

THE CHART
February 1, 2013
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1355 Northern Boulevard
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Letter from the Rector

February 1, 2013

Dear Friends,

Enclosed with this edition of the *Chart* are the reports to the parish family of Christ Church by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Christ Church. The Religious Corporation Act of the State of New York requires an annual meeting of the members of the 'Christ Church Corporation' for the purpose of electing members of the board (vestry) as the legal guardians of Christ Church. But, the Annual Meeting of the voting members of Christ Church is also a time for us as a larger group to openly discuss the life of the parish family. The Wardens and members of the Vestry join with me in urging you to attend the meeting which will follow the 10:00 AM celebration of the Holy Eucharist next **Sunday, February 3.**

In addition, **The Rev'd J. Christopher Ballard**, curate at the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew in Brooklyn and former seminarian at Christ Church, will be our guest preacher and will con-celebrate the Eucharist with me at 10:00 AM service. I hope the presence of Father Chris will be an added inducement to be at worship next Sunday.

Since Easter is early this year (March 31st), **Ash Wednesday** is early as well (February 13). During Lent we will join again with St. Stephen's Church in Port Washington for Wednesday evening programs. The Rev'd Stuart Huntley will be our presenter throughout the Lenten season. Because of the renovation of the Parish House all sessions will take place at St. Stephen's. Christ Church will provide 'soup and salad' (plus some desserts) for those sessions.

For those who would like some serious **Bible study during Lent**, I will be offering a course at the Mercer School on Tuesday evenings (7:00 PM to 9:00 PM) during Lent. The course is titled "Old and New Testament Apocalyptic and Eschatology: The Books of Ezekiel and Revelation." The title is probably more intimidating than the course itself. There is no homework other than reading the two books. I will take those in the class through the texts of both books in detail and in context. There is no charge for the course, which begins on Tuesday, February 19. Please contact Diane Muscarella at the Mercer School to register (516-248-4800x40).

Finally, we have every hope the closing on the subdivision of the Christ Church campus will take place conterminously with the sending out of this edition of the *Chart*. This is an event that is thirty years in the making. It will allow the renovation of approximately 7,000 square feet of parish hall for church and community activities with the remainder of the property creating income to support the mission and ministry of Christ Church. This is an opportunity for the Christ Church parish to define and implement special mission and ministry in the Manhasset community.

Please do carefully read the reports and other news in the *Chart*—and do join us for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

This comes with blessings and best wishes.

Sincerely,

David B. Lowry, Rector

Parish Notes:

Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2013.

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following slate of nominees:

Warden (two years) – Ariana Tadler Paterson;

Vestry members (three years) – Tim Carr, Nicholas Cyprus and Meghan Janedis.

Sunday School – Valentines for the Vets – Sunday, February 3

All children are welcome to join us on **Sunday, February 3**, immediately after the 10am service, at our annual **Valentines for Vets** service project. They will make valentines to be sent to the VA home out east where the valentines are given to the veterans in gratitude and recognition of all they have done for our country. Please come to the Community Reformed Church Sunday School classrooms. Children will be supervised and will have a children’s “coffee hour” with bagels and juice.

Pajama Party– Sunday, February 10: Roll out of bed and into Sunday School! Children should come to Sunday School this week in their favorite pajamas for a special lesson and celebration! There won’t be any pillow fights, but we promise lots of fun, laughter and a few yummy treats!

Women’s Pot Luck Dinner – Tuesday February 12 at 7PM

On Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00pm there will be a Women’s Pot Luck dinner at the Christ Church Rectory, 54 George Street. Please use the sign-up sheet at the rear of the Church.

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 13

Ash Wednesday is on February 13. This begins our Lenten season. Services on Ash Wednesday will be at 9:00 AM (Morning Prayer), 10:00 AM (Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes), 5:45 PM (Evening Prayer) and 7:30 PM (Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes).

A Note from Lesley Mazzotta, Director of Spiritual Formation:

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. – Psalm 48:9

Love is arguably the most powerful emotion we know. As Christians, we are taught to reach out to God with love in our hearts. We want to love God and be loved by Him. God’s love helps us do all, be all, believe all and conquer all. As humans, we seek it, crave it, demand it and long for it in our lives. But what exactly are we searching for?

The Greeks had four words for love, all with slightly different meanings: *Philia*, *Eros*, *Storge* and *Agape*. *Philia* is a brotherly, benevolent, kindly love, which you find in friendships. The Bible teaches us to show *Philia* love to our fellow Christians. We see this in Romans 12:10: *...love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.*

The second form of love is *Eros*, representing the physical, sensual love between two people. It is essential for a healthy, intimate relationship. The Song of Solomon is filled with this type of love: *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine, your anointing oils are fragrant, your name is perfume poured out; therefore the maidens love you.* (Song 1: 2). Beautiful words!

