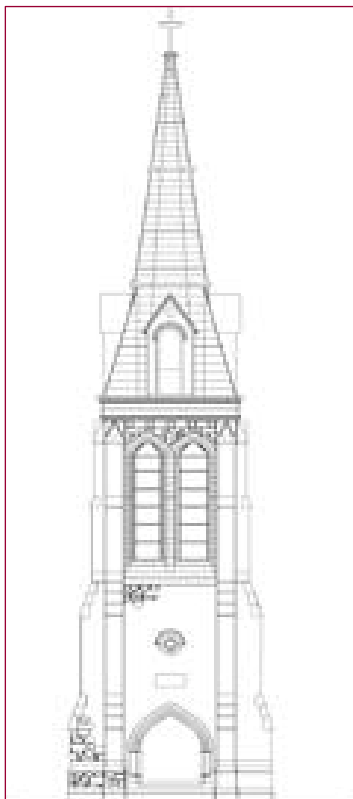


# The Courier

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 and Rector's Study, ages 3-11.

**1 PM Misa en Español**

### Thursdays

**10 AM Eucharist**  
In the Rector's office

## *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Advent 2006

*In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.*

Dear Friends,

This Bidding Prayer in the liturgy for Advent Lessons and Carols calls us to a time of preparation for the message that we will hear again at Christmas.

In the rush of the season that our culture presses upon us, my hope is that we will each be able to step aside for a time, and truly prepare our hearts, our minds, and our souls for the journey to Bethlehem that we will take on Christmas Eve. *Preparing the way of the Lord* is the work we supposed to be about. This preparation is the kind that takes place *inside us* – sometimes all too easily lost at this time of year.

My prayer is that this month you will find the time to attend worship services, either in here at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie or wherever you may be. That you will hear the Word of God proclaimed and preached. That you will join your voice with others in prayer and in song.

And at the end, I pray that on Christmas Eve you will find yourself having arrived in Bethlehem, singing with angels, amazed with shepherds, and at last, prepared to encounter the One found in a manger on that most holy of nights.

Grace & Peace,

Blake

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**  
**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am**

Begin *Hanging of the Greens*  
to decorate the Church for Christmas

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Rite I Eucharist	8:00 am
Advent IV – Lessons & Carols ( <i>no Eucharist</i> )	10:00 am
Quinceañera – Guadalupe Mission	12:00 pm
Regular Misa en Spanish	1:00 pm
Complete <i>Hanging of the Greens</i>	2:30 pm
<b>Christmas Eve Family Service</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
Guadalupe Christmas Eve Service	6:00 pm
<b>Choir with orchestra &amp; organ, performing selections from Handel's <i>Messiah</i></b>	<b>10:30 pm</b>
<b>Festival Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>11:00 pm</b>

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 am Christmas Eucharist in the Chapel**

---

**WORK ON THE RECTORY**

The renovation of the Parish House into a Rectory and home for Blake is underway. The firm engaged to repair the roof expects to be at work before end of the month. Electrical work is also underway. Repair work to the plaster is nearing completion on the second floor. There has been extensive damage done to the plaster in two of the bedrooms, due to water damage from the leaking roof. Tours are available for anyone interested.

---

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

At recent Annual Parish Meeting held on Dec. 3, we recognized and thanked Marge Bliss, whose term as Warden has come to a close. Marge led the parish through the two years when we had no Rector, then through the Search process, the calling of Blake as our new Rector, and the transition to his new ministry with the parish. We also acknowledged and thanked Loyd Lee, who is retiring as Treasurer. Many thanks also to outgoing Vestry members Phyllis George and Sally Vasse, who served as Clerk of the Vestry this past year.

Elected as Rector's Warden was Michael Wood, who will serve a one-year term. The parish elected Mike George as the People's Warden, which is a two year term. The Vestry recently amended the Parish By-Laws to provide for two-year terms for the Wardens. With Michael Wood serving only one year as Rector's Warden, we will also set in place a system where the Warden's terms will overlap each other.

A big welcome to incoming vestry members Stephen Currie, Louise Crans, Becky Nielsen, and returning vestry member Angela Colclough, whose terms will run from 2007-2010. Copies of the 2006 Annual Report available.

## FINANCE NOTES

At the November vestry meeting, Warden Michael Wood proposed that the financing for the basement and Parish House renovation and roof repair, which is expected to total about \$275,000 in costs over the next year, be financed through a reduction in the percentage of income drawn from long term investments.

Capital financing is to be provided by the endowment at a cost significantly less than that available through commercial sources, with payback taking roughly two decades at current levels. Once the renovation is completed we will no longer need to pay the housing allowance required by the diocese, which is approximately \$21,000 annually for our Rector. The proposal was voted on and approved by the Vestry.

---



## CHRISTMAS GREENS AND POINSETTIAS

Each year the church is beautifully decorated for the Christmas Eve and Christmas season services, when we celebrate the nativity of our Lord and Savior. Donating a portion of the greens and poinsettias to the Glory of God is a special way to remember a loved one who is in God's nearer presence, or to honor someone living whose life and ministry is special to you.

The following opportunities are available this year:

- **Two Poinsettia 'Mini-Trees' - \$60 each**
- **Eight Wreaths at the various doors to the church - \$25 each**
- **Large single poinsettias behind the altar - \$20 each**
- **Small single poinsettias around the pulpit & lectern - \$15 each**
- **Miscellaneous greens throughout the church – a donation in any amount**

Please use the enclosed Flower envelope. A listing of the memorials and those being otherwise remembered will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve service bulletins. Deadline is Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

---

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

A delightful and delicious potluck attended by over 60 parishioners was held on Friday, Dec. 1, to celebrate stewardship at Christ Church. It was followed by a truly fantastic pantomime of the 'Seven Deadly Sins' staged and directed by James Monteith and written by Nick Currie. It was videotaped, thanks to Marge Bliss, and if you were not able to attend, please speak to her about a screening. The puppet heads are unbelievable!

If you have attended a stewardship gathering, please turn in your envelope. A stewardship mailing with envelopes and statements of personal stewardship journeys is in the mail, for those of you who were not able to attend. Thanks to all who plan to support the work of the church.

---

## NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

Due to increased demand a new Sunday School class for 9-11 year-olds began on Dec. 3, meeting in Rector's Study 10-10:45 am. Many thanks to Herman Harmelink and Celia Serotsky for volunteering their time to teach.

---

## 2007 LITURGICAL CALENDARS AVAILABLE TO THE PARISH

The Altar Guild has arranged for 2007 liturgical calendars at no cost to parishioners. The calendars provide the lectionary readings for each week, a listing of all Feast and Saint's days in the church year. The cost of the calendars was underwritten by Mannino Electric and New York Auto Repair. The calendars may be picked up on any Sunday in December or mailed to you if requested.



**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

845.452.8220 ❖ christchurchpok@choiceonemail.com

---

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
20 Carroll St.  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601