

## November, Chart

### Letter from the Rector

November 1, 2009  
All Saint's Day

Dear Friends,

In spite of the date at the head of this letter, I hope that this edition of the *Chart* will be in your hands by the middle of the week prior to All Saints' Day because I wish to remind you of a very special celebration of All Saints' at Christ Church this year. Music has always played a very special role in all forms of worship and Christianity is no exception. Along with word (scripture and its interpretation) and the sacraments (especially the gathering at the Lord's Table for the Eucharist), Christian worship has always been adorned by music. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in France, Gabrielle Faure wrote a Requiem which has been recognized as one of the most sublime pieces of religious music ever written. The Christ Church choir, supplemented by violin and horn, will present the Requiem as the music for our worship on All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1, at the 10:00 AM celebration of the Eucharist. I urge your attendance. This is also a wonderful opportunity to bring your friends to visit Christ Church!

November has many other important events that I hope you will note. Three outreach programs take place in November. The first is **Operation Christmas Child**. This is a Church School outreach program that provides a shoe box with small but important Christmas gifts for children who would otherwise have little a holiday time. The collection of the gifts and shoe boxes will finish on Sunday, November 8, so immediate action is necessary. The second program is **Coats for Kids**. Although named for 'kids', used coats in good condition for children and adults are most welcome. The collection box will be up in the Parish House for the month of November. The third project is the **Christmas Gifts** project for Episcopal Community Services (ECS). ECS has many low income clients, mostly in Brooklyn and Queens. Each year ECS solicits gifts for the children of the clients who are in need. Near the end of November we receive the lists from ECS of children whom we are asked to help. When the lists are received we will split them up among those who are interested. The maximum amount to be spent on a child is \$30 and generally a family takes care of only one child. Further details will be forthcoming later in November.

On November 7 at 7:00 PM we will have our Fall Parish Party at the home of Bob and Laura Pavlovich. Details about the party are in the *Chart*. We will also have a **Men's Dinner** on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 PM in the Parish House. I will be the cook. The tentative menu is in the *Chart*. Reservations are requested.

On Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 PM, Bishop Lawrence Provenzano will be installed at Bishop of Long Island at his Cathedral in Garden City. The service is open to the public and I urge you to join me in attending this important service.

Finally, we have scheduled a parish work day on Saturday, November 21 starting a 9:00 AM. A major part of the work day will be raking and bagging leaves. We also hope many who work will be able to take two or three bags of leaves home with them for composting or putting out to be taken with your trash collection. This will save the church almost a thousand dollars.

Many more items of interest are inside the *Chart*, including my reflections on the offer of the Roman Catholic Church to receive members of the Church of England and the American Episcopal Church within the Roman Catholic Church.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,  
DAVID B. LOWRY, RECTOR

### The Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion

Last Tuesday the Vatican announced that the Roman Catholic Church would receive congregations with their clergy from within the world-wide Anglican Communion into the Roman Catholic Church. This in one sense was nothing new; Anglicans, including Anglican clergy, have been welcome to move to the Roman

Catholic since 1980. What was different in last week's announcement was that entire congregations could move into the Roman Catholic Church with their clergy and the congregations could retain many elements of their worship and 'ethos.'

The announcement by the Vatican said that the offer was made because of dissatisfaction within the Church of England and the Anglican Communion with the role of women in the ministry in the Church of England. However, the unilateral nature of the announcement (the Archbishop of Canterbury only heard about the Vatican's offer a few days prior to the announcement by the Vatican) raised more questions than it provided insights. It was unclear what motivated the Vatican to make such an announcement at the present time without ecumenical consultation.

It appears that the Vatican announcement was **not** focused on the American Episcopal Church. In the American Episcopal Church dissatisfied clergy, lay people and congregations have tended to join with other Anglicans who have been unhappy with the direction in which the Episcopal Church has been moving. These defections started in 1980 and have continued to the present. Few of the disaffected left the Episcopal Church to join the Roman Church even fewer clergy have moved to the Roman Catholic Church. I see that tendency continuing.

Even though this is not as big an issue for Christ Church as it might otherwise appear to be, I would like to take this opportunity to address a number of issues that are vexing to a good number of Episcopalians today.

