

The Courier

Volume 59, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2005

DEAR FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

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Since mid-September I have had the joy of serving as your Interim Pastor. What a gifted congregation you have gathered here! A stunning sanctuary, exquisite music, competent leaders, a dedicated staff, creative and vital service to the community. Reasons to be deeply thankful.

This is a transition time, and transitions are always difficult. It is a time between rectors. Every time someone enters or leaves a family, there is a period of adjustment. When someone leaves who has played a key role in the life of the group, it is especially hard.

This is also a time of change in how Christ Church has served the community. Programs begun by the congregation that formerly were a focus for a lot of energy are no longer in the hands of congregation. Now they are the work of Center of the Square, an independent entity formed so that the work can be funded through grants not available to a church. For many people that is a loss. It changes our perception of ourselves.

As an outsider who has been attracted to Christ Church and welcomed into your church family, I want to share with you my perspective about this second transition.

First, it is clear that your service to the community is central to your sense of your identity. From the perspective of one who has recently entered from the outside, I find that to be simply wonderful. Service to others ought to be central to the life of every Christian congregation. Sadly it is often not. That it is so very important to all of you is both encouraging and exciting.

Second, it is clear that recent changes have unnerved many members of Christ Church. That is natural. Change is often unnerving, and it is helpful frankly to acknowledge that feeling.

Thirdly, from the perspective of a new member of your family, despite the recent changes in how you are serving the community, the level of service to the community through Christ Church remains very high. Programs you began in years past, like Climbing the Beanstalk and the Summer Camp, are continuing under other leadership. Members remain involved in these programs. The congregation gives financial support to several programs, either out of the Christ Church budget or through our diocese, to which we contribute a very significant amount of money!



Not least in importance, we maintain a building that gives people a place to conduct these and other programs. How many AA groups meet here?

Fourth, not a few people feel frustrated that Christ Church itself is not directly involved in and responsible for programs that serve the community in the way we were in the past. How wonderful! Our dreams are bigger than present reality! Let's keep those dreams alive and let's remain alert for the opportunities God will put in our path for realizing them!

Finally, this time may be a time of generating new ways of serving the community. It undoubtedly is a time of embracing and celebrating the service we continue to render, albeit in a different form from the past. Let's make a comparison with sports. There are people who play the game, and there are others who manage the team and the arena so that others can play. Both roles are vital to the game. At present perhaps Christ Church is more involved in management than in playing. But you cannot have the play without the management. It is great to dream of being back on the playing field the way we were in the past. But while we are attentive to how we can do that, let's not fail to embrace our role as managers with enthusiasm and a healthy pride!

Christ Church continues its venerable tradition of community service. The present brings its own special challenges to continuing and expanding it. It is important to embrace who we are at this time in our history with energy and thankfulness. Like two of the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we may have to be content to be faithful with a little. It will be up to God decide when to set us over much!

Grace & Peace,

Adam Bartholomew+

A NOTE FROM GOD

December 4	Psalm 85:7-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a,18	Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8
December 11	Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:(12-15)16-28	Isaiah 65:17-25 John 1:6-8,19-28
December 18	Psalm 132:8-15 Romans 16:25-27	2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16 Luke 1:26-38
December 25	Psalm 96:1-4,11-12 Titus 2:11-14	Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 Luke 2:1-20

"*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. Dr. Adam Bartholomew,
Interim Pastor

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.

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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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In order that we may keep our Intercessory list as current as possible, we ask that if you have a prayer request, you call Michele Haynes, in the church office at 452-8220 or email her at christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com and give her the information. She will record the request in her Prayer Request Log. When there is a change in status, you should call Michele so that she can make the necessary change. If you have any updates about people currently on the list that we may not know about, please also let us know that. Thank you.

