

Christ Church CHART
1355 Northern Boulevard
Manhasset, NY 11030

Letter from the Rector

July 1, 2011

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday I spoke briefly to the congregation at the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Eucharists about the vote of the New York State Legislature to create gender equality in marriage in the State of New York. It was a vote on which there were deep and emotional differences in opinion. The church was at the center of the debate—on both sides of the issue.

By training I am a historian; emotionally as well I tend to understand issues historically. When I think that way the raw emotions of issues tend to be rubbed away. I wish to think through marriage historically and biologically (as well as theologically and biblically) to at least share the way in which I understand the 'gay marriage' issue.

For most of history, marriage has been about property and property was about marriage. Marriage, and the offspring produced in marriage, protected property—most often in the form of land. That is why families arranged marriages; and why there were payments of the dowry by a bride's family to the groom's family as bond of the economic fortunes of two families (rather than two individuals). The fact that those who were without property seldom 'married' in a formal manner shows how deep was the relationship between property and marital relations.

Also, for most of history life (and marriage) was a relatively short-term arrangement. Until well into the 19th century life expectancy was short; disease in general took many lives. In addition, wars killed many men young, as did childbirth kill women. Since many children died as infants or young children, women had to deliver a number of children to make certain there was an heir for family property. Hence, the wealthy married young and the poor seldom married.

In the 19th century (in the West at least), marriage began to change. Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution were the drivers of change. Capitalism and industrialization made land less important and wealth more fungible. Children, who worked fields in agrarian-based families, moved to factories (if their families were poor) and to professions (if their families were of some means). In the emerging middle class of the 19th century women became full-time 'housewives'—and the role of the housewife was idealized. Arraigned marriages lost their allure; and the 'love-match' was born.

In the midst of this transformation of marriage, new social and economic relationships were developed. People lived longer. In western Europe and North America life expectancy doubled between the middle of the 19th century and the end of the 20th. As people lived longer and had more fungible wealth, divorce rates escalated. Without inherited land as a deterrent, couples could divorce and find ways to split their assets. On the other side, couples, who often died prior to children reaching majority, had the opportunity to see grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

With this short (and very incomplete) history of marriage before us, let us look at gender equality in marriage. In general, marriages in the United States have little to do with land and inheritance. In fact, the advent of pre-nuptial agreements suggests that often couples want to protect their assets from marriage and their spouse! But there are benefits of marriage other than inheritance of land that have been enshrined in law and tradition in the West. Health insurance and inheritance laws protect those who are married while putting at disadvantage those who have built wealth together without the benefit of marriage. This certainly includes those who do so in a same-sex relationship.

Since we are a faith community, any analysis must take into strong consideration scripture and theology. In ancient Judaism, sexual activity that did not lead to the possibility of offspring was condemned. The Israelites were few in number, and if God's promise that Abraham's offspring

would be numbered like the stars in the sky and the sands of the shore, there would need to be a great deal of procreation. In addition, the 'outsides,' especially those who followed other gods, were known to practice homosexuality. In early Christianity little was said about marriage. Jesus only addressed marriage once—in response to a question about divorce—and although Jesus and a few of his disciples attended a marriage feast at Cana of Galilee (where he changed water into wine), he took no part in the blessing of the marriage itself. Jesus said nothing about homosexuality, although he did say that marriage was between a man and a woman.

Paul had little positive to say about marriage. He told the church at Corinth that he thought it best of all be like he was—celibate. However, he conceded that it was better to marry than to be consumed with (sexual) desire. In the Pastoral Epistles (probably not written by Paul, but attributed to him), bishops and deacons were admonished 'to be the husband of one wife.' It is hard to know whether the author wished all bishops and deacons to be married or, if they are married, they should have only one wife. Paul was, however, strongly critical of homosexual behavior. His strongest comments were in the epistles to the churches at Corinth and at Rome. These were the two largest and most 'pagan' cities to which Paul sent epistles. They were also the two cities that had the most ritualized sexual contact between older men and young boys.

But all of this analysis would ring hollow without the difficult issue of sexual orientation. Sexuality and sexual orientation remains a mystery. Neuro-scientists and behavioral psychologists have made progress in understanding sexuality, but there is not yet anything about sexuality and sexual stamping that is definitive. The consensus that has evolved is that for most people sexual orientation is not a decision. If that is true, the idea that it is good for someone to 'try' to be heterosexual while sexually attracted to people of the same gender will be difficult at best. History is full of stories of the failure in such attempts. In fairness however, there must be noble stories of people who have triumphed over their sexual orientation as well.

From a broad Christian perspective, it seems to be good for individuals and society to create a safe way for people of differing sexual orientations to enter into long-term and stable relations with others. I am not certain I am happy taking the word 'marriage' to describe those relationships because it is so full of historical connotations, but equally because there are so many connotations I cannot appropriate effectively another word. I am, however, very supportive of broadening and leveling the field for protecting and enhancing loving and caring relationships and protecting financial well-being of members of society. Therefore, I am supportive of the action of the Governor and Legislature of the State of New York and I hope this will be a positive step forward in the advance of 'dignity for all persons.'

