

Letter from the Rector

June 5, 2006

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, June 4, the Feast of Pentecost, The Right Reverend Robert C. Witcher, seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island (retired) celebrated the Eucharist, preached, admitted five second graders to communion and consecrated the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, which is where the Baptistry was located prior to the renovation of Christ Church in the early 1970s. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is given in memory of Jack L. Bruckner and his daughter, Betsey Bruckner Reicherter, by their family. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd gives the people of Christ Church a small and attractive space for weekday services of Morning Prayer and the Holy Eucharist.

Bishop Witcher and his wife, Alice, lived in Manhasset from 1975 through 1991 and they were frequent visitors to and enthusiastic supporters of Christ Church. All the congregation was invited to celebrate this special day and we are especially thankful that Bishop Witcher and his wife Alice were able to be with us again to share in this important occasion.

On another important matter, we expect to have a special meeting of the Vestry this week to vote on the re-development plans for the Christ Church campus. We have considered various plans for the Parish House and campus for 59 years and work has been intensively undertaken over the past 15 years to sell part of the campus and renovate our present Parish House or build a new one. Two Vestry committees have worked on the parish house and campus issues for the past year and we are ready to move forward with offers to sell a portion of the campus on Northern Boulevard and to build a new parish house on land south of the rectory. As part of this plan we will separately sell the property at 66 George Street. As I write to you we are in the process of sorting out offers and preparing a recommendation for the Vestry to move forward. A formal announcement about the projected Vestry meeting will be forthcoming. Please remember that all members of Christ Church are most welcome to attend this and other Vestry meetings.

Sunday the 18th of June is Awards Sunday and parish picnic time at Christ Church. Please do check in the *Chart* for other important events coming up this month.

This comes with my best wishes.

The Rev'd David B. Lowry, Rector

Pentecost (Whitsunday) and Trinity Sunday

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, is the second most important dominical feast day in the church year. Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter and it closes-out the extended Easter season. Pentecost started as a Jewish festival, known as the Feast of Weeks. It falls on the 49th day after the beginning of the Passover. On the Feast of Weeks the first fruits of the corn (wheat) harvest was presented to the Lord. The requirement for the Jewish people to make an offering to the Lord comes from Deuteronomy 16:9-10. The text reads as follows:

You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the times you first put the sickle to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you.

It was the tradition of the Jewish people to gather with friends and acquaintances for the Feast of Weeks, both to make offerings of thanksgiving and to commemorate the giving of the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. It is unclear who gathered together with the eleven apostles that day and the text strongly suggests that they were not all believers. The story of the emerging Christian understanding of the first Passover is found in Acts 2:1-13:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthian and Medes and Elamites and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others, mocking, said, "They are filled with new wine."

The account in the Acts of the Apostles continues to set out the meaning of the 'Pentecost' event. Peter explained to those who experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in the upper room about Jesus, what he taught, how he died and what his resurrection meant. He further explained that those who had witnessed the presence of the Holy Spirit should "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).

"Come work for the Lord." – "The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."

"No God – No Peace."

"Know God – Know Peace."

The church from that day rejoiced in the Holy Spirit. Paul testified to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in his letters to the churches at Corinth and Galatia, where both the 'gifts' and the 'fruits' of the Holy Spirit mark the life of the Christian community.

The Holy Spirit as the continuing presence of God for the church in the world is of great importance for Christians to this day. Although Christians are, like their Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters, people of tradition through 'the Book', the Holy Spirit allows Christians to seek and find a continuing active presence of God in the world and to respond in faith to changes in the world.

Trinity Sunday is a very different dominical feast. Rather than noting an event, such as Christmas (the Feast of the Incarnation), Epiphany, Palm Sunday, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost, Trinity Sunday notes and celebrates a belief that the one God is manifested in three ways (persons), as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was the last of the major feast days to be incorporated into the liturgical calendar, being officially added to the calendar in 1334 by Pope XXII.

With Trinity Sunday the church year is effectively half over. The commemoration of the events in the life of our Lord have been completed and the lessons now mark the teaching of Jesus rather than 'salvation history'. This year we will be reading Jesus' teachings as reported in the Gospel of Mark.