NEWS FROM JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

Our formation program for youth ages 11-18 is growing! We welcomed new students to the Confirmation level, J2A this past month. Coming up for all three levels and their parents in December is a holiday celebration on December 11, from 11:30 to 1:30. We will offer a Litany of Dedication for the J2A students as they begin their preparation for confirmation, and we will tell the story of Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe before the afternoon festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The Christ Church 2005 Annual report has been completed. They have been placed alphabetically on the Table in the front of the church. Please pick up your copy so that we can save the expense of mailing. Thank you. Michele Haynes, Parish Administrator

LUTHERAN CARE CENTER:

Each year we have been able to provide gifts to each of the residents and for some of our residents who have no families, these are the only gifts they received. Gifts are made possible by the generosity of people in the community, as well as local churches. We want to continue our goal and tradition and invite you to participate. If you are making A donation, please bring them to the parish office. Here are some helpful ideas: men's shirts, light weight pajamas, and L/XL undershirts and T shirts; women's front opening blouses (M,L,XL), back or front closure night gowns, costume jewelry, perfume, toiletries; men and women socks, sweat shirts, cardigan sweaters, slippers; large calendars, wall clocks, books, video and audio cassettes, radios, small TV's, and board games. Please deliver by December 16. Thank you.

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

There is a familiar phrase I have read many times over the years that states "Many are called, few are chosen" it is a great saying and I would be well pleased to be able to consider myself in that light, self delusion being one of life's well known hazards.

However, I do feel that the "calling" is relevant, I have lost count of the number of times, over the past forty-one years that Angela and I have served on the Vestry, chaired or participated in this "committee" or that "study" and been engaged in conducting the "mission" of Christ Church. It would have been very easy, during those days of running this child to a swim at the YWCA on Bancroft Road and one or more to violin, recorder, oboe, horse riding, soccer etc., to have said "no" when asked to serve. On occasion we did, of course, say no.

When we look back on things there were moments of doubt when leaving Christ Church might have been an option, probably that was there following the fire on May, 2 1982 that destroyed the part of our buildings occupied by St George's. The St George's School, (both our children attended the school) was founded by our church, Zion and St James, Hyde Park. Our Rector at that time was Rhys Williams and he became their first Headmaster. As School Board President and Vestry person of Christ Church, at the time of the fire, I appealed to the City Planning and then the Zoning Board for permission to rebuild and was successful despite, at times, quite vicious written presentations from a wide neighborhood including a particularly vehement one from the then Rector of St. Paul's, Mansion Square (how times change!). The Vestry of Christ Church then rejected the motion to rebuild, accepting \$800,000 in insurance as compared to \$1,200,000 to rebuild. A few of the people in our church with children in the school, particularly those who had served on either School Board or Vestry or both, left our church. One of them approached me and said "How can you continue in that church after what "they have" done". Well, I understood the Vestry's dilemma; they were shocked by what had happened, the church was now a very quiet place but, I suspect, the solution I supported of rebuilding to an expanded specification to meet the real needs of the school and leasing the new building to the school involved significantly more risk than, eventually, any of them were prepared to take. "What if the school fails after a couple of years, we'll be left with a big new building and the debt from the expanded facilities" was one concern I remember.

All this may make interesting reading but, there is, I feel, a significant other message here, the church school relationship was a symbiotic one, it wasn't without friction, but it meant that the buildings were in heavy use for six days of the week plus occasional Saturday events, (The Christ Church Advent Coffee and the Christ Church Annual Clambake and many smaller events often took place on a Saturday and brought in thousands of dollars every year). When you came through the Carroll Street entrance on a school day you entered a hive of activity the secretaries of both school and church had adjacent offices. You might meet a string of young people returning to the school from an activity in the nave of the church. In, what we now refer to, as the "lower level" a French class would be in session and opposite would be the rudimentary Science Lab. Kindergarten was on the ground floor of one leg of the "L" shaped building with the offices of the school and other classrooms above and a short stairway connected to the classrooms in the other leg of the building above the church hall.

However that was the seventy's and now we don't have those buildings, but we do have the Episcopal Housing Authority who are in the business of providing "seed" money for a church that would like to develop a symbiotic relationship with a School, a Senior Housing project a Day Care Center or some other organization, or perhaps some combination of the above that would serve the community.

Poughkeepsie and the surrounding Towns are constantly changing, a large group of "baby boomers" are entering retirement. Many more younger families need support with day care. As our country competes in an aggressively more global economy, social services at all levels are unlikely to maintain current levels let alone improve. So there is an opportunity there, albeit at greater risk than we are accustomed, to reach out and try to engage.

Although the symbiotic relationship is a possibility for the future it is not something we should pursue right now - a key player in any such process would be our new Rector.

