

The Chart

August 2007

Letter from the Rector

August 1, 2007

Dear Friends,

I want to use this August edition of the *Chart* to give you a preview about what will be happening at Christ Church during the coming school year. For the past three years the Christ Church Vestry and staff has been working to create a foundation for the future of Christ Church as a place of worship, learning, pastoral care and community service. To do this we have made staff adjustments, gently changed our worship schedule and program, enhanced learning opportunities for people of all ages and are in the process of developing new ways in which to mold-together our parish family and reach out into our community and those around us. These have been—and will continue to be—difficult, yet essential tasks.

I start with our worship schedule and activities. On Sundays Christ Church has three-and one-half services (and the half is of great importance!). We have a said-Eucharist with sermon at 8:00 am in the church and another said-Eucharist with sermon at 6:00 pm in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. At 9:30 am we have a Pro-Anaphora for the children and their teachers in the children's chapel. The Pro-Anaphora is the beginning of the Eucharist service which included the collect of the day, the Gospel lesson, a short homily, the Creed and the prayers. After this service the children go to class for 40 minutes after which most of the children join their teachers and parents in the church where they participate in the Great Thanksgiving and receive communion.

At the 10:00 am service the two choirs sing (the adult choir every week and the children's choir once a month). The choir, under the leadership of Kyle Babin has become a fine music-making organization. With professional section leaders supporting our non-professional singers, there are wonderful opportunities for all those interested in singing and honing their singing skills to participate with the choir. In addition, we are working to grow the children's choir in the coming year.

Our Sunday School is well staffed with devoted and talented teachers. Christian education on Sunday mornings starts with pre-kindergarten and extends through sixth grade. For junior high school students youth group and education is held on Thursday afternoons from 5:00 through 7:00 pm. High school students meet irregularly for special programs.

Adult education programs this year will include a monthly program on the Psalms in the fall and a program on Paul and the development of early Christianity in the winter-spring. In addition there will be a monthly program in the fall, winter and spring on religion in the global community. This program will focus on the dynamics of faith and tolerance in an interconnected yet diverse 'globalized' world.

Our outreach program this year will focus on hunger—locally and globally. On Sunday September 30th the Rev'd John Moulton will be our guest preacher. He will speak about the challenges of feeding the poor in a time of affluence and abundance. There is a perception that hunger is not a problem in Nassau County. In reality, many people, including children, are malnourished very close to home. The problem of hunger in America is complex and the challenges for making food available to those in America and around the world is most daunting.

With the success of our June Evensong and the 'Spring into Summer' party still fresh in our minds, the Fellowship Committee is hard at work on the fall 'Progressive Dinner' and an early winter program built around Lessons and Carols for Advent with a 'Holly Party' to follow. We are also looking at ways to keep elements of the Holly Fair, but to recast the fair into an activity that would help bring the community closer to the Christ Church parish family.

All this leads me to make a plea to you: we believe that we have a Christian community and programs at Christ Church that are attractive to those who are looking for a spiritual home. Although we advertise in the *Manhasset Press*, we do not believe that most people use the newspaper to look for a church home. Studies indicate that most people find churches through the personal recommendations of family and friends. I know it is hard for most of us to invite friends and neighbors to come to Christ Church with you. However, I hope you might give that a try.

This comes with my best wishes for a restful and enjoyable August. Do remember that we have three services of the Eucharist each Sunday in the summer (8 and 10 am and 6 pm) as well as the Wednesday evening home communions. I hope you will find time to come and worship with us this August.

Sincerely,

David B. Lowry, Rector

Update on Church Finances and Campus Redevelopment:

Over the past month there have been many developments in the sale of a portion of the Christ Church campus, the redevelopment of the remainder of the campus and the stabilization of the church's finances.

Let us start with the property at 66 George Street: several months ago the Town of North Hempstead and the County of Nassau approved the request for the subdivision of the property known as 66 George Street (the house at the driveway going into the church from George Street). A subdivision was necessary because the property as purchased in 1942 was very large (.71 acres) and a large part of the property was used for a parking area and a driveway for the church. The church wished to sell the property as a residence while retaining sufficient property for parking and other development. To effect this, the 66 George Street property was restructured into a .29 acre plot (since expanded to .35 acres by order of the County of Nassau to assure space for off-street parking for the house). With the subdivision accepted, the Vestry, Bishop of Long Island and the Standing Committee of the Diocese approved the sale of the property and a petition has been filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York for final permission to sell the property. It is our hope the court will approve the sale in 60 to 90 days.

