

Parish Programs – 2005/2006

September 1, 2005

Dear Friends,

The following is an expanded edition of the *Chart* which contains an outline of activities and programs for the 2005-2006 school year. The coming year will be both exciting and challenging. With a full year under my belt in my second tenure at Christ Church, I will join the vestry in addressing a number of important issues about the buildings and grounds that make up the Christ Church campus. More importantly, to-be-sure, we will be seeking to 'grow the parish' both spiritually and in membership. To enhance our growth-goals, there are a number of subtle changes and enhancements of our worship, pastoral care, Christian education, music, outreach and fellowship programs that I wish to share with you.

Our Sunday schedule remains unchanged, but there will be important enhancements to the Children's service at 9:30 a.m. In the past the scripture lessons used in the chapel for the children were the same lessons used in church in the 10:00 a.m. service. Often the lessons were difficult for the children (and for the clergy) and, from time-to-time the lessons were inappropriate. This year the lessons in the chapel will follow the curriculum that is used in the Church school and will come from Biblical translations and paraphrases that are more appropriate for our children.

We also wish to enhance our music programs for adults and children. As you know, Nancy Ludwig had joined the Christ Church staff as organist-choirmaster. She has served at two cathedrals as associate organist-choirmaster and at two parish churches as organist-choirmaster. She has wide experience with children's and adult choirs and is a fine organist, holding degrees from the Curtis Institute and Yale University in organ performance. We are looking for teenagers and adults to join our choir and will be announcing programs for children of various ages in the near future. Nancy's first Sunday at Christ Church will be September 18th.

The first Sunday of our fall schedule is September 11. Following the service there will be a gala 'Ice Cream Social' to mark the opening of the church school. We will also mark the fourth anniversary of the attacks on New York and Washington. I hope you will make every effort to be with us at the time.

Please check inside the *Chart* for further information about Christ Church and its programs for the coming school year.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

*If anyone, for any reason, desires a pastoral home visit please notify the clergy or call the church office.
e-mail for The Rev'd David B. Lowry – dlowry36@aol.com or christ_church@verizon.net*

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Liturgical Assistants and Pastoral Care:

Parish lay workers are an important part of the worship and pastoral care. It is our intention to expand and enhance the levels of participation in the **Altar Guild, Lay Readers, Intercessors, Acolytes, Ushers, Choir, Lay Eucharistic Ministers** and the **Sunshine Ministry**. Additional volunteers are needed for each of these ministries. A short description of each of these ministries follows. If you would like to participate in any of these ministries, please contact the parish office.

The **Altar Guild** prepares the sacred vessels and the altar flowers for services of worship. Generally members of the Altar Guild work in pairs for a one month period. In addition, the Altar Guild members do special service for the parish decorating for services at Christmas and Easter. Diana Tadler is the director.

Lay Readers read the Old Testament lesson and the Epistle at services of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays. All those who are confident in the reading abilities and are able to project their voices are invited to share in the reading of the lessons. A short, personal training session is required for lay readers.

Intercessors lead the prayers of the people at the Sunday Eucharist. As in the case of lay readers, intercessors play an important role in our Sunday liturgy. All intercessions are fully written-out, including the names of those for whom we pray. Short training sessions are available for those wishing to be intercessors.

The **Choirs** of Christ Church lead the singing of hymns and the service music and provide anthems as part of our worship services. Nancy Ludwig, former associate organist-choirmaster at the Cathedral of the Incarnation has joined Christ Church as organist choirmaster. She will be further developing our music program. Singers are invited to join the Christ Church Choir. The choir is anchored by four section leaders. Our goal is to have at least four singers for each part (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) so additional singers are most welcome. Nancy will begin her duties at Christ Church on September 12 and her first Sunday with us will be September 18. Nancy will be developing at least one choir (and possibly more than one!) made up of children through junior high school. Details about the children's choirs will follow Nancy's formal arrival.

The **Lay Eucharistic Ministers** are licensed to administer the chalice at celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and to bring communion to hospitals, nursing homes and to shut-ins. Participation as a Lay Eucharistic Minister requires training at the Mercer School in Garden City and licensing by the Bishop of Long Island. This year we are hoping to have the Lay Eucharistic Ministers do more of the hospital and shut-in communions. We project that we will do between 120 and 150 communions each year. Please contact the office if you would be interested in joining the Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

Looking forward to Christmas: Over the past few years there has been substantial change in the Christmas services which people have chosen to attend. Attendance at the ‘Midnight Mass’ at Christ Church and at other churches has waned over the past decade. In addition, a number of families with young children have requested an earlier service than our ‘traditional’ 7:00 p.m. service. With these changes in mind, we have decided to offer two services of the Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day. The Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; the Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 a.m.