For the past three years as a Warden I have tried to keep "growth" in sight for everybody on the Vestry and, judging by the "Search" survey, apparently that is what all of you want too. I am not sure growth is the right word but we need to have more people in our congregation if we are to survive: **the support provided by the Endowment is no longer sufficient.**

The growth concern is not a new one, in the summer of 2001 at a special Vestry meeting after church we were introduced to the Trinity Growth Forum of the Sacramento based Trinity Cathedral of Northern California. The program is credited with raising the number of congregants from around 100 to 600+. Currently they are building a cathedral to seat 1,000. This Program is probably very effective however, although we sent and paid for four people - when they returned there were little discussion and not a lot of activity. The only difference I can recall is that from that time on we required a unanimous vote on all decisions of the Vestry. The main reason for this lack of follow up was probably that were in the early stages of the Capital Campaign and there were not enough resources to do both. There are other programs too. There is the Alpha Program, the St Bart's method that some from our church attended recently and, I am sure, many others. Church Growth is also the subject in a fair number of books.

My feeling about all these programs is that most of those that are successful will exhibit two characteristics. They will have some person of both vision and high energy who will "drive" the process of change and secondly the congregation will have accepted the inevitability of what needs to happen. It was, I believe the Dean in Trinity, Sacramento, Nicky Gumbel for Alpha and Bill Tully for St. Bart's.

In our church I feel very comfortable, there are those I have known for years, I enjoy being in the choir, I like the sermons, the format of the service and I think the interior of our church is very beautiful. Why change? Well, I am increasingly aware that I am in the elderly category, many friends have died or gone south, my feeling about having been here for so long is more of a "where on earth did all those years go" rather than anything else. In other words I am, like it or not, more in the past. That, of course, doesn't mean, "not interested" because I am. Dearly I would like our church to prosper.

What everybody MUST understand is that the "status quo" IS NOT AN OPTION. In other parts of the country the Rector's compensation policy considers the size of the congregation, not so in this diocese. Here it is one size fits all and they establish a minimum compensation package that increases by at least 4% a year.

The table below shows what this looks like for the years 2006-2010 and remember this is the MINIMUM compensation.

Year	Comp. A	Housg B	FICA C	Total D	Pension Dx18%	Cnt. Edu.	Trav Exp.	Med	Dent	Work Comp.	TOTAL Package
2006	42300	21150	4854	68304	12294.71	500	1000	11784	1620	751.34	96254
2007	44000	22000	5049	71049	12788.82	500	1000	12000	1700	781.54	99739
2008	45800	22900	5256	73956	13312.00	500	1000	12300	1780	813.51	103661
2009	47600	23800	5462	76862	13835.18	500	1000	12600	1860	845.48	107423
2010	49500	24750	5680	79930	14387.42	500	1000	13000	1950	879.23	111647

Thus should our pledges reach \$210,000 for 2006, it will need to be \$226,000 by the year 2010 just to handle clergy increases. This, of course, is not the only factor, our Staff is not covered under the same guidelines plus some are members of the church who pledge. So, going forward the expectation for their annual pledge increase will likely exceed the nominal raises they receive. A very undesirable situation. Add in the possibility of energy prices, insurance and building repairs increasing and it is not hard to see that the pressure on the budget will continue to grow.

So, whether we eventually go the symbiotic route or the stand alone, grow from within method - one thing is KEY - The new RECTOR.

The Search Committee has executed brilliantly to date. What lies ahead now is the awesome responsibility of **finding the unique, exactly right person** who has the drive to make things work for our church **NOW** and despite the budget problems noted above - we need to go for it. **There should be no restriction on the search team such as only looking at candidates with say less than ten years experience.** The Search manual, the Diocese provides is quite well done, one of the good things for the Search team is that "they" do the Survey and "they" do the Profile, obliging the members of the team to do their homework in discovering where the church is **NOW**. This feeds directly into the subsequent interviewing process; it establishes the key element of knowing what you are looking for. The interviewing part of the manual was, I thought, a good basic starting point though the tailoring to the present objective probably needs more effort. The most difficult part of their task lies ahead and I feel very confident about how they will execute.