Storge is family love, the special bond between a mother and child or siblings. Family love is an important part of the Bible, starting with Genesis and the love of Noah, his wife and family to the Gospel story of Mary and Martha and a deep affection for their brother Lazarus. The final and highest form of love is *Agape*, which represents a selfless, unconditional, sacrificial love. It is the type of love we see Jesus exhibiting for God and his people: *They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.* (John 14:21). *Agape* is loving with your complete being, body, mind and soul.

How are these forms of love present in your life? Which type is easiest for you to express? Where do you need to stretch and grow? When do you feel God's love the most? What are your challenges to loving fully?

Most importantly, how do we teach our children to love? How can they learn that love is the antidote to fear, peer pressure, self-doubt, bullying and violence in schools? How can we show, by example, that despite life's disappointments and loss, we can all love with openness, honesty, compassion, authenticity and courage?

February is the perfect month to reflect on these questions. As we move through the fun of Valentine's Day with its chocolate, flowers and romance into the deep reflection of Lent, we can explore how to embrace, express and honor the types of love that are always available to us and our children as Christians on a spiritual journey with God.

Youth Group

First Annual Youth Leadership Lab – Friday, February 22 – Saturday, February 23

Join youth, grades 6 -12, from Christ Church and other local churches for the first annual **Youth Leadership Lab**, an all-day and overnight interactive experience focusing on leadership. Friday morning, youth head into New York City to the United Nations, for a guided tour geared for teens. The remainder of the day offers leadership initiatives, group activities and creative learning, both in NYC and at The Congregational Church in Manhasset. Youth explore the importance of being a leader in their peer groups, at church, at school, in their faith and in their daily lives, understanding that they can make a positive difference in the world, no matter their age. The fee for the overnight retreat is \$50 per youth. This covers a retreat t-shirt, entrance to the United Nations, a round trip LIRR train ticket, and two meals. Youth unable to attend the UN tour due to school may join the group at The Congregational Church in the afternoon for activities, dinner and overnight fun. Cost without NYC portion is \$20 per youth.

For more information or to sign up for any of these opportunities, please contact Lesley Mazzotta, Director of Spiritual Formation, at lesleymazzotta@gmail.com or [917-623-4554](tel:917-623-4554).

SAVE THE DATE: Youth Mission Trip - August 4-8, 2013: Join us for a trip to Pittsburgh, PA to participate in **Project Pittsburgh**, where they pull out all the stops to make a week of service meaningful, memorable and fun. Through PP, we'll be serving Pittsburgh's vulnerable home owners, addressing home repair needs for the city's elderly, poor, shut-in, widowed and disabled. More information to follow! Check it out online: <http://www.pittsburghproject.org/index.php>

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Happy Birthday!!

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

Jeff Lightcap, Senetta Koch, Karyn Sherwood, Natalie Bindert, Kristin Scherer, Carole Beinecke, Lori Kelly, Elizabeth Kelly, Vincent McGill, C.J.(Carole) Sevely, Will Ivers, Jade Blocker, Thomas Allen, Scott Beinecke.

Happy Anniversary!!!

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

Angus Stopford and Jeannine Daly.

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 3, 2013

ANNUAL MEETING

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Roy Trempy Sr.
by Tom Trempy

THE FIFTH (LAST) SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 10, 2013

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Robert Tadler
by Diana Tadler

LENT BEGINS

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 13, 2013 AT 10AM AND 7:30 PM

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 103; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 17, 2013

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 24, 2013

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4-1; Luke 13:31-35

*There are no altar flowers during the Lenten Season

Feb. 3: **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Fellowship Committee

Feb. 10: Lucy & Tom Chaly 627-5506

Leslie & Walter Stackler 365-2328

Feb. 17: Holly Melichar 365-7841

Nellie & Paul Egrie (need phone #)

Feb. 24: Ari & David Paterson 869-3163

Jane & Jeff Lightcap 365-8821

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Calendar for the Month of February, 2013

Friday, February 1

8:45 AM
5:45 PM

Morning Prayer
Evening Prayer

Chapel
Chapel

Saturday, February 2

Sunday, Feb. 3/4 Epiphany Annual Meeting immediately following 10:00am service	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	9:50 AM	Church School	CRC
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist	Church
	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting	Church
		Children's Project	
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel

Monday, February 4	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel

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

Wednesday, February 6	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel

Thursday, February 7	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:30 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel

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

Saturday, February 9

Sunday, Feb. 10/5 Epiphany	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	9:50 AM	Church School	CRC
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel

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

Tuesday, February 12 <i>Women's Pot Luck Dinner 7PM</i> 54 George Street	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
	7:00 PM	Women's Dinner	Rectory

Ash Wednesday, February 13 Lent Begins <i>Imposition of Ashes</i> @ 10:00AM & 7:30PM	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel
	7:30 PM	Choral Eucharist	Church

Thursday, February 14	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer	Chapel

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

Saturday, February 16

Sunday, Feb. 17/1 Lent	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
	9:50 AM	Sunday School	CRC
	10:00 AM	Choral Eucharist	Church
	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist	Chapel

Monday, February 18	8:45 AM	Morning Prayer	Chapel
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Regular Monthly Vestry Meeting	5:45 PM 7:45 PM	Evening Prayer Vestry Meeting	Chapel Rectory
Tuesday, February 19 Bible Study Mercer School, Garden City(248-4800 X40)	8:45 AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Bible Study	Chapel Chapel Mercer School
Wednesday, February 20 Lenten Program @ St. Stephens, Port Washington/Soup&Salad Provided by Christ Church	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer Lenten Program	Chapel Chapel Chapel Port Washington
Thursday, February 21	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
Friday, February 22	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Church Chapel
Saturday, February 23 Sunday, Feb. 24/2 Lent	8:00 AM 9:50 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Church School Choral Eucharist Holy Eucharist	Church CRC Church Chapel
Monday, February 25	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
Tuesday, February 26	8:45 AM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel
Wednesday, February 27 Lenten Program @ St. Stephens, Port Washington/Soup&Salad Provided by Christ Church	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Morning Prayer Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer Lenten Program	Chapel Chapel Chapel Port Washington
Thursday, February 28	8:45 AM 5:45 PM 5:45 PM	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Evening Prayer	Chapel Chapel Chapel

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CHRIST CHURCH
MANHASSET, NEW YORK

Annual Parish Meeting

February 3, 2013

REPORTS OF 2012

Rector's Report to the Annual Meeting, February 3, 2013

My report will be blessedly brief, since I have had far too much to say to you (and at you) for the past nine years. It has been a pleasure to be your priest, rector and friend for nearly a decade. When I came it was with the understanding that I would lead an effort to address the Parish House 'issue' and to help create effective space for ministry and mission at Christ Church with an underlying financial base to support your ministries. Now, as I approach my 67th year and 41st year of ordination, those goals are just over the horizon and the time has come for me to move on.

I am confident you have all the tools to forge a wonderful and faithful ministry within Manhasset and beyond our town. You will be choosing a new rector who will bring new gifts to you and Christ Church. Please love and care for her or him as you have done for Mary and me.

The world and the church are changing. Our past is the foundation, but not the limitation for the future. Pray and work to forge something new and glorious that will bring those who do not know Christ and God's love into a loving, spiritual community. Invite all—old and young, male and female, black and white, rich and poor, straight and gay—to the supper of the Lord. They are all God's people.

May God bless you and Christ Church in your journey of faith and love.

The Very Rev'd David B. Lowry, Rector

WARDENS' REPORT

The following details some of the highlights of Vestry activities in 2012.

The Vestry had another retreat this past year, focusing on five areas of church life – Worship, Sunday School and Youth Programs, Fellowship, Communications, Outreach and Mission. Each Vestry member worked on one of these five areas to improve the overall quality of Christ Church. As a result, it was determined: 1) to share Sunday School programs with the Community Reformed Church and to hire a Youth Director for our youth ministry, that we would also share with the Community Reformed Church; 2) to reinstitute the Progressive Dinner in the Spring and Parish Cocktail Party in the Fall; 3) to use the web as a resource to drive more effective parish communications; and 4) to update the parish data base on our parish family, among other action items.

The Wardens also reached out to the Bishop's Office to discuss the requirements for the future Rector Search and what would be involved and in what time frame. Canon Betit of the Bishop's Office has been in frequent discussions with the Wardens, and it is expected that he will brief the Vestry in the First Quarter, 2013 at the next Vestry Retreat, and then subsequently with the entire Parish Family at a future Sunday service. Basically, the parish must determine what our mission and values are and, what credentials we expect in a new Rector, committing these to writing; select a Search Committee; and, select an Interim Rector to lead our spiritual community while a new Rector is sought.

