

The Courier

Volume 58, Issue 12

December 2004

FEEDBACK

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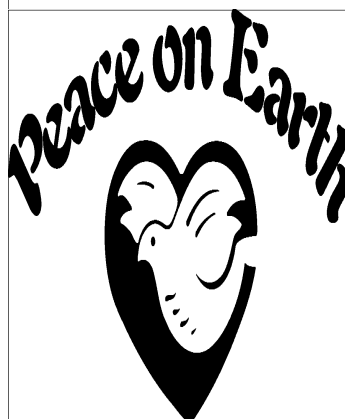
Calendar 7

One of the topics that came to light during the discussion of our worship design was a sense that many did not want worship to feel like “performance.” I have given this some thought and would like to reflect openly with the whole parish about the distinction.

It seems to me that the basic difference between worship and performance is that the purpose of a performance is the performance itself, while the purpose of worship lies beyond the worship experience. In other words, when the Hudson Valley Philharmonic performs Mahler’s 1st Symphony, for example, the purpose of that event is for the audience to come and experience the beauty and excitement of that great piece of music. When the performance is over, we all applaud, go home, and feel uplifted and encouraged.

On the other hand, when we gather for worship we come to participate in a community event. There is no audience in worship; everyone has a role to play. The celebrant leads the service and celebrates the Eucharist. The deacon proclaims the gospel, leads the intercessions, and dismisses us to go into the world boldly. The choir strengthens the congregation in its singing and offers special music which requires previous preparation. The acolytes act as helpers and assistants. The ushers act as hosts and greet newcomers to our celebration. The altar guild works behind the scenes to insure that the elements are ready for the community’s celebration. And the people come to sing, pray, listen, learn, eat, and then go forth to love and serve.

It seems to me that the confusion comes because in our trial setting the choir was positioned up front and visible. They were seated in a place analogous to the place of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic to its audience. Although they were participating in worship, it looked and felt very close to “performance.” I am thinking of a modification that would lessen this sense of “performance,” but I also need to say that a lot of it is in the mind of the worshipper.



The Episcopal Church engages in liturgical worship, which means that we act out our truth in worship. Our worship is drama, and often requires “rehearsal.” The choir rehearses weekly, not to do performance, but in order to offer its contribution at the highest level possible. The altar guild functions as a sort of “props department” keeping and preparing all sorts of hardware for worship. The congregation serves as the “chorus” in a Greek play, chanting, reciting in unison, and “dancing” up to the altar rail and back. Liturgical worship is not just for the head. It is not just thinking the right thoughts, and learning the right laws. The drama

of liturgical worship allows God's grace to get into our lives through symbol, movement, silence, and song (sometimes even through smell, for example with incense or greenery.) So our worship has many elements common to performance. The attitude of the actors, all of the actors, is what makes the difference.

Let me conclude with two thoughts. First, it is interesting to me that only the choir was singled out for "performance." Deacon Mary or I stand up in front of the entire congregation every Sunday, with a spotlight on us and deliver a monologue for about ten to fifteen minutes. How is that different from "performance?" Sometimes I tell people that I do "stand up" for a living. Lastly, if so many people find "performance" offensive in a place of worship, why do so many of us applaud at the end of the organ postlude? Isn't applause a response to someone's performance? Is the postlude "worship" or "performance?" What exactly are we applauding?

I want to thank everyone for their thoughtful participation in this process. We move forward slowly, but relentlessly.

Michael

A NOTE FROM GOD

Dec. 5	Psalm 72:1-8	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matt. 3:1-12
Dec. 12	Psalm 146:4-9	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10	Matt. 11:2-11
Dec. 19	Psalm 24:1-7	Isaiah 7:10-17	Romans 1:1-7	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec. 26	Psalm 147:13-21	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7	John 1:1-18

"*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. Michael Phillips, Rector
 The Rev. Arnulfo Arámbulo,
 Latino Ministry
 Mary Gregorius, Deacon
 Laura Russell, Music Director
 John Sullivan, Organist
 John Colclough, Senior Warden
 Jr. Warden
 Michele Haynes, Parish Secretary
 J. Peter Pelton, Property Steward
 Samuel Somah, Sexton

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

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E-mail:

christchurch@mindspring.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.

