

The Chart

February, 2007

Letter from the Rector

February 1, 2007

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, February 4 at 11:00 am (app.), Christ Church will have its annual parish meeting. At this meeting reports about the life of Christ Church will be circulated, members of the Vestry will be elected and I will read my 'state of Christ Church' message. Since not all of you are able to attend the annual meeting, a copy of my report on the parish of Christ Church is included in this edition of the *Chart*. Although we have made great strides at Christ Church in added attendance, increased pledging and the incorporation of new members to the parish, we still have a ways-to-go before we can declare ourselves 'sustainable.'

Lent begins on February 21 with Ash Wednesday. The Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes will be celebrated at 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm. The evening Eucharist will be sung. On the remaining Wednesday evenings in Lent, Christ Church will join with St. Stephen's Church in Port Washington for presentations on biology, religion and ethics. Although part of our focus will be on 'medical ethics,' we will also look at sexuality and ethics. We will begin our evenings with soup and salad at 7:00pm. Presentations /discussions will start at 7:30; we will complete the program at 9:00 with the service of Compline.

On Sunday February 25, Father Lowry will begin an 'Inquirers Class' for those who wish to know more about the Christian Faith and the Episcopal Church. Classes will meet each Sunday afternoon throughout Lent (ending on April 1). This class also prepares teenagers and adults for Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church. The next scheduled Confirmation/Reception is at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Saturday, May 5 at 2:00pm.

There is much more information about these programs and much more inside the *Chart*.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Rev. David B. Lowry, Rector

Rector's Annual Report to the Parish 2007

My report this year is somewhat like Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*: in certain areas Christ Church is doing very well, indeed; in others we remain in a high level of need. I wish to start with our positive news. Attendance has continued to increase (although a slower rate of growth than between 2003 and 2005), membership in the parish has grown, the Sunday school has shown the most dramatic growth and parish programs, including education and community outreach, have a new vitality.

The areas in which Christ Church needs help are daunting, however. Thirty-nine years ago, when I came to Christ Church as a seminarian, long-term financial concerns and 'problems' with the campus, especially with the parish house, were an important part of discussion about the future of Christ Church. The decision to enter into a relationship with Long Island Jewish Hospital in opening a day-treatment center for young people with drug and alcohol problems was equally motivated by a desire to serve the community and to create a new revenue stream to alleviate the increasing costs of keeping-up the campus at Christ Church.

Over the past 30 years, the financial struggles of the church escalated. The parish house was (and is) in constant need of repair. Later it was discovered that renovation would be necessary to bring the parish house into conformity with laws and regulations that set standards for public buildings. The costs of a renovation of the parish house were beyond the church's means. The cemetery, which is a beautiful and historic place in the community, costs a good amount to maintain and produces little income. Therefore the general maintenance funds of the church have provided for grounds-keeping in the cemetery. The three houses on the campus required increasing maintenance. Most importantly, after a capital campaign and renovation project in the church in 1972, funds for on-going maintenance were unavailable to keep the church building itself in repair.

When I arrived in Manhasset almost three years ago, the Vestry joined me in a resolution to address the underlying fiscal and physical needs of Christ Church as a first priority. We believe we are at a place today where we know how we going to address these issues.

[remainder of Rector's Report to be discussed at the Annual Meeting]



Mardi Gras Celebration/Fat Tuesday at 6:30

Don't miss the annual Christ Church **Fat Tuesday Supper** on February 20 at 6:30 in the parish hall. Good fellowship, lots of fun, great food and arts & crafts for the kids. Please use the sign up sheet in the back of church to let us know how many in your family will attend and what you will bring to eat.

Confirmation and Reception in the Episcopal Church

During Lent Christ Church will offer Sunday afternoon classes for **(1)** those 15 years-of-age or above who would like to be prepared for Confirmation in the coming year, **(2)** those who have been Confirmed in another church and wish to be received in the Episcopal Church and **(3)** those who wish to learn more about the church and the Episcopal Church.

Classes will be held on **Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm** during Lent. The first class will be on Sunday, February 25 and the classes will conclude on Sunday, March 25. The next Diocesan Confirmation/Reception will take place in the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City on Saturday, May 5. The topics for discussion are as follows:

February 25	"What is the Christian Faith"
March 4	"Jesus and Paul: Founders of the Faith"
March 11	"Peoples of the Book: Hebrew and Christian Scriptures"
March 18	"Prayer, Sacraments, Spirituality and Ethics: Making Faith Work"
March 25	"The Episcopal Church: What is it Anyway"

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in Confirmation, Reception or just taking a refresher course on the Christian Faith.