Awards Sunday/Parish Picnic June 18

Awards Sunday, June 18, immediately following the 10am service there will be an informal picnic on the church grounds, to the North of the Parish House and just to the South of the Rectory. The Fellowship Committee will supply a large hero sandwich and we kindly request that all participants sign up on the sheet in the rear of the church, indicating if you will bring a salad or dessert. Although it is Fathers Day, and we know that many of you will have Father's Day activities scheduled, please do come by for a few minutes to share with us the joy of all the ministries that have taken place over the past year at Christ Church.

Sunday and Thursday Services remain the same for Summer

Please also note we will have our regular Sunday services at 8am, 10am and 6pm and our Thursday morning Eucharist at 10am in the newly dedicated Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Church school will resume in September.

Volunteers are needed for our summer Sunday Hospitality Hours. Please use the sign-up sheet or call the parish office (627-2184) if you can help.

Summer Informal Eucharists Begin Wednesday Evening at 7pm

We will begin an informal Summer Eucharist on Wednesday, July 12 at 7pm and continue through the end of August. The Eucharist will be held on the church grounds on the tree lined grassy area to the North of the Parish House and South of the Rectory. This will give us a quiet space, room for children to play safely and access to the kitchen at the Rectory so that we can better serve a simple meal to those who attend. We kindly request that you use the sign up sheets in the rear of the church for those who would wish to Host one of the 8 Wednesdays and for those who will also be attending these services.

A View from the Loft

As we come to the close of the choir year, huge thanks are in order for members of the choirs and their families. Statistics are fascinating, I think. Here are some of Christ Church's very own:

In 7 ½ months, the Children's Choir has learned music by William Albright, Richard Dering, Felix Mendelssohn, George Frederic Handel, Peter Hurford, Richard Proulx, Calvin Hampton, John Rutter, Malcolm Williamson, C. Hubert Parry and Malcolm Archer. We learned more than one piece for several of these composers and over half of their compositions were sung by the children in church this past year.

In 8 ½ months, sometimes without all four professional section-leaders, the Adult Choir has sung music of the following composers in church as part of the liturgy: Ralph Vaughan Williams, Charles Stanford, Leo Sowerby, Harold Darke, Adrian Batten, Thomas Matthews, Franz Josef Haydn, John Ireland, Thomas Tallis, Tertius Noble, Antonio Lotti, Harold Friedell, Benjamin Britten, John Stainer, Gabriel Fauré, Gustav Holst, John Rutter, William Mathias, Felix Mendelssohn, Richard Dirksen, J. S. Bach, G. F. Handel, William Byrd, Alessandro Scarlatti, Samuel Sebastian Wesley and Orlando Gibbons. (This doesn't include the "Shredders" we learned but thought "best not!")

These choir people are diligent workers, fun to be around and sing beautifully; a choir director could not ask for anything more! My sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for your faithfulness to Christ Church and your trust in me. Our final singing Sunday is June 18th. Have a wonderful summer – see you in September.

Almost New Shop Closing for Summer

The Almost New Shop Phone (365-4321) will be closing for the summer months of **July and August** and will re-open again on September 13. The shop's regularly scheduled hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As of the First of June the shop will not be able to accept any donations. Thank you for your cooperation.

A Note about the Long Island Community Foundation

The following is an article about the Long island Community Fund. Bill Martin is active in the Fund and I asked him to have the director of the Fund share information about the Fund and what it does.

Father Lowry

"Unhappily," says Christ Church parishioner Bill Martin, "the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) is one of Long Island's best kept secrets. We want more people to know about its important work."

Soon to celebrate its 30th anniversary, the LICF is a division of The New York Community Trust, the largest of the 750 community foundations in the nation. Martin is a member of the organization's Board of Advisors. He continues, "The LICF plays a vital role: it helps donors make their charitable dollars work harder and using discretionary funds, it makes grants to address priority needs and issues on Long Island."

In 2005, the Long Island Community Foundation distributed more than \$9.7 million through more than 175 charitable funds established by individuals, families, and businesses. Grantees included a wide range of national organizations and regional nonprofits—houses of worship, schools and colleges, hospitals, museums, human service providers, environmental programs, and social justice advocates.