Finally, let me tell you how blessed and honored I have felt to be your Senior Warden for the past two years. This year we had the full complement of twelve people on the Vestry who pursued their committee work diligently so that good decisions could be made in the Vestry meetings, thereby saving Marge and me extra work. Their attendance was excellent, plus we were able to get a Search Committee in place early in the year so we are now well advanced on that path as the year ends. Even though I had a couple of trips to London and then again to Birmingham, England with our Christ Church Choir, I managed to be here for every single Vestry meeting. Marge was an excellent Junior Warden; we split the work of the church between so that we both did not have to be at every meeting. We were able to maintain a regular service schedule with a priest in the pulpit every week throughout the entire year. As you will note in the Annual Report we have \$675,000 to use for restoration on the Tower, more than I ever thought we would have. The Nominating Committee has successfully recruited eight new people for the Vestry so that we will maintain a full Vestry for the coming year. We have an enthusiastic, wonderful, new Interim Pastor who (see his article in this issue) appreciates the range of our activities and the possibilities that lie ahead on our transitional path to the New Christ Church of the future.

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.



The **DEADLINE** for input for the January issue of "The Courier" is Sunday, December 18. Please be sure to have all information to Michele Haynes (452-8220 or e-mail at christchurchpok@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

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

We want to thank everyone who has volunteered to host our Sunday morning hospitality hour so far this Fall. We have had wonderful goodies after the 10:00 am service to warm our hearts and souls. We want to remind any family who has signed up for the future to check the directions sheet which is posted next to the sign-up outside the Rector's office. It will give you a clear idea of what supplies you need to provide and how to make the coffee, etc. You may also contact Karla Friedle at 473-1337, and she will email you those same guidelines.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: You will be receiving your annual Christmas letter in the mail this week. Enclosed in it will be the Christmas offering envelope. This offering is used towards the beautification of Christ Church and special music at Christmas. If you would like to remember someone, please submit your envelope with name(s) to the church office by Thursday, December 15 for inclusion in the Memorial List of the Christmas bulletins. If you would like to designate your donation for the music fund, please indicate this on your check or envelope.

DECORATE THE CHURCH



The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday, December 23rd at 1:30PM. If you would like to help, please come.

PONY EXPRESS RUN ENCOURAGES STEWARDSHIP

Christ Church is once again using the Pony Express Run as its annual stewardship campaign. The Run began on Sunday, November 4, with the commissioning of the 10 Trail Bosses and the passing of the Saddlebags to the first Route Riders (families on the route). The response to this campaign has been very encouraging, and the families who have participated not only found the concept of Estimate of Giving to be more helpful than the traditional pledge, but they also enjoyed the contact with other members of the Christ Church family who were on their Pony Express Route. Many thanks to the Trail Bosses, the Route Riders, and all who have worked hard to make this campaign both productive and enjoyable.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP WITH NEVA RAE FOX, DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

On November 14, 2005 a group of parishioners and representatives of the leadership met with Neva Rae Fox who is the Director of Communications for the Diocese of New York. She was invited to meet with us to discuss overall communications strategy at Christ Church with particular emphasis on the Courier, signage, and the website. We consider this workshop to be the beginning of the development of a part of our overall strategy for growth. First, an exhaustive list of ways to communicate was compiled, making note of the ones that we utilize. Next, came a discussion of The Courier, evaluating what works and what does not. The group decided that it is time to refurbish our newsletter to make it even better. In order that it will serve all of you and meet your needs, we will include a survey to get your input in the January issue and proceed from there. We are looking to form a committee to help begin this process. If you have talents in the areas of reporting, interviewing, layout, design, distribution, editing, or determining content and are interested in offering those talents on a short term basis, please let us know. A conversation about exterior signage was next. Location, on and off the church property, content and style were noted as issues to be considered. There seemed to be consensus that a sign that would publicize changing events would be important. Because there are lots of stylistic possibilities for such a sign, we would like to solicit your assistance by having you take photos of examples of what you like and don't like. Perhaps, if you are going away for the holidays, you might have an opportunity to check out signs outside our own area. Neva Rae complimented us on our website, and said that she had used it as a model for her own church which is currently creating one. She said that it is "clean," easy to navigate, and has excellent directions. She did make some suggestions as to things that we might add. The workshop ended with a promise from her to come and help us specifically with the newsletter when we are ready. She is eager to do so, as are we to have her come. We all felt that it was a good start. Present at the meeting: Adam Bartholomew, Interim Pastor; Marge Bliss, Warden; Rosemarie Calista; Anna May Filor; Mary Flad; Phyllis George, Vestry; Mike George; Carlie Graves; Peggy Kraft; Sally Vasse, Vestry.

