

The Courier

Christ Episcopal Church • 20 Carroll Street • Poughkeepsie, New York • 845-452-8220
December 2008 www.christchurchpok.org Volume 62 – Issue 11

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us

Dear Friends –

These words from the Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent ring loud and clear as this season of expectation, hope, and joy makes its progression towards Bethlehem and the manger. **Our life as a parish family is being stirred up.**

The new work being undertaken, in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in the Dutchess Collaborative Reentry Project is an example of the growing mission and ministry of our parish in fulfilling the Gospel imperative as found in Matthew 25: *I was in prison, and you visited me.* There will be abundant opportunities for ministry in the work of the DCRP. Direct on-on-one mentoring of individuals recently released from incarceration; providing support in the office of the DCRP – which will be located in the Family Partnership Center; serving as a liaison between DCRP and other faith communities in Dutchess County; taking the story of DCRP to area civic and social groups; identifying and pursuing additional sources of funding. After the New Year we will have an opportunity to hear from Bonnie Allen, the DCRP Program Director, as we begin to identify critical needs. I bid your prayers on behalf of this good work, and for discernment as to how you might play a part.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Courier* you will see updates on the new ministry of Spiritual Development that is underway in our parish. It is the work of our entire lifetime to build upon and strengthen our formation as mature Christians. The new Bible Studies, Book Groups, and Prayer & Mediation groups provide an abundant resource of opportunity. Our intention to be more intentional in the development and implementation of inter-generational events is also an important component. When adolescent and adult, teen-age and those-of-more-mature years work and study and play together, we all grow as individual children of God. I bid your prayers for this good work as well.

During Advent, we are paying special attention to the focus provided by The Advent Conspiracy – calling us to Worship more Fully; to Spend Less; to Give More; and to Love All. I bid your prayers for the parish, that our common life together may continue to reflect these principals.

Hope to see you in Church during one or more of our Advent and Christmas worship services.



My prayer is that your Advent will be one of Preparation – Expectation – and Joy. Grace & Peace,

**Diocesan Choral Evensong
Honoring Parish Altar Guild Members Who Have Served 25+ Years
Sunday, January 18th at 3:30pm**

Join the Episcopal Diocese of New York at Christ Episcopal Church as we host a service of Choral Evensong, held in honor of members of parish Altar Guilds from across the Mid-Hudson Region who have served twenty-five years or more.

There will be an extended organ prelude of Epiphany Season music at 3:30 and the service begins at 4:00pm. Our Parish Choir will provide leadership in the service, with other area choirs invited to participate. Celebrant for the service will be The Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor, Assisting Bishop of the diocese.

Upcoming Musical Offerings at Christ Church

Advent Lessons and Carols - Sunday December 21, at 7:30pm.

East Meets West – Christ Church Choir will join with the choir from St. Gregory's Orthodox Church to present a special Advent Lessons & Carols Service which will feature Advent Lessons and music from the Anglican and American Orthodox traditions.

Christmas Eve at 10:30pm "Ceremony of Carols" – Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" for Harp and Choir. The concert will be followed by a Choral Eucharist Service of Christmas readings, hymns and anthems.

Interfaith Benefit Concert - Sunday January 25 at 7:30pm

A Benefit Concert for Rural & Migrant Ministry, featuring the "Jazz Cantata" by Gretchen Gould and "Chichester Psalms" by Leonard Bernstein. Combined choirs of Shalom Singers, United Methodist Church Choir, Christ Church Choir. Mexican Folk Dancers and Saxophone music will also be featured.

Suggested donation \$12 to benefit the Rural & Migrant Ministry.

Website Updates on www.christchurchpok.org

If you go to the church website and click on **Music** you will find a newly developed and much more robust presentation regarding our ministry of music. This page for our website is hosted at www.lauraramseyrussell.com and was developed by Paul Frazier. Our thanks to both of them!

A new tab is now present on our website – **Calendar**. We are in the process of transferring all of our meeting times and room reservation information to this web-based feature. Check it out and let us know what you think.

**Items Specifically
Requested for the
St. Paul's Food Pantry**

Our weekly donations of food items are distributed by the St. Paul's Food Pantry. The items of highest demand are: juice, cereal, pancake mix, soup, crackers, macaroni and cheese, tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, spaghetti noodles and sauce and canned dinners.

