

The Chart – July 2006

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Although summer has come and we all look forward to time for recreation I do want to urge you not to totally neglect your spiritual life, as well as your worship life. Recreation is actually *re-creation* that is the rebuilding a new creation of ones physical, mental and spiritual life. With the relative quiet of summer we always hope to have time to refresh our bodies and our spirits, and part of *re-creation* should be the rebuilding, in a time of quiet, of our relationship with God.

For that reason alone, rather than closing down the church during summer, we work on keeping the church vital and quietly active. We will continue to have all three worship services on Sundays; that is celebrations of the Eucharist at 8, 10am and 6pm. We will have cool drinks and light refreshments following the 10am service. We hope that people will choose to stay for a few minutes to share a word with our parishioners and visitors alike. For those who are traveling on weekends, do not forget the 6pm service. It is held in the “new” Chapel of the Good Shepherd and offers you a chance to have a long weekend without missing the opportunity for worship and reflection.

In addition, on Wednesday evenings beginning on the 12 of July, we will have informal outdoor Eucharists on the church grounds between the Rectory and the Parish House. This is the same location where we held the parish picnic. It is a pleasant ,relatively quiet and shady spot where we can pray, sing and break bread together both in the Eucharist and an informal meal directly after the Eucharist. We begin at 7pm, but we invite late comers to join when they can. We ask those attending the service to bring salads, bread or dessert. We will supply the main course and the drinks. Since the location of the Eucharistic and picnic dinner is next to the Rectory we will be able to help you with refrigeration if necessary. Finally, we will still have our regular 10am Thursday morning Eucharist in the Chapel and daily Morning Prayer in the Chapel at 9am, excluding Saturday.

As most of you know the Vestry unanimously voted to redevelop the Christ Church Campus at a special meeting on the 12 of June. Within this edition of the Chart there is a long explanation of what we have decided to do and a time table for those activities. If everything works out, as we hope it will, there should be minimal disturbance to the life of Christ Church during the redevelopment of the campus.

I do hope you will have a happy, restful and blessed summer season and, rather than giving you my hope that I will see you all in the fall, I leave you with the thought that we can have a very enjoyable and productive church summer together.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Reflections on the Triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church

In the middle of June, the bishops, other clergy and lay delegates selected from all the Dioceses of the American Episcopal Church met in Columbus, Ohio. There were two major issues that the delegates considered and addressed. The first was the leadership of the Episcopal Church. The second was the ordination of openly homosexual persons to offices of ministry within the church. As many of you are aware the latter issue has caused great consternation in the American Episcopal Church and has threatened the unity of the American Episcopal Church and brought into question the continued membership of the American Episcopal Church in the wider Anglican Community.

As often happens in our church, the response of the Bishops, clergy and lay delegates left a rather confused and confusing impression. First the election of a new Presiding Bishop. After five ballots the Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of Nevada, was chosen to be the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The choice of Bishop Schori was not expected when the nominations were announced. But over a period of weeks and months she emerged as a very viable candidate. She is known to be personable, intellectually acute and a "reconciler". Her positions on major social and religious issues tend to be on the "liberal" side, but her actions within her Diocese and her work in the House of Bishops suggests that she is more pragmatic than doctrinaire. When the Bishops made their final decision and her name was brought to the other clergy and lay delegates her election was received enthusiastically. It should be noted that within the structure of the American Episcopal Church the Presiding Bishop, while having an important role, is only first amongst equals in decision making. Neither Bishop Griswold, who has served as Presiding Bishop for the last nine years, nor Bishop Schori have the ultimate say in matters of doctrine and discipline within the Episcopal Church. Bishop Griswold and Bishop Schori, however, because of their position have an important mediating role among the other Bishops of the Church and it is hoped that Bishop Schori can find effective ways to heal the wounds that have so vexed the Church over the past decade.

The question of ordination of homosexual persons was not expected to be definitively resolved and indeed it wasn't. At the very end of the Convention there was a non-binding resolution, accepted by both the Bishops and the other clergy and lay delegates, requesting Bishops and standing committees not to approve for ordination to the Episcopate any person living openly in a homosexual relationship. This non-binding resolution carries no legal weight in the Episcopal Church, and it is quite possible that it will be tested quickly. Clearly, the hope of the Convention was to try to create an atmosphere in which healing could take place within our own Church and allow the American Episcopal Church to be fully accepted in the broader Anglican Community. It is by no means clear that either of those goals will be realized by the non-binding resolution passed in Convention.