**REMEMBER !!
SEND IN
YOUR CHRISTMAS
OFFERING
ENVELOPE WITH
THE NAMES OF
THOSE YOU WANT
TO BE PUT ON THE
CHRISTMAS
MEMORIAL LIST
BY THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 15TH.**

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E-mail: Info@hvh-jjc.com

Fax: 845-452-1606

AN INDEPENDENT LENNOX DEALER

DECEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon AA/NC 7:30PM Choir rehearsal /NCR	2 Noon AA/NC	3 2:30-6PM Recital/NCR AA/7PM/CR
4 8AM & 10AM HE 9AM 2005 Annual Meeting/Parish Breakfast 1PM Misa St. Joe's Fellowship 5:30PM/Chapel 7PM AA/NCR	5 Noon AA/NCR 7:30pm-Property Com. Mtg./LMR	6 Noon AA/NCR HE 10AM	7 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church 7:30PM Choir rehearsal /NCR AA/7PM/NCR	8 Noon AA/NCR 5AM Service and 6-9PM Festival Virgen de Juquila/ Church/Kitchen/ NCR No choir rehearsal	9 Noon AA/NCR 6-10PM Capella Festiva/Church	10 6-10PM Capella Festiva/Church AA 7PM/CR
11 8AM/10AM/HE 1PM Santa Misa 1-4PM Guadalupe Festival/Church/NCR 7PM AA/NCR	12 Noon AA/NCR 5-7AM Guadalupe Festival Church/ Kitchen/NCR	13 Noon AA/ NCR/HE 10AM 6PM St. Lucia Evensong Memorial Service for Asta Lang/ Reception follow- ing/NCR	14 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church AA/7PM/NCR	15 Noon AA/NCR 7:30PM Choir rehearsal /NCR	16 Noon AA/NCR 5:30-7:30PM Recital/NCR	17 AA 7PM/CR
18 8AM&10AMHE 1-5pm Santa Misa "The Courier" Deadline AA7PM/NCR	19 Noon AA/NCR	20 Noon AA/NCR HE 10AM 7:30PM Center of the Square meets/ LMR	21 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church AA/7PM/NCR	22 Noon AA/NCR 7:30PM Choir rehearsal	23 Noon AA/NCR 1:30PM Decorate the church for Christmas 7:30PM Choir rehearsal	24 AA 7PM/NCR
25 Christmas Day Service information to be announced 1PM Santa Misa AA -7PM/NCR	26 Parish Office closed Noon AA/NCR	27 Noon AA/NCR	28 Latino EP Service & Religious Education 7-10PM/Church/ LMR AA/7PM/NCR	29 Noon AA/NCR No Choir rehearsal	30 Noon AA/NCR 7:30PM Choir rehearsal	31 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
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On the web at: www.christchurchpok.org

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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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.

1. Eric & Tammy Zadavil	15. Steve & Keri Bliss	29. Rosemarie Calista
2. John & Ruth Ackert	16. Geoffrey Borggard	30. Tyrone Campbell
3. Joan Aldrich	17. Bill Bormander	31. Grace Cherry and Olivia
4. Jack & Yvonne Angstrom-Poley and Mikbail and Robin	18. Hugh & Arlene Bouhware	<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>
5. Catherine Arena	19. LeRoy Bowen	
6. Noel Arthurton	20. Sandy Braungard	
7. Dean & Susan Avery	21. Robert Brigham & Monica Church and Taylor	
8. Catherine Bagnall	22. Jim & Kathy Brown	
9. Claudia Battaglia and Steven	23. Robert Brown	
10. Hugo & Arlene Becker	24. Barbara Burdine	
11. Tess Berry and Maxine	25. Fred & Alice Bunnell	
12. Rachel Betz	26. Julett Butler	
13. Ron Blass	27. Vivian Cadbury	
14. Jim & Marge Bliss	28. Francine Cabill	