**A New Pictorial
Directory is Coming to
Christ Church**

During the month of February we will be putting together a new pictorial directory for the parish. The Olan Mills company will be on site for several days that month to take individual or family photos. Their new technology allows you to view the 'proofs' immediately after the pictures are taken. There is no obligation to purchase pictures, but should you desire to do so, it all occurs in one trip. Watch for more details.

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: Dec 22, 2008

Please send ideas and articles to

Jeanne Marie Perry at

sadlbun52@aol.com

**– Be more of a sheep –
and less of a goat!**

On Sunday, December 21st join an InterGenerational Event in the Newton Community Room to decorate gift boxes for the homeless, those in prison, and those in need. Also on that Sunday all are invited to bring small items for the gift boxes: socks, gloves, toiletries, scarves, snacks, etc.

This is an opportunity to live into our ‘sheep-ness’ as described in Matthew 25: seeing Jesus in everyone who is hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison.

Our youngest members will also be involved in creating the gift boxes, and they will present these gifts before the Altar Nativity crèche at the Family Christmas Eve Service.

Advent

Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

Mark 13:35, 36

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

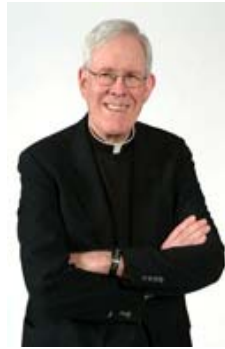
BCP, p 75



PRAY FOR PEACE

**Justice for All – December Program
Aging, Long-term Care, Ethics &
Religiously Sponsored Human Services**

December 14 at 4PM



Msgr. Charles J. Fahey, a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, and Marie Ward Doty Professor of Aging Studies, Emeritus at Fordham University. Currently, he serves as a Program Officer of the Milbank Memorial Fund. This Fund has regular meetings with representatives of each of the states and Canada regarding health and welfare issues. He is former chair of the State Council of Catholic Charities Directors and is a Fellow of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

This Forum will be held at the Hyde Park United Methodist Church, beginning at 4:00pm. The church’s address is 1 Church Street and it is located right on Route 9 in Hyde Park.

Tower Update

This first week of December has brought some very moderate weather for this time of year and a boost in the race to complete the tower restoration. The whole spire restoration has been completed with the final washing. The scaffolding is being removed at a quick pace and will soon reveal a color that no one has seen since the tower was constructed in the 1890s. It’s an amazing transformation to the original soft pinkish-red of the sandstone without years of dirt and grime. While a number of us experienced the newly cleaned Cathedral of St. John the Divine at the November 30th Evensong, we can also revel in our newly repointed, repaired, and clean spire.

What happens during the rest of December is weather-dependent. The scaffolding will be removed from the east, south and west sides of the tower, but will remain on the north elevation while work continues with stone replacement and repair. The final washing will depend on how fast winter arrives. Alan Hasbrouck, superintendent of the project for the contractor, Monaco Restorations, Inc., is working to complete the project by the middle of January. Let’s all hope and pray for a late start to winter!

In the meantime, look skyward when you come to church and enjoy the sight of the newly revealed tower. You’ll notice the difference between the completed spire and unrestored lower portions of the east, south and west facades. Perhaps that Cedar tree is performing a unique function after all by camouflaging the discrepancy between the upper and lower portions of the tower!

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 Rector's Study



Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Family Service
at 5:00 pm

Guadalupe Christmas Eve Service
at 6:00 pm

Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of
Carols" for Harp and Choir
at 10:30 pm

Festival Christmas Eve Service
at 11:00 pm

Thursday, December 25th

Christmas Day Eucharist
at 10:00am

Spiritual Development Opportunities at Christ Church

Sundays at 9:00am Bible Study & Prayer Group — This group has chosen to meet for an hour after the 8:00 AM service to discuss and study the readings they have just heard for the service. It will be a self-led group by whoever attends.