**First is the issue of women and their roles in the church.** I will start with the Church of England and work back to the Episcopal Church and far beyond our church. In 2008, the Church of England made it possible for women to be ordained as bishops. Women have been ordained to the priesthood for the past decade in the Church of England and while there has been grumbling about those ordinations, there was little talk of schism in the Church of England. Therefore, the outcry about women in the episcopate in England came as a surprise.

In comparison, women have been ordained to the priesthood in the American Episcopal Church since 1977 and the in 1989 the first woman was ordained as a bishop. A number of Episcopalians left the church over the issue in the 1970s and 1980s, but it has become a non-issue today.

While most of the mainstream Christian denominations in Europe and North America have greatly expanded the role of women in the life of the church, the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches have resisted the fuller integration of women in the life of the church. Within the Anglican Communion, the churches in Africa, Asia, and the Southern Cone have resisted the expanding ministries for women.

A journey back through the history of women in the church may be of some help. The Gospels are filled with wonderful stories about extraordinary women. Although the twelve apostles were all men (many of whom are just names to us), a good number of the most prominent figures among those who followed Jesus were women (several Marys immediately come to mind) and for centuries there are stories in church history about women undertaking important roles in the life of the church. In the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries women (along with married priests and bishops) lost their place in providing a number of vital ministries in the church. Nuns, who had provided crucial leadership in the church for centuries, undertook subordinate roles in support of male clergy. Those with special interest in this topic may wish to check out Gary Macy's *The Hidden History of Women's Ordination: Female Clergy in the Medieval West* (2007).

It was not until late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that women, bolstered by increased education opportunities and energized by the roles they were taking in secular society, especially in North America, but in Europe as well, sought further validation of the ministries they could provide to the church. By the early 1970's the American Episcopal Church was strongly considering the ordination of women to the priesthood. The first 'regular' ordinations took place in 1977 (eleven women were 'irregularly' ordained in 1974 and accepted a 'regularly ordained in 1977). In 1998, the first woman (Barbara Harris, Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts) was elected to the episcopate of the American Episcopal Church.

**A second issue—homosexuality.** The Roman Catholic Church's overtures to Anglicans did not refer to the issue of homosexuality, most probably because homosexuality among Roman Catholic clergy is at least as prevalent among Catholic clergy as it is among the clergy of the Episcopal Church and the Church

of England. However, since homosexuality among clergy and the formal approval of the ordination of homosexuals to the priesthood and episcopate by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church is an issue within the American Episcopal Church and within the Anglican Communion, so I will make comments about that issue.

For centuries homosexuality has been considered a moral failing. Although the biology of sexuality does not have definitive answers about sexuality and sexual preferences, it is increasingly clear that individuals do not make decisions about sexual preference in most cases. I have come to accept sexuality as a biological trait rather than a moral decision. However, within our sexual biology we make important moral decisions about how we live-out our sexuality. This is true of heterosexuals and homosexuals.

Although sexuality is biological, it also appears true that sexual orientation and the intensity of sexual interest are both on a continuum. Hence, some of us are more intensely heterosexual (or homosexual) and within those orientations, some of us are more intensively sexual than are others. Logic therefore suggests that there are some people whose biology leaves them in the middle of the continuum. For those people sexual orientation is rather indeterminate and decisions about sexual preference would be more personal—even though their sexuality is biologically stamped.

The question for the church is how do we respond to those who are homosexual? Should they be included or excluded? If sexuality is biological (although sexual behavior would be moral), should anyone be excluded because of their biology? If we no longer exclude because of gender or race, should we exclude because of sexual orientation?

**The underlying issues in all of this is how inclusive or exclusive should the Episcopal Church be?** Traditionally, most churches have been exclusive and in many ways prejudicial. Although there have been chapters in the history of the church where remarkable acts of acceptance and kindness have shone through, the church, like the rest of society, has a long way to go in accepting all of God's created and redeemed people as full members of the Christian community. There are many limitations to acceptance within the church, but the things that bar people from the community of faith should reflect behavior and not race, gender or sexual orientation.