Over the years, LICF grants have helped found important organizations like the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls, Sustainable Long Island, and ERASE Racism.

An LICF fund is inexpensive to establish and maintain. Unlike a private foundation, there are no set-up fees, annual filings, or excise taxes to worry about. Donors can gift cash, appreciated stock, even closely held stock to the LICF, choose a fund type, and name the fund. That's it. There's a favorable up-front tax deduction. Then principal and income are available for grantmaking based on the donor's suggestions or identified fields of interest.

For a very modest fee deducted annually from each fund, staff professionals relieve donors of all administrative tasks: invest and manage fund assets through The New York Community Trust; assure that only *bona fide* charities are supported; and offer quarterly reports or daily on-line reports to keep donors informed about investments and grants paid.

When compared to popular commercial gift funds, the LICF wins out, too. In addition to providing administrative support—like Fidelity and Vanguard—the LICF offers an array of donor services, including arranging for site visits, identifying effective organizations operating within a field of interest, and helping to devise a giving plan.

Donors who do their charitable giving through the LICF become part of a philanthropic community through a regular newsletter, donor forums, and educational programs.

If you would like to know more about the Long Island Community Foundation, feel free to contact Bill Martin at 516.365.7718 or either Wini Freund, Director of Donor Services, or Hazel Weiser, Director of Foundation Advancement. They can be reached at 516.681.5085.

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Around the Parish:

WELCOME!

We are delighted to welcome all of those who have entered the body of Christ, the Church, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism since January, 2006,

including Peter Michael Andel II, Diana Lynn Bent-Koerick, Delilah Lessette Weingart, Kyra Marie Balacek and Luke Alexander Girillo. Please pray for them and their parents.

Congratulations!!

Emma Carr, Timothy Hicks Courts, Zachary Dakota Field, Andrew J. Polis and Jessica Storozum who will receive their First Communion on the Sunday of Pentecost, June 4.

Happy Birthday!!

We are pleased to congratulate these friends and parishioners this month on their birthdays...

Emily Faeth,, Carole Schmidt-Spadaro, Grace Crum, Penny Tadler, Jessica Storozum, Ariana Paterson, Jasmine Blocker, Oriana Cyprus, Andrew Melichar, Lesley Stackler, Betts Carpenter, Liam Whalen, Douglas Schmidt-Spadaro, Teresa Ciaccio, Kawall Deosaran, Alexandra Mackenzie, Kay Scheib.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month... Fred and Marianne Horne, John and Gloria Ryan.

☺ ***It's too laugh!!***

"People are like tea bags" – "You have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

"Fight truth decay" – "Study the Bible daily."

"How will you spend eternity" – Smoking or Non smoking?"

"Looking at the way some people live," – "They ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon."

SUNDAY READINGS AND ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE:

PENTECOST SUNDAY – JUNE 4, 2006

ACTS 2: 1-11; CANTICLE 104: 25-37; 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-13; JOHN 15: 26-27, 16: 4-15

Altar flowers in memory of Benjamin Ziegelbaum
by Laura and Robert Pavlovich

TRINITY SUNDAY – JUNE 11, 2006

EXODUS 3: 1-6; PSALM 93; ROMANS 8: 12-17; JOHN 3: 1-16

Altar flowers in memory of Sara and Thomas Redwood
by Richard and Janet Lombard

2 PENTECOST – JUNE 18, 2006

EZEKIAL 31: 1-6, 10-14; PSALM 92; 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 1-10; MARK 4: 26-34

Altar flowers in memory of Edith Smitham
by David and Junko Smitham

3 PENTECOST – JUNE 25, 2006

JOB 38: 1-11, 16-18; PSALM 107: 1-32; 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 6-10, 14-17; MARK 4: 35-41; 5: 1-20

Altar flowers in memory of Jane and Joseph Ryan and Audrey and Charles King
by Gloria and John Ryan

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CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. David B. Lowry, Rector, Residence: 516-570-0318
Ms. Nancy Ludwig, Organist and Choir Director
Ms. Kathy Hoffmann, Administrator Church Office: 627-2184
Mr. Enrique Valdes, Sexton

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