Tuesdays at 11:30am Book Group — This group has chosen to read Kathleen Norris' *The Cloister Walk*. This is a book of experiential, meditative writings which are told from a personal point of view. A decision will be made that day as to how often to meet. You can purchase the book through the parish website on Amazon.com or perhaps at local bookstores. ***When you purchase items on Amazon – through the parish website – the church receives up to 8% of the purchase price!***

Wednesdays at 9:30am Bible Study — This group opted to study the Book of Genesis, going in chronological order. This is scholarly study, led by James Oppenheimer.

Wednesdays at 12:30pm Meditation Group — This group will meet for an hour each week. The members of the group will take turns bringing in a meditation prompt (such as a poem) and then spend at least 20 minutes in quietness and end by sharing prayer concerns. There are no requirements for this group. Even someone totally inexperienced at meditating will find this experience an enriching one. There is no outside preparation required. We will meet downstairs in the J2A Room.

Wednesdays at 1:00pm Book Group — This group chose to read *The Spirituality of Imperfection, Storytelling and the Search for Meaning* by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham. This is a book that draws on the many different traditions of spirituality from ancient times to modern, including Alcoholics Anonymous.

Wednesdays at 7:00 Pm Bible Study — This group which is led by Fr. Blake, will study and discuss the previous week's Sunday sermon and lectionary readings.

Friday at 11:30am Bible Study — This group will use as a basis of their Bible Study the scriptures appointed for each Friday's Morning Prayer. Fr. Blake leads this study. Bring your own brown bag lunch.

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:

- **Christmas Trees behind the altar - \$35 each**
- **Wreaths at the various doors to the church - \$25 each**
- **Presentation of greenery, flowers & candles in one of the stained glass windows in the chapel, narthex, and choir transept - \$20 each**
- **Presentation of greenery, flowers & candles in one of the stained glass windows in the All Saints Columbarium - \$10 each**
- **Large poinsettias behind the altar - \$25 each**
- **Small poinsettias around the pulpit & lectern - \$10 each**
- **Miscellaneous greens throughout the church a donation in any amount**

A listing of the memorials and those being honored will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve service bulletins. Deadline is Sunday, December 21. Flower envelopes will be mailed to each household along with the complimentary 2009 Church Calendar, and are also available at church. You may also contact the parish office at 845-452-8220 or info@christchurchpok.org.

Cathedral Trip



On November 30th, 36 parishioners boarded a bus to attend the Evensong and rededication of the organ at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Despite holiday traffic delays and an exceedingly warm bus ride, we pulled up to the front of the Cathedral at 3:30 pm with enough time for Fr. Blake, Alice Friedle, acolyte, and Betty Olson and Mike George, parish representatives, to race off the bus to line up for the procession and for the rest of the group to find their reserved seating. It is safe to say that the

cleaning of the interior is a huge success! One sees the interior as it was when it opened on that very date 67 years ago, just 7 days before the Pearl Harbor attack! And the organ is back in use for the first time since the fire in December 2001. What an instrument!



After a reception at Synod House, the group adjourned to the bus and went to Carmine's at Broadway and 91st Street for a communal meal. We were seated at 2 tables in the lively dining room of the restaurant and were served a delicious four-course dinner family style. Celia and Arnie Serotsky, with their knowledge of the restaurant, arranged the event and it "fit the bill" completely! Now that we've once again successfully arranged a group trip, who knows what the future possibilities are?



3rd Annual Cranberry Sunday



Our 3rd annual Cranberry Sunday was held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We sold cranberry relish, cranberry butter, pumpkin and apple pies and homemade breads just in time for Thanksgiving.

Thank you to a great group of volunteers who assembled on Saturday to bake pumpkin and apple pies using only real, homemade pie crusts. Adams Fair Acre Farms donated a full bushel of Ida Reds for the apple pies and actual sugar pumpkins were used for the pumpkin pie filling. Several volunteers manned the pots of hot, bubbling cranberry relish and another group of artistic volunteers decorated the relish containers with holiday flair.

Special thanks to the J2A adult leaders and students who volunteered.

We have several containers of relish available to sell before Christmas. They are beautifully decorated and make lovely gifts for friends and neighbors. We'll make them available for sale during coffee hour (while supplies last) through the New Year. The price is \$5.



Christ Episcopal Church
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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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