The 5:00 p.m. service will very much be a family affair. The Liturgy of the Word (and the sermon) will be the Christmas pageant. The children’s choir and the Sunday school students will provide the music. The 8:00 p.m. Eucharist will be much like the ‘Midnight Mass’ of a decade or more ago. The senior choir and instrumentalists will provide the joyous music of Christmas in the context of the festival celebration of the birth of our Savior.

On Christmas Day (which falls on Sunday this year) there will be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. with hymns. The 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. services will not be held on Christmas Day.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Christian Education:

The education program for children is one of the special joys Christ Church. Devoted teachers are the most important aspect of making Christian education work for children—and Christ Church has devoted and skilled teachers. The Christian education program begins on Sundays with a service in the Children’s Chapel in the Parish House at 9:30. Although oriented toward children, the service is what the church calls to ‘pro-anaphora,’ that is what comes before the Eucharist. It starts with a song and proceeds through the opening prayer which the adults have at the beginning of their service, the *Kyrie Eleison*, the prayer (collect) of the day, a short lesson from the Gospels, a homily, the Nicene Creed, and a short prayer. The service closes with the Peace. The children then go to class for 40 minutes. At approximately 10:40 the children proceed to the church to receive communion with their families. The Sunday Christian education program has classes for children from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. The Sunday school program begins on Sunday, September 11.

Confirmation Class:

The Diocese of Long Island requires all persons who wish to be confirmed to be at least sixteen years-of-age. From Sunday October 16 through Sunday November 6, confirmation classes will be held for teenagers and adults who wish to be confirmed and those who may have been confirmed in another denomination and would like to be received into the Episcopal Church. Classes will be held at 4:00 p.m. and will last approximately one hour. The first diocesan confirmation will be held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Saturday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m.

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR
Fall 2005

September 11	Class – Ice Cream Sunday Celebration
September 18	Class
September 25	Class
October 2	Class - Baptism
October 9	Class - Blessing of the Animals
October 16	Class
October 23	Class
October 30	Class
November 6	Class – All Saints’ Day celebrated Wrap shoe boxes for Samaritan’s Purse
November 13	Class – Samaritan’s Purse project
November 20	Class – Christ the King
November 27	Class - 1st Advent / Thanksgiving Tree
December 4	Class – 2nd Advent
December 11	Class – 3rd Advent
December 18	Pageant – 4th Advent (Lessons & Carols)
December 24	Christmas Eve – 5:00 Sunday School Pageant
December 25	Christmas Day - No Class
January 1	New Year’s Day - No Class

Adult Education

In 2005-2006 there will be four major adult education initiatives at Christ Church. The first is the on-going Bible study held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. This year we will complete our study of the Torah—that is the first five books of the Hebrew scripture, which make up the law. Last year we completed (among other topics) the book of Genesis; this year we begin with Exodus and then will read selectively from Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. We will then turn our attention to the history texts which fill-out the story of early Israel. These include Joshua, Judges, the books of Samuel and those of the Kings.

The second program is **reading and discussion group on *Christian novels and memoirs of the 20th and 21st centuries***. Seven books will be read from September through May. Discussions will be held on the last Wednesday evening and Thursday morning in the months of September, October, November, January, February, April and May. Child care will be provided at a nominal cost both in the morning and evening session. The following books will be discussed:

September (28 and 29) C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces* [This is considered Lewis' finest novel. It is the moving re-telling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche, in which self acceptance and the true meaning of love is probed.]

October (26 and 27) Frederick Buechner, *Telling Secrets* [This is a memoir of evangelical theologian and seminary professor Buechner's struggle with his father's suicide and his daughter's anorexia. In spite of the 'heavy' topics, Buechner tells his story with wit, grace and love.]

November/December (30 and 1) Charles Williams, *War in Heaven* [Williams, a contemporary and friend of Lewis is known for his 'prickly' writing and dark themes. However, careful reading of his novels yields much fruit. *War in Heaven* is no exception.]

January (25 and 26) Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* [This is the heartwarming story of the Catholic missionaries in the American Southwest in the 19th century. It is beautifully told by a master of the English language.]

February (22 and 23) Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* [Southern religious novels and short stories have a remarkable melancholy and richness. Flannery O'Connor, a Georgia Catholic examines the uniqueness of being a Catholic in an evangelical world with insight and poignancy.]

April (26 and 27) Walker Percy, *The Moviegoer* [Walker Percy was a remarkable phenomenon. A doctor who disliked medicine, a devote Catholic who was regularly disappointed by the church, Percy spent the second half of his life exploring themes of alienation and redemption. The *Moviegoer* is one of his finest novels.