The portion of the campus that is under contract (known as Parcel C) has undergone environmental and legal 'due diligence' and the purchaser is proceeding with zoning changes and permitting. No environmental problems were found on the property (we were especially anxious about oil leaks from the oil tanks used for heating fuel) and the soil tests were very positive for drainage.

More complex has been the clear title on the Christ Church property. The Christ Church campus is made up of four properties obtained by the church in 1802, 1821, 1839 and 1888. All these pieces of property are covered by (handwritten) deeds. Regrettably, the deeds are very imprecise from the point-of-view of modern surveying. For example, the 1802 deed describes the land purchased by the church as 'beginning at the south-west corner of the said tract, piece or parcel of land adjoining the head of a certain road called Cow Neck Road, and a certain road leading to Mitchell's Mills; thence running north 82 degrees east 51 rods and 5 links until it comes to the yard belonging to the Friends' Meeting House; thence north 9 degrees west 8 rods along the lands appertaining to the said Friends' Meeting House; thence south 82 degrees west 52 rods and 23 links to the said road leading to Mitchell's Wells; thence south 21 degrees east 8 rods and 5 links along the last mentioned road to the place of beginning.' The 1888 deed did not make matters any easier. In that deed a portion of land in the cemetery was described as running 'north three degrees and twenty-two minutes west one hundred-twenty-six feet and seven-tenths of a foot to a mark on the fence; thence north eighty degrees and twenty-five minutes east three-hundred and seventy-six feet and three-tenths of a foot to a locust stake and thence three degrees and sixteen minutes east one-hundred and eighteen feet and six-tenths of a foot to the point or place of beginning.'

Although Christ Church had survey maps for its property, none were certified and surveyors were reluctant to certify the property because of the vagaries of the deeds' descriptions. To rectify this we searched the deeds of all adjacent properties and went to the Community Reformed Church to get their concurrence on the respective property lines between the two churches. The Community Reformed Church was most helpful, but their survey, like Christ Church's, had a note from the surveyor which read 'The outline survey of the property was made partly by recourse to existing deeds, records of adjacent properties, and by physical indication of possession, such as fences. No positive description of the entire property seems to exist.'

In time, with much help, we have been able to gather old maps of the area and the property boundaries have been certified by the surveyors. Now we await the final decision of the title insurers. When that is in

place we will end the 'due diligence' process and we should be able to move forward with dispatch. We will keep the parish family informed as the process unfolds.

Happy Birthday!!

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

Lisa Field, Vincent McGill Jr., David Lowry, Timothy McMahon, Sarah Phillips, Andrew Field, Jimmy Sherwood, Vera Davis, William McMahon III, Richard Kelly, Paul Subaiya, Peter Subaiya, Kenji Mapes, Claude Mapes, Margaret Pavlovich, Ryan Winters, Douglas Melichar.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month... David and Ariana Paterson, Joe and C.J.(Carole) Sevely, Vincent and Kathy McGill, George Faeth and Beth Morningstar, Bill and Emma McMahon, Kawall and Michelle Deosaran, David and Mary Lowry.

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

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – AUGUST 5, 2007

Transfiguration of our Lord

Ecclesiastes 1:12-142:1-7,11, 18-23; Psalm 49; Colossians 3:5-17; Luke 12:13-21

Altar flowers are given in memory of William F. Finn
by Doris Finn

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – AUGUST 12, 2007

Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33; Hebrews 11:1-3, 4-7, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Altar flowers are given in memory of Andrew J. McNeill
by Jane and John DeHoff

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – AUGUST 19, 2007

Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 12:1-10,11-14; Luke 12:49-56

Altar flowers are given in memory of William & Doris Boecker
by Lorinda Dobrick

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – AUGUST 26, 2007

Isaiah 28:14-22; Psalm 46; Hebrews 12:18:19, 22-29; Luke 13:22-30

*There is an opening for altar flowers on this Sunday, **August 26th** and the following Sunday's in **September the 2nd, 16th, and the 30th**. The flowers may be given as a memorial or thank offering.*

If you would like to make a donation to the flowers please call Mrs. Diana Tadler or the church office at 627-2184.