

## JUNE CHART

### *Letter from the Rector*

Dear Friends,

June 1, 2009

I am noticing an interesting phenomenon: although the stock markets have moved up substantially from their lows (when the Dow was at 6400), the mood of people is getting worse, not better. Part of that is undoubtedly caused by the reality that unemployment continues to increase and the financial wellbeing of many seems worse today than it did when the market reached (what we hope) is its low-point. But part of it must be that despair has replaced hope (at least temporarily).

I am in the midst of reading a fascinating book about economics, morals and psychology. It is written by a Harvard professor, Benjamin Friedman, who teaches in the area of political economy. *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth* touches upon many important topics in the history of economic development and how economic development generally has beneficial effects on society, although there are times when economic growth can have deleterious effects as well. Most interesting to me in the present time, however, is his observation that the intensity of joy and exuberance when economies are growing and standards of living are rising is far less intense than the despair that comes with economic contractions. Part of the reason for the disparity in intensity of feelings is that uncertainty about well-being (including economic well-being) is what is most distressing to the majority of people. Certainty about low or no growth is preferable emotionally to the uncertainty of 'bull and bust' markets.

We live in a time of substantial uncertainty. Although we all suspect that national and global economic activity, employment and the markets will improve, even the best economic prognosticators are uncertain when and how completely the markets will recover. Those of us who have seen our retirement and college funds diminish are especially concerned about our uncertain prospects.

In the midst of uncertainty and attendant anxieties, we are reminded that our faith is a source of calm certainty and comfort. Jesus reminded his disciples of this in a time of uncertainty and anxiety in the course of his ministry. In Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day."

The lesson is not that initiative and personal action are unnecessary or unimportant. Jesus was counseling against anxiety induced by uncertainty and the deleterious effects such anxiety has upon our psychological and spiritual well-being. It was good advice then—and still good today!

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

*The Very Rev'd David B. Lowry*

#### **From the Rector's Reading Desk:**

This month a few disparate books are on my reading desk. In addition the Friedman's *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth* (to which I referred in my letter), I am embarking on Barbara Hagerty's *Fingerprints of God: The Search for the Science of Spirituality* (suggested to me by my wife, Mary) which probes what is scientifically provable within the realm of prayer and spirituality. The second book is back in the realm of religion and economics. It is William Cavanaugh's *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire*. Finally, I was intrigued by a review in the *Times Literary Supplement* (London) of a book by Sarah Hrdy entitled *Mothers and Others: The Evolutionary Origins of Mutual Understanding*. The book asserts that there are real biological differences between women and men in

their appreciation of mutual understanding and protection of others—especially children. It appears as interesting as it will undoubtedly be controversial!

### **A Note of Thanks**

A big hug and thank you to Mrs. Bunyon and Mrs. Carr for making our costumes for the Passion Gospel; to Mrs. Carole McCarvill for her contributions to the “Easter Egg” hunt - they were so cool; to Mrs. Anita Schmidt for her hard work prepping the garden beds around the Parish Hall so we could plant; and to Mrs. Karen Courts for her most generous gift of all the flowers to make the Parish House look beautiful. Please don't forget to stop and admire the gardens in front of the Parish House ('cause we did such a good job!). The Sunday School children.

### **Around the Parish:**

Late May is a special time for birthdays at Christ Church. Last Sunday, May 24, was **Richard Scheib's** 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. We sang a rousing happy birthday to him in church and sent him a cake. We did skimp, however, on the candles! **Amy Angus** celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on May 28. **Blanche Kambourian** celebrated a birthday, but she is still too young to specify which birthday it is.

A number of our high school seniors have been working on their choices of colleges to attend. The current choices are as follows: **Andrew Field** will go to Geneseo (SUNY); **Allison Melichar** will attend Lehigh University (Pennsylvania); **Max Smitham** will attend Tulane University (New Orleans); and **Brian Wedeking** will head off to Oswego (SUNY). We will report more college choices in the July *Chart*.

**Walter Fuller** and **George Faeth** continue their process toward becoming perpetual deacons in the Episcopal Church. The diaconate is an ancient ministry that has seen resurgence over the past twenty-years in the Episcopal Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

### **Pentecost Services on May 31:**

The Feast of Pentecost is the end of the 50 days of Easter. It commemorates the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus disciples and reminds us that nearly 2000 years after the first Pentecost, we are still the body of Christ directed by the Holy Spirit. The tradition in the church is to wear red on Pentecost. Please also note that this Sunday will be the last week for our choir at the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. Please join in thanking the choir for the wonderful must they have provided to enhance our worship.

### **Special Children's Eucharist on Trinity Sunday—June 7 at 10:00 AM:**

On Trinity Sunday the 10:00 AM Eucharist will be in the hands of our children. They will be our energetic choir as well as our lectors and ushers. We will honor the children and our Sunday School teachers. Our music will include great 'Anglican' favorites including “Our God is a good God,” “Father Abraham had many Kids,” and the debut of father Lowry and the Rappers doing “The Trinity Rap.” The service will be followed by a picnic. Please sign-up to bring a lunch dish or a dessert.

### **Summer Sunday Hospitality**

Volunteers will be needed beginning **June 14** to sign up for our **Sunday Hospitality Hour** after the celebration of the Eucharist. Please use the sign-up sheet or call the parish office (627-2184) if you would like to help.

### **Summer Services:**

During the summer months our service schedule remains the same (Sunday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM—Weekday Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM and a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM on Thursdays). We will add a Wednesday evening service of the Holy Eucharist beginning on **July 8 at 7pm** and continuing each week through August 26. These services will be followed by a pot luck dinner. The services are held in homes around the parish. Please call the office for locations of the service and to make reservations for the supper. The first home Communion will be at the Christ Church Rectory (54 George Street). If you would be interested in hosting a Home Communion, please call the parish office (627-2184) or sign-up on the sheets in the church.

**TRINITY SUNDAY – JUNE 7, 2009**  
**Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Joseph Vallo  
by Diana Tadler & Ida Vallo

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE 14, 2009**

1 Samuel 15:34–16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, Mark 4:26-34

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Sara and Thomas Redwood  
by Janet & Richard Lombard

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE 21, 2009**

1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Edith Smitham  
by David & Junko Smitham

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE 28, 2009**

2 Samuel 1:1,7-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Altar flowers are given in thanksgiving for the Baptism of Daniel K. Egrie  
by his grandparents, Paul & Nellie Egrie  
The altar flowers are also given in loving memory of Jane and  
Joseph Ryan and Audrey and Charles King  
by Gloria & John Ryan

*We are pleased to congratulate these friends and parishioners who have birthdays during this month...*

Carole Schmidt-Spadaro, Penny Tadler, Scott Ivers, Jessica Storozum, Ariana Paterson, Jasmine Blocker, Oriana Cyprus, Katherine Kelly, Lesley Stackler, Betts Carpenter, Liam Whalen, Douglas Schmidt-Spadaro, Teresa Ciaccio, Kawall Deosaran.

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

Fred and Marianne Horne, James and Lori Kelly, John and Gloria Ryan, John and Joyce Bernard.