One last reflection, it is a pity in a world that is filled with challenges, including such matters as medical care in the developing world, global hunger, poverty, war, discord, that our Triennial Convention spent almost all of its time on issues of sexuality and ministry even though those are important matters to be sure. It is hard to believe that the Holy Spirit in directing us in quite that narrow a way. One can only hope that the future will allow us to more broadly consider the pressing issues of the world and that the Church will find a way to have comment and provide positive direction for the addressing of those many issues.

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Around the Parish:

Mission to New Orleans?

The rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast has proven to be most complex. There is no doubt that much work remains to be done. How that work will be accomplished is the question. Two Episcopal Churches in New Orleans are making slow but steady progress in their rebuilding efforts. They can use somewhat skilled adult labor to help them recover. We would like to have a meeting on **Sunday, July 9** after the 10am service to discuss whether we have sufficient interest to plan a five day trip to New Orleans to help out. The work will be strenuous, the weather hot, air conditioning uncertain and our potential work time will be in hurricane season, therefore, do think hard and prayerfully, whether this is what you want to do.

Sunday and Thursday Services remain the same for Summer

As of the Sundays, July 30, August 13, 20, 27 and September 3, volunteers are

needed for our summer Sunday Hospitality Hours.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the rear of the church or call the parish office (627-2184) if you can help.

Summer Informal Eucharists Begin Wednesday Evening at 7pm, July 12

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, thank you for your cooperation.

Mr. Kyle Babin appointed Organist/Choir Master of Christ Church

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Christ Church are pleased to announce the appointment of Kyle Babin as Organist/Choir Master at Christ Church. Mr. Babin will begin his work as Christ Church on the first of September this year. Mr. Babin is completing his doctoral studies in organ performance at the Manhattan School of Music. He has served as organist/choir master at Church of The Transfiguration in Freeport, NY and at churches in Connecticut and New Jersey. Mr. Babin was assistant to Paul Halley, formally organist/choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and now Director of Music at Christ Church, Torrington Connecticut and Musical Director of the professional adult and children's singing group Joyful Noise.

Mr. Babin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organ from Rice University in Houston, Texas and a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Yale University. He has played numerous recitals in the United States and is considered one of the finest young organists in America.

Mr. Babin will be meeting with the choir informally during the summer and he looks forward to continuing the process of building the choral music program young people and adults at Christ Church. Please warmly welcome Mr. Babin to our parish family.

Congratulations Graduates, God-speed !

We offer our congratulations to our young people who are graduating at this time, especially...

Billy Allen, Lehigh, Vin McGill, Georgetown; and all those who have completed their high school studies: Alex Bennett, Teresa Ciaccio, Ali Conrad, Marissa Mazek, Alex Smitham and Erica Wedeking.

We are pleased to mention that Teresa Ciaccio received the "Gold Award" the highest award in Girl Scouting. Good Work and congratulations!!

Happy Birthday!!

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

Brian Sternemann, Peggy Wright, Bruce Sternemann, Rosemary Andel, Suzanne Parker, Lou Trapp, Toshiro Mochizuki, Evans Cyprus, Marlena McGill, Teresa Ciaccio and Joseph Miletich.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month... Timothy and Lisa Carr, Bruce and Phyllis Sternemann and Arthur and Lisa Field.

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 2, 2006

Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Psalm 112; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15; Mark 5:22-24, 36b-43

Altar flowers are given in memory of Ricky Scheib
by Kay and Dick Scheib and Nancy & Joseph Cioffi by Louise Fribush

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 9, 2006

Ezekiel 2:1-7; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-6

Altar flowers are given in memory of Wendy Templeton
by Marianne Templeton

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 16, 2006

Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85; Ephesians 1:1-14; Mark 6:7-13

Altar flowers are given in memory of Sandra Payson
by Lorinda de Roulet

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 23, 2006

Isaiah 57:14-21; Psalm 22:22-30; Ephesians 2:11-12; Mark 6:30-44

Altar flowers are given in memory of Barbara Mann
by Pamela Storozum

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 30, 2006

Genesis 18:20-33; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

There is an opening for altar flowers on this Sunday. The flowers may be given as a memorial or thank offering. If you would like to make a donation to the flowers please call the office at 627-2184 or Mrs. Diana Tadler at 627-0128.

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CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

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

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