May (24 and 25) Marilyn Robinson, *Gilead: A Novel* [Marilynn Robinson is considered one of the finest writers working in America today. *Gilead* is written as a letter by an aging and ill minister in Gilead, Iowa to his seven-year-old son. It is a story of faith, conflict and love within a family of ministers over three stormy generations. This book is due out in paper in the early spring and, hence, is to be read and discussed last—but not least.]

The **second** is a six part series on the **history of the Church of England and the American Episcopal Church**. Three sessions will be held in November (Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on November 2, 9 and 16) on the Church of England from the late Middle Ages through the early 18th century, including the foundations of the ‘missionary’ Church of England in the American colonies. The final three sessions will be held May (Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on May 3, 10 and 17). They will cover the American Episcopal Church from the Revolutionary War through the present day.

The **third** Christian education offering will focus on **reading scripture**. It will be offered during Lent on Wednesday evenings March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5. The course will look at the contexts in which the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament were written and will look at ways in which the scriptures can be read for spiritual benefit, intellectual edification and enjoyment. The sessions will begin with a light supper at 7:00 p.m. The discussion will begin at 7:45.

PARISH INREACH AND OUTREACH

Hospitality and New Comers:

An important part of parish life is social. In a community (and especially a church community) our social life enhances our religious life. Throughout the year there are a number of activities that help members of our parish family get to know each other better. These include the following:

Progressive Dinner: The progressive dinner will be held on a Saturday in October. It begins with cocktails at the home of a parishioner and continues with dinners at the homes of parishioners. Where one goes for dinner is determined by lottery. At the conclusion of the dinners everyone is invited to dessert at the home of a parishioner. The Progressive Dinner is a wonderful opportunity to get to know many people you only see at church on Sundays—and to know some much better because you have had the more intimate experience of dinner with them.

Rectory Dinners: Throughout the year parishioners are invited to dinner at the Rectory. Over a three-year-period we expect that all members of Christ Church will have the opportunity to have dinner at the rectory in groups of six to eight. Dinners are held monthly, mostly on Saturday evenings.

The Spring Cocktail Party: Each spring the Fellowship Committee of Christ Church holds a cocktail party at a club in the Manhasset area. Details of the 2006 event will be available early next year.

Holly Fair—Updated and Revisited: Too good to let languish was the prevailing sentiment about the Holly Fair. For that reason a small committee (Valarie Siener, Jane Lightcap, Oriana Cyprus and Audrey Eisser) set out to see how the Holly Fair could be slimmed down and reinvigorated to meet the present needs of Christ Church and Manhasset. The committee reported to the Vestry in June about their plans and the Vestry requested that they move forward with the ‘new’ Holly Fair.

Smaller and more compact, the Holly Fair will have a formal opening gala on Friday evening (with wine and cheese/tapas). The Saturday hours for the Fair will be shorter (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 or 4:00 p.m.), but many of the favorites of the fair will be back—and more ‘family-friendly’ activities will be featured.

To make the Fair a success, your help is necessary. Also, please set aside the evening of Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3 for the ‘new’ Holly Fair!

Outreach:

One of the earmarks of a vibrant Christian community is its ability to reach beyond its parish family to those in need. Christ Church has a long history of reaching out. We are now working to enhance that aspect of parish life. At the time of writing this edition of the *Chart*, the Gulf Coast has been hit by a natural disaster of epic proportions. Because of the severe nature of the crisis, we suggest that donations be made directly to the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army. Prior to his coming to Manhasset, Father Lowry had served on the board of the Salvation Army in New Orleans for six years. To make funds available as soon as possible, if you wish to make a donation, please do so directly to the Salvation Army and/or the Red Cross. The Salvation Army’s web-site is www.1800salarmy.org and the Red Cross’ site is www.redcross.org/donate/donation-form.asp. Later on we will see how we can help churches in New Orleans, southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Over the past year, Christ Church’s Outreach Committee has made opportunities for members of the parish to help in communities near to us and far away. This has included the *Sunshine Ministry*, which sends notes to shut-ins, those having birthday’s, those celebrating wedding anniversaries and those who need a little ‘pick-me-up’, *Operation Iraqi Child*, the *Samaritan’s Purse*, aid for victims of hurricanes and tropical storms in the Caribbean and tsunami relief. In addition the vestry made a major contribution to the Summer Program at the Manhasset-Great Neck EOC. During the past year the Sunday school students have made cards for children in the Schneider Hospital Cancer Center for Children. Finally, the Outreach Committee has the regularly participate in food collection programs through the Council of 7 Churches. In addition to programs such as these, the Outreach Committee has been considering more ‘hands-on’ programs. Over the coming weeks and months, the Outreach Committee will work with the congregation to identify programs that will fit the needs of the community and the skills and interests of the congregation. Please contact Marianne Templeton with your ideas.