, games, and playthings. Please bring your unwrapped gifts and place them in the collection basket at the entrance to the church.

New Opportunities for Spiritual Development at Christ Church Initial Schedule of Organizational Meetings – Fall 2008

In response to a renewed interest in furthering the development of our spiritual lives, the following organizational meetings have been announced. At these first meetings there will be further discussions as to topics and confirmation of date and times of meetings. Each of these organizational meetings will be held at the church.

Monday, 11/17/08	11:00am -1:00pm	Prayer & Meditation
Tuesday, 11/18/08	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Book Group
Wednesday, 11/19/08	9:30am - 11:00am 1:00pm - 2:30pm 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Bible Study Book Group Bible Study With Fr. Blake
Thursday, 11/20/08	7:00pm-8:00pm	Arts & The Spirit
Friday, 11/21/08	7:00pm-8:30pm	Prayer & Meditation
Thursday, 12/04/08	11:30am – 1:00pm	Bible Study With Fr. Blake – brown-bag lunch

Organizational meetings will be called sometime after Thanksgiving for additional groups that might meet on Sunday mornings between 9 & 10am – perhaps another Book Group and another Prayer and Meditation group, or any other group for which interest develops.

We still need to schedule initial meetings of the intergenerational events, the focus groups and retreat groups. Some intergenerational events may be scheduled during Advent. For additional information, please be in touch with Marge Bliss, through a message at the parish office.

A FINAL AFFAIRS FAIR

Adult Forums in November will lead us into a discussion of ‘final things’ – the end of our physical lives.

Sunday, November 9th – *Developing your theology of Dying & Death.* What does the Bible say about life after death? What does the Episcopal Church teach in the Book of Common Prayer? What do you believe?

Sunday, November 16th – *Is it really all about the paperwork?* Directive to physicians – medical powers-of-attorney – last will and testament.

Sunday, November 23rd – *And When I Die.* No, we haven’t invited the rock-n-roll band Blood, Sweat, and Tears to come sing their 1972 Number One hit. But we will talk about what you want – and don’t want – in your funeral service. You will have the opportunity to let the parish know your decisions about: burial or cremation – services at the church or a funeral home – communion at the service? – how much music?

Celebrate – Reclaim - Renew 4:00pm on Sunday, November 30, 2008 The Re-Opening of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

The Great Organ will again be heard, the legendary Bernini and Mortlake tapestries will be viewable, and the Great Rose Window will sparkle.

The Diocese has arranged for a bus that will stop at the New Paltz Park-n-Ride lot. Some in the parish have discussed traveling to NYC on Metro-North or perhaps renting a van to leave from Christ Church, then remaining in the City following the service for dinner. Interested in one or the other? Sign-up in the NCR during Coffee Hour or call the parish office.

Taco – Burrito Dinner Saturday, November 15th – 5:00-7:00pm

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 161 Mansion Street, invites one and all to a Taco-Burrito Fund Raising Dinner sponsored by their parish youth. \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children – under five years-of-age, free.

2009 Fair Trade Bazaar

The Fair Trade Bazaar will be held in the Aula of Ely Hall at Vassar College on Saturday, November 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, November 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Fair Trade Bazaar, co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, offers beautiful handcrafted items from all over the world, made by craftspeople who receive fair pay for their work.

The Purposes of the Bazaar are:

- To offer unique, multicultural goods from around the world, crafted by workers who are paid a decent wage.
 - To give local non-profit service agencies an opportunity to promote their services and sell fund-raising products.
 - To create a community event where people of all beliefs can demonstrate their values by consuming wisely and benefiting those in need.
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Camerata Chorale Celebrates Vaughn Williams

Sunday November 23 at 3:00pm

1st Evangelical Luther Church
324 Mill Street in Poughkeepsie

Donas Nobis Pacem – Serenade – Greensleeves
Shakespeare Folk Songs – English Folk Songs

\$15.00 Admission, \$ 12.00 Seniors,
\$5.00 Students

www.camerata-chorale.org

Kairos Consort Choir SUNY-New Paltz Concert Choir College-Community Chorale and Chamber Singers Presents Joint Concert at Christ Church

Saturday, November 22 at 8:00pm

The Kairos Consort Choir will join the SUNY-New Paltz Concert Choir, College-Community Chorale and Chamber Singers in concert featuring *The Ecstasies Above* by contemporary 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.

In exchange for Christ Church providing the venue for this concert – due to facilities at SUNY-New Paltz being under renovation – the parish will be the beneficiary of this concert. Suggested donation is \$12.00.

***Concerts Con Brio presents* American Songbook An evening of 20th Century American Art Song**

Shanna Andrawis, soprano
Sylvia Buccelli, piano
performing music by
Samuel Barber – Aaron Copland,
Libby Larsen – John Musto

Friday, November 14th, 7:30pm
Newton Community Room
Suggested donation: \$12 at the door
