

The Chart

November, 2006

Letter from the Rector

December 1, 2006

Dear Friends,

I have written this letter for the December Chart, prior to my departure New Guinea, so that I hope that the material I share with you remains timely as this edition of the Chart goes to publication.

I am currently in West New Guinea heading up a comprehensive medical audit of medical conditions, medical education, public health and medical care in an area contiguous to the large mining operation I worked in prior to my retirement and coming to Christ Church. It is a funny role for me to play, since I had major responsibilities for the establishment of the medical care for the indigenous people in the area. I was asked to be part of the audit team because the social, as well as the medical issues, are so complex that the medical professionals who are doing the audit felt a need to have someone who knew the area, help administer the audit. I had become accustomed to not doing that 30 hour trip any longer and I am undertaking the travel with a sense of dread. However, I am more than happy to lend my minimal expertise to the task at hand in the hope that full evaluation of medical care and medical care programs will help the government, multilateral agencies and Freeport MacMoRan, for whom I had worked, establish better medical programs for the local population.

Clearly, December is one of our busiest months. I would like only to highlight a number of activities that will be explained at greater length within this edition of the Chart. First are Christmas services. Christmas falls on Monday this year and therefore, the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on the day of Christmas Eve. We will have said Eucharists at 8 and 10am on that last Sunday of Advent. At 5pm that evening, we will have the Family Eucharist of Christmas Eve. Our format will be very similar to that of last year. We will tell the Christmas story as the children will help to build the Crèche. We will bless the Crèche and proceed with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist; the Girls Choir will sing at that service. The service should last no longer than 50 minutes to 1 hour. That we hope will give to many of you opportunities to proceed with you family celebrations of Christmas.

At 8pm we will have the more formal Festival Eucharist for Christmas. Our choirs will be joined by string players from the Children's Orchestra Society. In addition to Christmas Carols, the choir will sing Schubert's Mass in G and an anthem by John Rutter. There will be no "Midnight Mass" of Christmas this year as we have discovered over the past years that more and more families wish to be settled at home long before midnight comes.

On Christmas Day we will have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist for Christmas at 10am with organ and hymns but no choir.

With some lack of logic let me move backward in the month of December. December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent. It falls on the day after the Holly Fair. I will be away that day and The Rev'd Robert Neuhouse, a Lutheran Pastor licensed to celebrate the Eucharist in the Episcopal Church, and a member of Christ Church, Oyster Bay will be with us celebrant and preacher. I hope that you will make every attempt to be there to greet Pastor Neuhouse and to rightly begin our preparations within our Church and our families for Christmas. The second Sunday of Advent will be a "regular" Sunday. The third Sunday of Advent, which is December 17, will be an augmented Christmas Pageant. The choirs will sing special music at that service, which will be a Pageant plus some elements from the Lessons and Carols for Christmas which is so popular. We will have a special reception for the parish family following the Christmas Pageant. On that day the Eucharist will be celebrated at 8am and 6pm in the Church and Chapel respectively.

Please do support the Holly Fair in every way you can. We have a gala opening party on Friday night, December 1 at 7pm and the Fair itself runs from 10am until 4pm on Saturday, December 2. Oriana Cyprus has kindly helped to pull together the Fair and she has worked very hard, as has many of our devoted

parishioners. While I am sweating on the plains of West Papua in mid 90° weather, I will be thinking of you and the Holly Fair.

Finally let me remind you about the opportunities to share some of your joy of Christmas with others. We have agreed to "Adopt" 10 families who are part of the Counseling and Support Services at Episcopal Community Services within the Diocese of Long Island. I am happy to announce that all family members have been given us by the Episcopal Community Services have been 'Adopted'. However, if you have not had the opportunity to adopt a member of those families, please do call the office. I am sure there will be many opportunities to help. Also special thanks to Susan Bunyon and all those in the Sunday School who have again made Operation Christmas Child a tremendous success. To all of you who have donated used coats for children and adults, our deep gratitude. We have been able to supply 8 very large container filled with coats which are being dry cleaned and distributed through agencies in Nassau and Queens counties.

Finally, I wish you a very happy preparatory Season for Christmas, remembering that Advent is the beginning of our new Church year and that time of personal reflection before we meet our Savior in His birth and special wishes for a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and to all your families.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Rev'd David B. Lowry, Rector

Adult Education in December

Although the pre-Christmas Season is known for being remarkably hectic, we are having two Adult Education programs which we hope will give a good and thoughtful respite from the hurried up atmosphere of December. On Sundays December 10 and 17 we will look at Handel's Messiah from the perspective of Scriptural Theology and musical content. Messiah was the first fore of George Fredrick Handel into the English oratorical covering the topics of the New Testament, including the life and death of Jesus Christ. It was first performed in Dublin, Ireland as a benefit for the children's hospital in 1742. It was slightly revised and performed many times in England in the mid-eighteenth century. Its popularity fell precipitously in the early nineteenth century only to be revived near the end of that century. It has over the past 50 years attained iconic status. Messiah is based on a series of Scriptural quotations from the Prophets of the Old Testament, the story of the birth of Jesus, quotations from the Gospels and from the Apostle Paul. We will look only at the first part of Messiah which deals with the prophecies leading up to the birth of Jesus and his birth in Bethlehem in Judea. We will listen to a number of recordings that bring us some understanding changing performance practice over the past 50 years. We will also take a sideline glance at Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's reworking of Messiah using a late eighteenth century orchestra and chorus. These programs will begin at 2pm and should last about an hour and fifteen minutes. We hope you will join us and this may be a very good opportunity to bring your friends to Christ Church.