Lenten Program—2007

Again this Lent, Christ Church will join with St. Stephen's Church, Port Washington, for programs on Wednesday evenings. The topic this year will be "Biology and Christian Ethics." Over the past century there have been remarkable breakthroughs in man's understanding of biology and man's ability to use that understanding to enhance the quality and longevity of human life.

Some of the biological breakthroughs have raised serious moral questions, however, and the church has responded, often with more than one voice, to these questions. For much of Christian history, the morality of biology was relatively simple: contraception, abortion, homosexuality and suicide were the three issues—and the church's answer to all four were 'no;' that does not mean that all Christians agreed with the church's judgment on these issues; clearly Christians through the centuries took part in all three of these.

Today, however, increased understanding of human biology has raised new understandings of the four traditional biological issues and has raised a host of new issues. We now have unique abilities to cure diseases that were until recently always fatal, to permit conception in cases where there was no hope for offspring in previous times, to make copies of human and other animal's organs and other animals (cloning), to do genetic testing to search for disease and troublesome conditions and to prolong life in ways never thought of before. Each of these raises wonderful potentials for human benefit and the potential for unspeakable damage and evil.

The church has used a variety of moral tests through the ages. The first is the Bible: do the Hebrew and Christian scriptures address the issues directly or indirectly. The second is the historic teaching of the church: have the church fathers spoken on these issues. The third (and this is especially important for Anglicans [Episcopalians]): is the position reasonable.

We will consider some of the ethical issues that modern biology has brought to the fore. We will look at these issues from the scientific perspective (what has science discovered about our biology), from the traditional scriptural perspective (what does scripture say about these issues), from the moral traditions of the church through the ages (for instance, scripture says nothing directly about suicide except when it is done because of egregious personal fault—for example, Judas Iscariot, but the church outlawed suicide in all instances, denying a Christian burial to one who commits suicide) and from the perspective a 'Christian reason.' It is our desire that this be an open and honest forum among believers who have their own reasoned opinions. It is not our desire to tell participants what to believe.

The topics are as follows:

February 28	An Introduction to the Issues
March 7	From Conception to Birth
March 14	DNA and Stem-cell Research
March 21	Heroic Medicine and Protracted Life
March 28	Sexuality

The sessions on February 28, March 14 and March 28 will be held at St. Stephen's; the March 7 and March 21 sessions will be held at Christ Church. All sessions will begin with soup and salad dinner at 7:00 pm and the discussions will begin promptly

at 7:30 pm. The programs will end with Compline at 8:45 pm. Please feel free to invite your friends in the community to join with us for this program.

♪ Music notes from Kyle Babin, Organist & Choir Master

In February, we make a great musical transition: one from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. The anthems for the rest of the Epiphany season have texts of a more general thematic nature. Once Lent arrives, though, the texts change dramatically in quality to ones that emphasize God's mercy, as well as his ability to discern the true nature of our hearts and, at the same time, forgive us our sins. There is much wonderful, rich, and moving music during the season of Lent, and the choir will be singing many of the Church's greatest musical treasures. (For a complete listing of choir anthems, visit the Christ Church website music page.)

On a business note, we welcome beginning Sunday, February 4, our new soprano section leader, Amanda Sidebottom. Amanda holds a Master's degree in Early Music from Indiana University and currently resides in New York City. We are delighted to welcome her on board. We also bid farewell to Scott Mendelsohn, tenor section leader, who was with us from October until Sunday, January 28. We are thankful for all of his contributions to the music program at Christ Church.

Finally, the Junior Choir will be singing at the 10 a.m. service on February 18, so please be in church to hear them make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

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Happy Birthday!!

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

Jeff Lightcap, Senetta Koch, Karyn Sherwood, Anthony Hegyesi, Kristin Scherer, Carole Beinecke, Lori Kelly, Elizabeth Kelly, Vincent McGill, C.J.(Carole) Sevely, Will Ivers, Jade Blocker, Thomas Allen, Scott Beinecke.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries for this month... Dick and Kay Scheib, Angus Stopford and Jeannine Daly.

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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 4, 2007

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CHRIST CHURCH

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Altar flowers are given in memory of Ricky Scheib
by Kay and Dick Scheib

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 11, 2007

Judges 6:11;24; Psalm 85; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Altar flowers are given in memory of Jack L. Bruckner by Marion Bruckner
& for Tony, Rose and Joseph Mignone by Louise Fribush

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 18, 2007

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 9:28-36

Altar flowers are given in memory of Roy Trempy, Sr.
by Thomas Trempy

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 21, 2007

IMPOSITION OF ASHES 12 NOON AND 7:30PM

JOEL 2:1-2,12-17; PSALM 103; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-6:10; MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 25, 2007

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

Altar flowers are given in memory of Abdalla Mishrick
by the Mishrick, Cullum & Cyprus 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