The disaffection within the American Episcopal Church, the English Church and many other churches, as well as the overture of the Roman Catholic to those disaffected parties is a reflection about how much work there is to do on all of these important issues. I cannot pre-judge how all of this should work out I can only pray that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit in all we consider and how we will act toward one another.

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## **Parish Notes:**

### **Sunday School Thanks**

The Sunday School wishes to thank Mrs. Eisser and The Almost New Shop for giving a coat rack and hangers to each classroom. We're so happy to have a place to hang our coats!

**NO PLACE LIKE MANHASSET** – Debbie Czeglédy will have a 'one person' art show at the Manhasset Public Library opening in November. On Saturday, November 7 there will be a reception from 2–4pm. We hope many will plan to attend.

### **Parish Party - November 7 at pm**

The Parish Party will be held at the home of Bob and Laura Pavlovich (20 Gristmill Lane, Plandome) on Saturday, November 7 at 7:00pm. Please e-mail Laura to make a reservation at [Pavlovich.laura@gmail.com](mailto:Pavlovich.laura@gmail.com) .

### **Men' Dinner – Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 pm**

The Men's dinner Menu: Salad; Mashed sweet and white potatoes; Santiago Pork Roast; Devil's Food cake and Angel Food cake, by chef "The Very Rev'd David B. Lowry.

### **Parish Clean Up – Saturday, November 21 at 9am**

Parish work morning is scheduled for November 21 from 9am to 12 noon. Wear your work clothes, bring your rakes

(fan & metal) and be sure to wear your work gloves.

### **Outreach:**

**Operation Christmas Child** – Our congregation and Sunday school classes will be participating again in Operation Christmas Child sponsored by *Samaritans Purse*. Our church family can share Christmas joy with needy children around the world by filling wrapped shoeboxes with small gifts for boys and girls ages 2-14. Please return your filled shoeboxes or the donations of small new toys, school supplies, hygiene items etc. to Arlene Blocker's class room in the parish hall (please refer to the list of gift ideas in the rear of church).

You may also choose to donate only empty gift wrapped shoeboxes (the top of shoebox should be wrapped separately so gifts may be inserted); or holiday gift wrap, to wrap empty boxes or the any of the items on the list to go into the wrapped shoe boxes. All donations will be greatly appreciated. The deadline for donations is **Sunday, November 8**. If you have any questions please contact Susan Bunyon at 248-7355.

**"Coats for Kids"** - We will be collecting gently used coats for children from now through **Sunday, November 29**. Please bring your coats to the Parish House between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday and/or Sunday from 9am-12noon.

**Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program** - Christ Church will again participate with the Episcopal Community Services Group of the Diocese of Long Island, and has agreed to adopt 10 families. This is a program through which families in need can receive Christmas gifts and is an opportunity to help those in need by sharing what we have. Several families in Christ Church can combine to adopt-a-family. Please call the parish office if you wish to participate. The last day to receive all wrapped, tagged and bundled gifts is, **Monday, December 7**.

### **Emergency Food Program of the Long Island Council of Churches**

The Long Island Council of Churches is one of the only emergency food programs on Long Island. Please continue to support this important outreach program, which allows any family in need to help themselves to the selection of non-perishable foods donated to the food bank. Particularly welcome are powdered, evaporated and condensed milk, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, cereals, peanut butter, soups, rice, pasta, etc. Please leave your donation at the entry to the nave of the church or in the basket in the Parish House. Many thanks to those parishioners, of all ages, who continue to support the Christ Church Hunger Program.

## Happy Birthday!!

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

Brian Lightcap, John Ryan, Margot Cyprus, Micheline Schreiber, Saleena Subaiya, Fritz Schreiber, Erica Wedeking, Don Koch, Laura Pavlovich, Mary Jane Whalen, Megan Lightcap.

