

The Chart

January, 2007

Letter from the Rector

January 1, 2007

Dear Friends,

The New Year is a good time to reflect upon what has taken place over the past year and to consider what one hopes will take place in the coming year. There is much to reflect upon and consider at Christ Church.

I will start with some considerations of the year past. Christ Church has continued to grow over the past year. We have been fortunate to have had a number of families join our parish family in 2006. Our growth can be seen in attendance at Christmas services. On Christmas Eve our two services had an attendance of 347. The last time Christmas Eve attendance reached that level was 1992. Especially pleasing was the 5:00 pm service at which we had so many young children and their families.

Equally pleasing are the other activities and initiatives that have marked the past year: Through the efforts of Heather Bennett and the Church School staff, our Christian education programs have flourished; the Holly Fair was a great success (because of Oriana Cyprus and the efforts of many members of Christ Church); the church building continues to receive necessary repairs and 'tender-loving care' (because of Dick Field's hard work); the appearance of the cemetery has been greatly improved because of the generosity of many of you and the hard work of Audrey Eisser; the music at the church is terrific; we had a remarkable Christmas pageant because of Lisa Carr's vision and hard work as well as the visit of some real, live animals to Christ Church; and we have one of the finest websites because of the constant work of Bruce Sternemann—unbelievably that is just a small part of all that goes on!

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for the good work that has benefited Christ Church in the past year and to wish you a most blessed 2007.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Rev'd David B. Lowry, Rector

Parish Notes:

Many thanks to all who scavenged their attics, basements and closets to help make The Secret Room at the 2006 Holly Fair a big success once again!

Many Thanks to Give at Christmastide—Christmas is a time for giving thanks and at Christ Church we have much to be thankful for and many people to thank for all they have done at Christmastide and throughout the year. At Christmas time the parish took on three special outreach projects: First was “Operation Christmas Child”, which is part of the Samaritan’s Purse program. The Sunday School prepared 60 shoe boxes filled with special gifts for children, which were wrapped and sent off to children who would have very few gifts otherwise. Special thanks go to Susan Bunyon for her leadership in the project.

In the same vein the people of Christ Church participated in the “Coats for Kids” project in Nassau County. Eighteen (18) thirty gallon bags of coats were collected at Christ Church and after professional cleaning they were distributed through the Department of Social Services of Nassau County to children and their parents who lacked appropriate winter clothing.

The final project was the provision Christmas presents for families served by Episcopal Community Services (Family Consultation Service). Spearheaded by Marianne Templeton, members of Christ Church purchased and wrapped gifts for children within 10 family units; in all gifts for 26 children were supplied. Many, many thanks are owed to all of you who participated in these three very special outreach projects.

Our Christmas services this year were especially wonderful. Special thanks go to the Altar Guild members, who prepared the church so beautifully for Christmas. Also, the music at both of our Christmas services on Christmas Eve was joyful and inspiring. Kyle Babin our organist/choir master, the members of the Girls Junior Choir, the members of our Adult Choir (and especially the section leaders, who not only helped guide the rest of the choir, but provided beautifully sung solos in the Schubert Mass in G) and the faculty string quartet from the Children’s Orchestra Society made our Christmas Eve services very special.

Fourth Food Sunday—It is easy to forget that every fourth Sunday of the month we gather food for the Long Island Council of Churches Emergency Food Program. In order for our fourth Sunday food drive to work we need to regularly bring non-perishable food items to the Parish House throughout the month or to the church on the fourth Sunday of the month. In an area as affluent as suburban New York, it is easy to forget that there are a good number of people around us who live at or below the poverty level. On the third Sunday of this month Father Lowry will be speaking at all services about hunger and the potential for us to respond effectively the help others who have less food than we to be well nourished.

Adult Education in January—On Wednesday, January 24 the religious biography series will continue. The book to be considered in January is a recent biography of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in North Africa. Augustine is probably the greatest Christian thinker in history. His *Confessions* and his *magnum opus*, the *City of God*, are among the most important works of Christian theology. Augustine was born to a family in which his mother was a Christian and his father a pagan intellectual. Augustine showed

great promise as a scholar early in his life, but did not decide whether to be a pagan philosopher or a Christian theologian until he was an adult. Throughout his life Augustine struggled between the intellectual rigors of pagan philosophy and his understanding the power of the Christian faith. Copies of the biography of Augustine will be available by Sunday, January 7. A contribution of \$10 is suggested if you should choose to take one of the books with you.

Parish Meeting, February 4, 2007—The Annual Meeting of Parish of Christ Church will be held on Sunday, February 4 immediately following the 10am service. At the meeting the Rector will make his Annual Report. The closing financial statement will be made available to the members of the parish, the budget for 2007 will be presented to the parish and new members of the Vestry will be elected. The Nominating Committee will send an official notice to the congregation next week with a list of nominees for the open positions for the Vestry. The by-Laws of Christ Church provide for additional nominations to be made in writing by a member of the parish with the permission of the person nominated and with a second by another member of the congregation of Christ church. All nominees should be regular in attendance and a contributor to Christ Church for a period not less than 12 months. All nominations must be submitted to the parish office no later than Saturday, January 20 (15 days prior to the Annual Meeting). Forms providing for the signatures of the nomination and seconding members of the parish, as well as the written consent of the nominee, are available from the parish office or in the rear of the Church. We urge you to make every effort to attend the Annual Meeting, Sunday February 4.

♪ **Music notes from Kyle Babin, Organist & Choir Master**

The Adult Choir will resume singing at the 10 a.m. service on January 7. That Sunday will be the last on which Robin Carucci will be with us as soprano section leader. She has announced her resignation due to her increasingly busy schedule. Robin has been a section leader at Christ Church for twenty years, and we are immensely grateful to her for sharing her time and talents with the music program for all of that period. It has been a pleasure to work with her in my brief time here at Christ Church. We will formally recognize Robin at the 10 a.m. service that morning. I encourage you all to be present to express your gratitude to Robin and to join us at a special reception immediately following the service.

The Junior Choir will resume rehearsals after the 10 a.m. service on January 14. Happy Epiphany season!

Happy Birthday!!

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

Elaine Erica Ryan, Charles Rexer, Arthur (Ward) Wright, Susan Bunyon, Caroline Carr, Kristina Carucci, Peter Carucci, Holly Melichar, Leslie Koch, Decker Paterson, Corinne Riggan, Nicole Sevely, Nicole Winters, Joseph Sevely, Christopher Hegyesi, Robert Tadler, James Carr, William Riggan, Robin Cuthbert Daly Stopford, William Siener, Lisa Carr, Elizabeth (Lisa) Ciaccio, Debbie Czeglédy, Audrey Eisser, Christine Bunyon, Brian Wedeking.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries for this month.... Mark and Susan Bunyon, James and Carole McCarvill, Joseph and Ida Miletich.

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – JANUARY 7, 2007

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 89:1-29; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

There is an opening for Altar flowers as either a thank offering or a memorial this week. If you would like to donate please call the parish office at 627-2184 or Diana Tadler, Directress of the Altar Guild at 627-0128.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – JANUARY 14, 2007

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 96; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 1:1-11

Altar flowers are given in memory of Catherine Hill
by Don and Senetta Koch

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – JANUARY 21, 2007

Nehemiah 8:2-10; Psalm 113; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Luke 4:14-21

Altar flowers are given in memory of John G. Johnston by Beverley Johnston
and John Wedeking by Edith Wedeking

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – JANUARY 28, 2007

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-17; Corinthians 14:12-20; Luke 4:21-32

Altar flowers are given in memory of Harold Roberts
Dorisene Roberts and Family

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CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

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

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