Also on Wednesday, December 13 we will be looking at a group biography of three fascinating figures who were instrumental in the earliest life of the Christian family. They are the Apostles Peter and Paul and a disciple of Jesus, Mary Magdalene. Peter and Paul have been most important figures throughout all of Christian history. Of late Mary Magdalene has become much more important as various authors, including Dan Brown in the DaVinci Code, have considered the role of women and especially Mary Magdalene in that intimate circle of Jesus before and after His death. The book upon which our discussion is based is written by Bart Ehrman and is entitled *Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene*. Copies are available in the Library, and it is possible that one or two copies would remain available from those which have been obtained for your purchase. Please check with the parish office to see if further books are available. This discussion begins about 7:30pm and concludes about 8:45pm.

Women's Dinner "Christmas Dinner" – Tuesday, December 12, 7pm \$20

We are asking everyone to bring along a wrapped, inexpensive ornament to put under the tree. After dinner, we will let everyone take home a new ornament from our Secret Santa's. Checks should be made out to Christ Church. Any questions call the parish office, 627-2184.

Outreach

Our outreach project, Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, was a huge success! The Sunday School teachers and children, along with MANY families in our congregation filled 60 wrapped shoe boxes with gifts for needy children around the world. We beat last year's record by 10 boxes! Thank you everyone for your wonderful effort and enthusiasm!

Adopt a Family Program – *As you know, the Family Consultation Services of the Diocese of Long Island has a program through which families in need can receive Christmas gifts.* We are happy to announce that all the children of our 10 assigned families have been adopted. We kindly request that you bring your wrapped appropriately labeled gifts to the Parish House **AFTER THE HOLLY FAIR** has taken place, and before **December 10**, so they may be brought to the Diocesan office for distribution in time for the Holiday. Please contact Marianne Templeton at 627-5481 if you have any questions.

Northport Veterans Hospital (VAMC Veterans Affairs Medical Center Volunteer Services) – *The Sunshine Ministry* will be collecting greeting cards to be sent to the patients at the Northport Veterans hospital. General greeting cards with a note of hope, encouragement, get well or thanks for serving our country will be distributed by the nurses. Please drop off cards at the Parish Office to be forwarded to the hospital. This ministry will continue year round.

♪ Music notes from Kyle Babin, Organist & Director of Music

Christmas is almost here and both the adult and junior choirs are preparing for Christmas Eve services. The junior choir will be singing at the 5 p.m. service and the adult choir at 8 p.m. The junior choir did a fantastic job on November 19 with their 2006 debut, and we eagerly anticipate what they have in store for Christmas Eve. At 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve the adult choir will be singing a variety of wonderful pieces. A string quartet will be joining the choir for this service. The Mass Ordinary will be sung by the choir only, the music being Franz Schubert's *Mass in G* for strings, organ, and choir. The *Mass in G* also features solos by Robin Carucci, soprano, Scott Mendelsohn, tenor, and Henry Lackowski, bass. There will be twenty minutes of prelude music before the service, including "What sweeter music" by John Rutter for choir, strings, and organ. Additional music will include carols for strings, organ music, and a solo by alto section leader Harriet Kapner. So please come early to partake in the Christmas musical festivities!

Until then, we have four Sundays in Advent (three with choir), with a variety of wonderful hymns and anthems. I hope you will all be able, with the choir, to musically participate in the season of Advent.

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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through the gift of altar flowers, please fill out this form and place it, along with your check (*designated Christmas Flowers*), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1355 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030.

All offerings for Christmas Flowers need to reach the church office no later than Monday, December 18th.

My offering is
"In memory of..."

(List names)

- Or -

"In Thanksgiving for..."

(List your thanksgiving)

Flowers are given by:

(See reverse for Christmas Music contributions)

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

If you would like to contribute to the joy of our Christmas worship through donations for special music, please fill out this form and place it, along with your check (*designated Christmas Music*), on the offering plate. Or you can mail it to Christ Church, 1355 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030.

All offerings for Christmas Music need to reach the church office no later than Monday, December 18th.

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"In memory of..."

(List names)

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"In Thanksgiving for..."

(List your thanksgiving)

Donations are given by:

(See reverse for Christmas Flowers contributions)



***CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
AT
CHRIST CHURCH***

Sunday, December 17th at 10 a.m.

Lessons & Carols with Pageant
The Children of Christ Church
The Christ Church Choir

Christmas Eve, December 24th at 5 p.m.

A Family Eucharist and Building of the Crèche

Christmas Eve, December 24th at 8 p.m.

A Festival Choral Eucharist
with Music for Organ & Strings

Christmas Day, December 25th at 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Traditional Carols

Happy Birthday!!

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

Elaine Phillips, Peter Ciaccio, Clayton Tadler, Beth Morningstar, Linda Imperatore, Kathy McGill, Susan Mazek, Austin Bennett, Valerie Siener, Katherine Stackler, Christopher Sherwood, Kelly Whalen, Tom Chaly, Jerome Blocker, Elizabeth Pavlovich.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries for this month... William and Valerie Siener.

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 3, 2006

Zechariah 14:4-9; Psalm 50; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-31
Altar flowers are given in memory of Kenneth Rider & Ellen Rider Meath
by Janet Rider

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10, 2006

Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126; Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-6
Altar flowers are given in memory of Dorothy Jamal
by Ruth Mishrick & Family

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17, 2006

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Altar flowers are given in memory of Richard G. & Lucy H. Siegel,
Dr. & Mrs. Albert E. Field by Dick & Lucy Field

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2006 (8 & 10am Service)

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2006

Family Eucharist - 5:00pm

Micah 5:2-4; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-49

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2006

Festival Choral Eucharist - 8:00pm

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7, Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day - December 25, 2006*

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 31, 2006

Isaiah 6:1:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25; John 1:1-18

- *Enclosed for your convenience is a Christmas Offering envelope*

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CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

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

TIME VALUE

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