### **SUNDAY READINGS AND ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:**

#### **All Saints Day**

#### **The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – November 1, 2009**

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6; John 11:32:32-44

Altar flowers are given in memory of Guy Osborne by the Osborne Family

#### **THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – NOVEMBER 8, 2009**

Ruth 3:1-5,4:14-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

*There is an opening for altar flowers this Sunday. If you would like to make a donation to the flowers please call Mrs. Diana Tadler at 627-0128 or the church office at 627-2184*

#### **THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – NOVEMBER 15, 2009**

1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14; Mark 12:1-8

*There is an opening for altar flowers this Sunday. If you would like to make a donation to the flowers please call Mrs. Diana Tadler at 627-0128 or the church office at 627-2184.*

**CHRIST THE KING**  
**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – NOVEMBER 22, 2009**

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-13; Revelation 4:4-8; John 18:33-57

Altar flowers are given in memory of Bob Dahl and loved ones  
by Betty Dahl

**Thanksgiving Day – November 26, 2009 – 9 am**  
Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33  
The Litany of Thanksgiving Day, The Book of Common Prayer p. 836-837

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – NOVEMBER 29, 2009**  
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

*There is an opening for altar flowers this Sunday. If you would like to make a donation to the flowers please call Mrs. Diana Tadler at 627-0128 or the church office at 627-2184.*

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**Calendar for the Month of November**

<b>Sunday, No.1/22 Pentecost</b> <b>Feast of All Saints</b>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist and Church School	Church
		Senior & Junior Youth Groups	Parish House
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
<b>Monday, November 2</b> All Souls Day	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Tuesday, November 3</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Wednesday, November 4</b>	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	Office
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:45 AM	Sunshine Ministry	Parish House
	<b>7:30 PM</b>	Adult Education	Parish House
	<i>The First and Second Books of Samuel</i>		
<b>Thursday, November 5</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Friday, November 6</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Saturday, November 7</b> Debbie Czeglédy Oils	<b>2-4 PM</b>	No Place Like Manhasset Manhasset Public Library	
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Parish Party</b>	RSVP
Bob and Laura Pavlovich's <a href="mailto:pavlovich.laura@gmail.com">pavlovich.laura@gmail.com</a>	20 Gristmill Lane, Plandome, NY		
<b>Sunday, Nov. 8/23 Pentecost</b> <i>Deadline for Operation Christmas Child</i>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist and Church School	Church

	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
<b>Monday, November 9</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Tuesday, November 10</b>	7:00 AM <b>7:30 PM</b>	Morning Prayer <b>Men's Dinner</b>	Chapel Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday, November 11</b>	9:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM <b>7:30 PM</b>	Morning Prayer Bible Study Holy Eucharist Sunshine Ministry Adult Education	Chapel Office Chapel Parish House Parish House
<b>Thursday, November 12</b>	<i>The First and Second Books of Samuel</i> 7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Friday, November 13</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Saturday, November 14</b>			
<b>Sunday, Nov. 15/24 Pentecost</b>	8:00 AM 10:00 AM  Senior & Junior Youth Groups 6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist and Church School  Holy Eucharist	Church Church  Parish House Chapel
<b>Monday, November 16</b>	7:00 AM 7:45 PM	Morning Prayer Vestry Meeting	Chapel Parish House
<b>Tuesday, November 17</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Wednesday, November 18</b>	9:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM <b>7:30 PM</b>	Morning Prayer Bible Study Holy Eucharist Sunshine Ministry Adult Education	Chapel  Chapel Parish House Parish House
		<i>The First and Second Books of Samuel</i>	
<b>Thursday, November 19</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Friday, November 20</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Saturday, November 21</b>	<b>9AM-12PM</b>	<b>Parish Clean Up</b>	<b>Grounds</b>
		<i>Wear your work clothes, bring your rakes, and wear your work gloves</i>	
<b>Sunday, Nov. 22/Last Pentecost</b>	8:00 AM 10:00 AM  6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist and Church School Holy Eucharist	Church Church  Chapel
<b>Monday, November 23</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel

<b>Tuesday, November 24</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Wednesday, November 25</b>	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	9:15 AM	Bible Study	Office
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	10:45 AM	Sunshine Ministry	Parish House
<b>Thursday, November 26</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Holy Eucharist	Church
<b>Friday, November 27</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
<b>Saturday, November 28</b>			
<b>Sunday, Nov. 29/1 Advent</b>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist and Church School	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
<b>Monday, November 30</b>	7:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel