

Christ Church CHART
1355 Northern Boulevard
Manhasset, NY 11030

Letter from the Rector

June 1, 2011

Dear Friends,

Last month the Pew Forum on Religion and American Life published a comprehensive report on American churches and participation in religious life. The report brought quantitative data in support of qualitative observations. The report confirmed that fewer Americans identify that they are members of formal religious organizations than a decade ago and that the intensity of participation in formal religious organizations has slackened. The report noted that diminution of religious participation covered virtually all religious groups and that the loss of membership in mainstream religious organizations has hit all groups equally, including substantial losses of membership and participation in the Roman Catholic Church. That was a surprise to many in Protestant churches, where there was a belief that the loss of membership and intensive participation in religious organizations was limited to mainstream Protestantism.

I have been reading two new books and re-reading one older book that consider religion in American life. *God and the Atlantic: America, Europe, and the Religious Divide* by Thomas Howard (Oxford) traces the differences in religion between Europe and America. In the 18th and 19th centuries Europe was dominated by nations that controlled national churches. The Church of England as the official church of Great Britain is a good, but not unique, example of European churches. In America there was, in reaction against the national churches in Europe, no official religion, although Christianity predominated. Numerous religious sects developed in America and there was no real desire of the government in the United States to limit religious diversity. Most Europeans were fascinated and perplexed by America's religious practices. Many, though, were troubled by American religious 'disorder.'

What America has had in larger measure than Europe has had is communities that coalesce around religious organizations and locations. Communities grew up and prospered around church (and libraries and schools). Robert Putnam, in *Bowling Alone: the Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Simon and Schuster, 2000) makes the case that American communities and the sense of community in the United States has been transformed by changes in economics and technology (the latter being much more transformative since the book was written). In 2010, Putnam and David Campbell looked at religion in American life in the book, *American Grace: How Religion Unites and Divides Us* (Simon and Schuster, 2010) and demonstrated how American religious life has been transformed and, in many ways, diminished.

What does that have to do with Christ Church? Much, it seems to me. With American life changing, churches, including Christ Church, are challenged to become transformative in ways that speak to the needs and desires its congregation and those who might wish to be members of a church. As some of us try to hold on to 'old models' of church as if such models were eternal, people who are looking for a 'religious home' but are not connected to our past find places like Christ Church 'off-putting' and 'uninviting.'

With the signing of a contract to redevelop the Christ Church campus, it is a good time for Christ Church to resolutely look at what we need to be to fulfill our mission to bring Christ to our community and our community to Christ. The Vestry has agreed to undertake a study of where Christ Church needs to go in the future to fulfill our mission to God and community. Such a study will help Christ Church discern what the congregation needs from its next priest and rector. This is an important task and I hope we all will be active participants in this process.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Very Rev'd David B. Lowry

Parish Notes:

Many thanks to our volunteers - Michelle Deosaran, Patti Crisafulli, Denise Polis, Sheila Estwick and Heather McCusker - for being our "Easter bunnies" and making the egg hunt a huge success for our children.

A big "Thank You" to Mrs. Courts for donating and delivering the flowers we planted on Mother's Day. Our Parish House entrance looks so beautiful. With love from the Sunday School children.

!!! Important this Sunday, June 5 !!!

Please note changes in the schedule for this coming Sunday, **June 5**. The choir of St. Stephen's Church will not be able to join the Christ Church choir for evensong this Sunday afternoon since this music chosen was specially designed for a large choir. It seemed best for us to postpone the evensong until the fall. We will however, have all of our planned festivities for the morning.

This Sunday is the end of Church School for the 2010-2011 school years. We will have a family service for the Feast of the Ascension and the Church School Awards will be given. After the 10:00 am service we will hold our "**Annual Parish Picnic**". Meet and mingle with fellow parishioners while the kids get to play in our yard.

Please email or call Kathy to sign up at admin@christchurchmanhasset.org or 516-627-2184. Also please let Kathy know what "dish" you plan to bring to our picnic! Volunteers appreciated for set up, have children's games, bring coolers and ice or clean up. Please contact Denise Polis at coral97@optonline.net if you could lend a hand. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY/ Volunteers Needed

As our Summer Schedule begins the first Sunday in June and we will need volunteers to provide "Hospitality/Fellowship" for the Sundays in Summer. Please use the sign up sheet in the rear of the church and pick a Sunday to share with your church family.

Around the Parish

We would like to note our high school graduates. All are women this year Kate Phillips and Caroline Trezza. We wish them happiness and great success!

Christopher Ballard, Seminarian

Chris hails from Iowa and was educated there, too. He has an Masters in American Expansionist History from Iowa State (aka. The history of Cowboys and Indians). He taught High School and Middle School students in Georgia, Texas and New Mexico where he also served as Assistant Headmaster of a school. A product of Episcopal schools, Chris believes that education based on Anglicanism is one of the church's most promising ministries. Until this past Fall when he became a full-time student at General Theological Seminary in New York, Chris served as the Associate Director of The Desmond Tutu Center for Peace and Reconciliation under the leadership of David Lowry. As a student at General and a Postulant from the Diocese of Long Island, Chris is working toward completing a Masters of Divinity degree in Spring 2012 and being ordained to the priesthood in Fall 2012. He lives in Jersey City with his partner of 13 years, Seale Ballenger, their niece Keegan Ballenger and their two French Bulldogs, Petey and Maddie. A former marathon runner, Chris enjoys staying fit by biking, weight training and taking intense 'boot-camp' style fitness classes. He loves being at Christ Church and looks forward to serving there for another year!

Feast of Pentecost Sunday June 12.

The Feast of Pentecost closes out the season of Easter. It is the celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirits and the *Birth of the Church*. It is the second most important day of celebration in the Christian year. Although church school is finished and the summer weather is upon us, please make every effort to come to one of the three services on the Feast of Pentecost. It is traditional to wear something red to celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit..

Summer Schedule begins June 19

Beginning on **June 19**, which is Father's Day, the 10:00am service will be a Choral Eucharist without choir. Our schedule of services does not change through the summer, so there will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00am, 10:00am and 6:00pm. As you enjoy your summer and spend weekends away from Manhasset, please remember that the **6:00pm Eucharist** beckons you and the church, which for **206 years** was unbearably hot in the summer, is now *comfortably air conditioned* to enhance your worship experience.

Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir Needs You!! Singers and instrumentalists in grades two through eight are invited to join the Chapel Choir when it starts back up in September. We will be rehearsing on Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:00. We sing in Chapel every Sunday, and in the big church on Family Sundays. We also have pizza parties and outings. If you have questions, call Laura Pavlovich at 627-3503 or email her at Pavlovich.Laura@gmail.com. Please join us.

Upcoming in July:

There has been a change in schedule (day of the week) for our Informal Home Communion formerly held on Wednesday evenings. This summer the Home Communion have been scheduled for **THURSDAY** evenings at 7:00pm. If you would like to host a Thursday Evening Home Communion, please contact Liz Giacoma by telephone at 516-944-9760 or by email at elizabeht.giacoma@axa-equitable.com

Informal Home Communion/THURSDAY'S July & August at 7:00pm

Home Communion will be held **THURSDAY** this summer. The first Informal Eucharist will be on **THURSDAY** the **7th of July** at the Rectory, 54 George Street at 7:00pm. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church for you to indicate who will attend and what you will bring either an entrée, appetizer or dessert.

SUNDAY READINGS AND ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVING FOR JUNE

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – JUNE 5, 2011

AWARDS SUNDAY/PARISH PICNIC

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 47; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

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

THE SUNDAY OF PENTECOST – JUNE 12, 2011

Genesis 11:1-4; Psalm 33:12-22; Acts 2:1-11, John 20 19-23

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE 19, 2011

TRINITY SUNDAY/FATHER'S DAY

Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE 26, 2011

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

The altar flowers are also given in loving memory of Jane and
Joseph Ryan and Audrey and Charles King
by Gloria & John Ryan

Happy Birthday!!

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, Marie Ferraro, Ron Kipp, Liam Whalen, Alexander B. Siener, Douglas Schmidt-Spadaro, Teresa Ciaccio, Kawall Deosaran.

Happy Anniversary!!!

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

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

Calendar for the Month of June, 2011

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| Wednesday, June 1 | 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel Chapel |
| Thursday, June 2 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Friday, June 3 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Saturday, June 4 | | | |
| Sunday, June 5/7 Easter <i>Awards Sunday/Parish Picnic</i> | 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist Parish Picnic Holy Eucharist | Church Church Church Yard Church |
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| Monday, June 6 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Tuesday, June 7 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Wednesday, June 8 | 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel Chapel |
| Thursday, June 9 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Friday, June 10 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Saturday, June 11 | | | |
| Sunday, June 12/Pentecost <i>The Day of Pentecost</i> | 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist Holy Eucharist | Church Church Church |
| Monday, June 13 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Tuesday, June 14 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Wednesday, June 15 | 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel Chapel |
| Thursday, June 16 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |

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| Friday, June 17 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Saturday, June 18 | | | |
| Sunday, June 19/1 Pentecost <i>Trinity Sunday/Father's Day</i> | 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist Holy Eucharist | Church Church Chapel |
| Monday, June 20 | 7:00 AM 7:45 PM | Morning Prayer Vestry Meeting | Chapel Parish House |
| Tuesday, June 21 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Wednesday, June 22 | 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel Chapel |
| Thursday June 23 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Friday, June 24 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Saturday, June 25 | | | |
| Sunday, June 26/2 Pentecost | 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist Holy Eucharist | Church Church Chapel |
| Monday, June 27 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Tuesday, June 28 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |
| Wednesday, June 29 | 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel Chapel |
| Thursday, June 30 | 8:45 AM 5:45 PM | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | Chapel Chapel |

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