WOMEN IN BLACK

Women in Black is a world-wide movement of women who stand together in mourning attire in support of Peace and Justice. They are bonded together to oppose killing, destruction, and the madness of war. They stand in silence as a witness to the seriousness of their belief. We are told it began in Jerusalem in 1988 when a group of Israeli and Palestinian women met together to stand for Peace. Evelyn Fortna watched a group of Palestinian women in black in 1968. Perhaps it became an international movement some years later. For more information on Women in Black, read the flyer on the bulletin board to the right as you enter the Newton Community Room.

NOVEMBER LEM VISITATION SCHEDULE

Catherine& Charles Arena	Dec. 5 Lillian Garrett-Thomas	Dec. 19 Dcn. Mary Gregorius
Mildred Botsford	Dec. 5 Kathryn Moran	Dec. 19 Dcn. Mary Gregorius
Louis & Grace Endsley	Dec. 5 Becky Nielson	Dec. 19 The Rev. Michael Phillips
Elizabeth Frost	Dec. 5 Leonard Lewis	Dec. 19 Dcn. Mary Gregorius
Regina Givler	Dec. 5 Betty Olson	Dec. 19 The Rev. Michael Phillips
Betty Long	Dec. 5 Martha Thornley	Dec. 19 The Rev. Michael Phillips
Geege Moore	Dec. 5 Jim Oppenheimer	Dec. 19 Dcn. Mary Gregorius
Elizabeth Oakes	Dec. 5 Jean Winne	Dec. 19 The Rev. Michael Phillips

DIRECTORY UPDATE

I am in the process of updating the Parish Directory. Please check your copy of the directory to ensure the information about your entry is correct. If there are any changes to be made, make them on this form and drop it in the mail slot on the Parish Office door. You may also contact me at 452-8220 or e-mail me at christ-church@mindspring.com

Thank you.

Michele Haynes, Parish Secretary

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CHILDREN: _____

TELEPHPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

REFLECTIONS FROM DIOCESAN CONVENTION

In the early hours of a cold, snowy November morning, Father Michael, Peggy Kraft, and I headed to the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown for the 228th Convention of the Diocese of New York. We were there to represent Christ Church as voting delegates and to gather information that could be of use to us as we carry out the church's mission here in Poughkeepsie.

We heard reports of the various groups at work in the diocese. A particular highlight was the report from the Seamen's Church Institute. There are many ways that our members will be able to lend a hand to their worthwhile mission of advancing the personal, professional, and spiritual well-being of merchant mariners worldwide.

We attended workshops with such titles as "Attracting and Welcoming Newcomers," "Personal Prayer through Art, Silence, and the Prayer Book," and "The Managed Fund: A New Investment Option from DIT." We look forward to sharing what we learned with the appropriate Christ Church committees.

We lent our support to the various candidates from the Mid-Hudson region during voting although we were only successful in electing a few to the positions they sought. More success was found when it came to the resolutions, all of which eventually passed. They included encouraging all parishes to hold a Prison Ministry Sunday during Epiphany Season and to seek out partnerships with people in prison and their families. It was gratifying to hear Christ Church mentioned from the podium as a positive example of this ministry.

The Social Concerns Commission submitted a resolution encouraging laws to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression as well as sexual orientation. The goal would be to enhance the civil rights of all members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp submitted a resolution related to the School of the Americas - Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation of the U. S. Army. In short, the convention voted to urge Congress to deny funding for the WHISC and to establish a commission to study the constitutionality of continuing to support this school from a military, political, and ethical point of view. The resolution authorized the Social Concerns Commission to continue fostering dialogue with federal officials.