I am certain there will be contrary opinions and I will be most interested to hear them.

In the mean time, this comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Very Rev'd David B. Lowry

Around the Parish

Off to college: **Kate Phillips** is following in her father's footsteps and will attend Cornell University the fall; **Caroline Trezza** will be joining Megan Lightcap at the University of Virginia.

Recent marriages: **Matthew Henahan** and **Puiyin Chan** were married on May 21 and **Christopher Beinecke** and **Allison Blum** were married on May 11.

Special birthdays: June is the month in which some of our most senior members of the parish were born. **Dick Scheib** led the way with his **97th** birthday. Amy Angus, Blanche Kambourian and Maryanne Templeton also celebrated birthdays in June.

Recent Deaths:

Last Thursday **Barbara** "Bits" Levere (**Johnston**) died after a long and heroic battle against cancer. She was the former wife of the Reverend Frank Johnston, Rector of Christ Church from 1967 until 1986. She was a much beloved member of the Christ Church family.

Robert Mahaffey, who was organist/choirmaster at Christ Church from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s died in Florida after a short illness. Bob was the designer of the Cassavant organ which graces Christ Church.

Parish Notes:

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY/ Volunteers Needed

We still 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.

Summer Schedule

During the summer, 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.

Informal Home Communion THURSDAY at 7:00 PM

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 elizabeth.giacoma@axa-equitable.com

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.

The locations of the Home Communion for the month of July are as follows:

July 7	The Christ Church Rectory 54 George Street, Manhasset -570-0318
July 14	The Home of Valerie and Bill Siener 271 Park Avenue, Manhasset -570-0679
July 21	OPEN
July 28	OPEN

SUNDAY READINGS AND ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVING FOR JULY

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST— JULY 3, 2011

Genesis 24:34-38,42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:11-18; Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The altar flowers are also given in loving memory of Catherine and Ricky Scheib by Dick Scheib and also in loving memory of Peggy Wright by Ward Wright

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 10, 2011

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Sandra Payson

by Lorinda de Roulet
and also in loving memory of Wendy Templeton by Marianne Templeton

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 17, 2011

Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139:1-11,22-23; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Barbara Mann
by Pamela Storozum

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 24, 2011

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11,45; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

The altar flowers are given in loving memory Nancy and Joseph Cioffi
by Louise Fribush

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 31, 2011

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,16; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

OPEN

There is an opening for altar flowers this week. 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 at 627-0128 or the church office at 627-2184.

+ + +

Happy Birthday!!

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

Brian Sternemann, Bruce Sternemann, Rosemary Andel, Gabbie Kessler, Emma Carr, Suzanne Parker, Lou Trapp, Max Smitham, Tim Carr, Evans Cyprus, Marlena McGill, Teresa Ciaccio, Joseph Miletich.

Happy Anniversary!!!

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

Timothy and Lisa Carr, Arthur and Lisa Field.

Calendar for the Month of July

Friday, July 1	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
Saturday, July 2			
Sunday, July 3/3 Pentecost	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	Church Church Chapel
Monday, July 4-Holiday <i>Office Closed</i>	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
Tuesday, July 5	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
Wednesday, July 6 <i>Adult Education—The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the</i>	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel Chapel

Apostles 7:30 PM Adult Education Office

Thursday, July 7 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
Mary & David Lowry 5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

54 George Street **7:00 PM Informal Eucharist Rectory**



Please sign up in the rear of the church or call, Liz Giacoma at 516-944-9760 or by email at elizabeth.giacoma@axa-equitable.com to let us know how many will attend and what you will bring—an appetizer, entrée or a dessert.

Friday, July 8 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

Saturday, July 9

Sunday, July 10/4 Pentecost 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Chapel
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Church
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Chapel

Monday, July 11 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

Tuesday, July 12 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

Wednesday, July 13 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
Adult Education—The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel
7:30 PM Adult Education Office

Thursday, July 14 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
Valerie & Bill Siener 5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel
271 Park Avenue **7:00 PM Informal Eucharist Siener's**

Friday, July 15 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

Saturday, July 16

Sunday, July 17/5 Pentecost 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Church
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Church
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Chapel

Monday, July 18 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel
7:45 PM Vestry Meeting Guild Room

Tuesday, July 19 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

Wednesday, July 20 8:45 AM Morning Prayer Chapel
Adult Education—The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Chapel
5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel
7:30 PM Adult Education Office

Thursday, July 21 8:45 PM Morning Prayer Chapel
OPEN 5:45 PM Evening Prayer Chapel

7:00 PM Informal Eucharist

Friday, July 22	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
Saturday, July 23			
Sunday, July 24/6 Pentecost	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Church
Monday, July 25	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
Tuesday, July 26	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
Wednesday, July 27	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
Adult Education— <i>The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles</i>	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
	7:30 PM	Adult Education	Office
Thursday, July 28	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
OPEN	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
7:00 PM Informal Eucharist			
Friday, July 29	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
Saturday, July 30	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
Sunday, July 31			

+ + +