The Economic Justice Committee was supported in their efforts to establish a Diocesan Community Development Low-Income credit union. The goal will be to provide real opportunities to transform the lives of the working poor. We will hear more about the capital campaign for initial funding of this effort over the next few months.

Anyone who would like to know more about the specifics of the day should feel free to ask us for details. All in all, it was inspiring for this first-time delegate to see the far-reaching variety of work that our diocese is involved in. Even in these difficult times, I am hopeful that together we can work to establish justice and peace for all human beings.

Respectfully submitted by Jackie Vierno

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE POST ON YOUR FRIDGE



Acolyte Schedule December 5, 2004 to January 30, 2005

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolytes - Crucifer/server, torchbearer(s)</u>
Dec 5	Jason Gregorius, Alice Friedle,
Dec 12	Nick Currie, Tonia Scott-Overfield
Dec 19	Irene Currie, Kadeesha Weise
Dec 24, 4pm	Gracie Phillips, Tonia Scott-Overfield, Kadeesha Weise
10pm	Nick Currie, Irene Currie, Jason Gregorius, Alice Friedle,
Dec 26	No acolytes

2005

Jan 2	Jason Gregorius, Alice Friedle
Jan 9	Nick Currie, Tonia Scott-Overfield
Jan 16	Irene Currie, Kadeesha Weise
Jan 23	Gracie Phillips, Alice Friedle
Jan 30	Jason Gregorius, Tonia Scott-Overfield

If you cannot serve on the date listed, please contact another acolyte to substitute for you. Thank you all for agreeing to serve Christ Church this year in this special way.

Irene Currie 485-5105 snacurrie@mhv.net
 Nick Currie 485-5105
 Alice Friedle 473-1337 (torchbearer) Kfriedle@hfmomag.com
 Jason Gregorius 297-0253 confuzeakatld@aol.com
 Gracie Phillips 485-5981 mike72541@aol.com
 Tonia Scott-Overfield 454-4671 (torchbearer)
 Kadeesha Weise 473-1792 (torchbearer)

FROM THE BATON OF LAURA RUSSELL, MUSIC DIRECTOR

For our intergenerational service on Dec. 5, we'd like to use a handbell/organ/other instruments piece. We will practice at 10:00 am on Saturday, Dec. 4. Please see John Sullivan today or next Sunday if you are interested. All are welcome, but rehearsal is a must.

Upcoming Musical Events:

Saturday, December 4th at 4:00PM – John Sullivan Organ Recital—Works by Albinoni, Bach, Bitgood, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Michel, Pachelbel, Schumann, Vivaldi, and Willan will be performed. A donation of \$10 is suggested. Proceeds will benefit the church's organ maintenance fund.

Monday, December 13th at 6:00PM – Evensong in honor of Asta Lang

Sunday, December 19th at 4pm – Lessons & Carols Service – Christ Church Choir joins with the Choir of St. Gregory's Eastern Orthodox Church to bring you wonderful music from the season of Advent.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Christchurch 2004 Annual report has been completed. They have been placed alphabetically on the piano in the church. Please pick up your copy so that we can save the expense of mailing. Thank ou.

Michele Haynes,
Parish Secretary

COMPANIONS

The Companions of Christ Church are sponsoring an informal day of quiet reflection and meditation on December 11, 2004 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Join us for a brief retreat from the hectic season.



The **DEADLINE** for the January, 2005 "Courier" is Sunday, December 19. Please bring items to the parish office, or you may e-mail articles to me at christchurch@mindspring.com. Thank you, Michele.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Center of the Square Fundraiser 6:30- 9PM/CR	2 Noon AA CR Choir Reh.7:30PM/CR	3 Noon AA/CR	4 AA/7PM/CR
5 8AM/HE Parish Breakfast/All Generation Service 10AM/HE/11AM Annual Meeting 1PM Santa Misa7PM AA/Bard. Reh.	6 Noon AA CR 7PM/AA/CR	7 Noon AA/CR 7:30pm-Center of the Square 7:30pm-Property Com. Mtg./LMR	8 Lindy Hoop 7- 9:30pm	9 Noon AA/CR Choir 7:30pm/CR	10 Noon AA/CR SCA Dance 8-10PM	11 AA 7PM/CR
12 8AM/HE 10AM/HE 1PM Santa Misa Fiesta de Guadalupe	13 Noon AA CR 7:30PM-Property Com. Mtg./LMR 6PM-Asta Lang- Memorial Ser- vice-Reception to follow 7PM-AA/CR.	14 10am HE Noon AA/CR	15 Lindy Hoop 7- 9:30pm	16 Noon AA/CR Choir 7:30pm/CR	17 Noon AA/CR Dignity/Integrity 7:30/CR	18 AA 7PM/CR
19 8AM/HE-10AM/HE "The Courier" Deadline 1pm Santa Misa 4PM Advent Lessons & Carols AA7PM/CR	20 Noon AA CR 7PM-AA/CR	21 10am HE Noon AA CR 7:30pm-Vestry/ CR	22 Lindy Hoop 7- 9:30pm	23 Noon AA/CR Choir 7:30pm/CR	24 Noon AA/CR 4:30PM First Eucharist of Christmas 10:30PM Midnight Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 10AM HE at St. Paul's AA 7PM/CR
26 8AM/HE 10AM/HE 1PM Santa Misa AA -7PM/CR	27 Noon AA CR 7PM/AA/CR	28 10am HE Noon AA CR	29 Lindy Hoop 7- 9:30pm	30 Noon AA/CR Choir 7:30pm/CR	31 Noon AA/CR	

HE-Holy Eucharist

MP-Morning Prayer

LMR- Lay Ministry Room

PLE-Parish Life

CME-Community Ministry Team

ESL - English as a Second Lang.

CR - Community Room

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**

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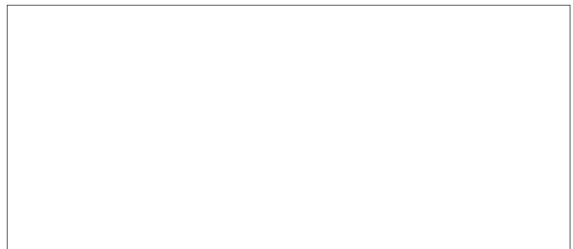
**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH-WE
 PROVIDE A SPIRITUAL HOME FOR A
 DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE,
 UNITED IN THE EUCHARIST,
 RESPECTFUL OF HISTORY AND
 TRADITION, AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED
 IN CHRIST'S MINISTRY FOR TODAY'S
 WORLD. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!**

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*Celebrate
 the Birth of Jesus*



December 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 December.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. Turner Graham 2. Jeffrey & Elizabeth Graham 3. Michael & Clare Graham 4. Hal & Dcn. Mary Gregorius and Adam & Jason 5. Mark & Nancy Griffin 6. Bob & Sue Griscom 7. Charles & Katherine Grubb 8. Julius & Carla gude 9. Herman Harmelink 10. Barbara Harrington 11. Arlene Hermann-Valenzuela 12. Victor & Allison Herrero and Jim, William, & Caroline 13. Shari Hubner 14. Sam & Louise Im 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Armine Isbirian 16. John & Patricia Isbirian 17. Jeh & Norma Johnson 18. Doris Kest 19. Anthony & Jennifer Hammond-King and Emily, Ryan, & David 20. Peggy Kraft & Jobanna 21. Bill Lang 22. Ann Lawson and Paul & Gabriel 23. Loyd & Cynthia Lee 24. Leonard & Dorothy Lewis 25. Steve & pat Lichtenberg 26. Ruth Little 27. Mary Lou Logan 28. Betty Long 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. David Lumb 30. Bob Lumb 31. Ed & Carol Lundergan <p><i>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.</i></p>
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