On an ongoing basis, the Vestry also oversees the financial health of the parish by reviewing the budget at Vestry meetings; has ongoing discussions as to the progress of work toward renovating the Parish House; review of Parish Administration areas, including insurance coverage, investments, stewardship etc.; and, maintenance of the church buildings and property.

Over this past summer, the Vestry inventoried what was in the Parish House, what should be kept or thrown out; organized a number of "clean out" Saturdays to ready the Parish House for renovation and, held a "Tag Sale" to dispose of what we no longer needed nor could store, and afterwards donated the "leftover" items to the Salvation Army.

In the fall, the Vestry took responsibility for the Sunday announcements and greeting parishioners at the end of the service, given that Father Lowry leaves to celebrate communion next door at the Community Reformed Church to our Sunday School students and teachers. The Vestry also led the fall cemetery clean up with many volunteers from the parish assisting in raking leaves and putting them in a huge pile for pick up by our landscaper.

Also in the fall, the Nominations process to name new Vestry members and a Junior Warden was undertaken, such that these candidates will stand for election at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry again plans a retreat for February or March after the new Vestry members are elected, this year to focus on the Rector Search Process and the five areas of church life of Christ Church for our future.

George Faeth, Senior Warden, and Pattie Gallatin, Junior Warden

ALTAR GUILD

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Altar Guild, namely, Carol Allen, Amy Angus (Secretary), Kathryn Bindert, Marina Conrad, Lucy Field, Louise Fribush, Burr Henahan, Mary Lowry, Holly Melichar, Valerie Siener, Carole Schmidt Spadaro, and Marge Trapp, for their dedication and support.

I wish to thank Father Lowry, Enrique Valdes, John Mallon, and John Trezza for assisting with the Christmas decorations.

As I have reported in the past, contributions are down. The Guild depends on donations to cover the cost of flowers and supplies. A contribution to the guild is a lovely way to remember a loved one or for a thanksgiving. Please call Kathy Hoffman or myself, if you would like to choose a Sunday.

Respectfully submitted by Diana T. Tadler, Directress

FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2012

The Fellowship Committee held many events during 2012.

A Progressive dinner was held in May, and was attended by approx. 40 people.

Home Communion took place over the summer and were well attended.

Coffee hours continue to be hosted by parishioners throughout the year.

A Cocktail Party was held in late September and was attended by approx. 40-45 people.

Several Women's dinners were held throughout the year and have been attended by approx. 20-25 people.

A farewell dinner was given for Chris Ballard in June.

I'd like to thank David & Mary Lowry, Denise & Greg Polis, Valerie & Bill Siener and other parishioners for so generously opening their homes to host Christ Church events, as well the home communion hosts during the summer.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Giacomini, Fellowship

Annual Report of the Director of Music to the Parish

After a difficult Fall filled with election hysteria and hardships felt at the local, national and global levels, we were finally able to take a time-out with a very calming Christmas season at Christ Church. Both the choirs did an excellent job on Christmas Eve and I thank each chorister for his or her dedicated commitment to providing superb musical leadership in liturgy every week.

The **Chapel Choir** has been busy this year. As of September, I have taken over fully as director of the children's music program. I would like to express my enormous appreciation for Laura Pavlovich, who so faithfully and steadily led the Chapel Choir the past three years and who continues to assist me as "choir mom-in-chief." In addition to leading the 4th Sunday family services, these choristers assisted in the presentation of the Christmas Pageant lessons and carols service in December as well as leading the 4 P.M. service on Christmas Eve (and doing a magnificent job of it!). In January, the choristers were featured performers at the 6th annual Martin Luther King Gospel Brunch. They will continue to lead the family services through the end of April, as well as lead the music at the Maundy Thursday evening service (March 28, 7:30 P.M.) and the 9 A.M. service on Easter Day (March 31). The choir is open to *all* children in grades 2 through 8 and rehearses on Thursday afternoons at 5:30 P.M. in the church.

The **Schola Cantorum** is in its third year. We have two enormously talented choral scholars this year and we are all benefitting from their talent. This program is fully integrated into the Chancel Choir, with special opportunities to learn and participate in liturgy. This program is for teenagers in grades 9 through 12 and requires a level of commitment and some prior musical experience. A scholarship from the church is offered to these young people upon completion of the program.

The **Chancel Choir** is always looking for more singers. **ANY AND ALL** adults in the parish who have some musical ability are encouraged to join. This ensemble leads the majority of Sunday services and rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M. in the church. The Chancel Choir and Schola Cantorum are already hard at work preparing the music for Holy Week this year. On Easter Day, we will present the resplendent "Mass for two choirs," Op. 36 by Charles-Marie Widor, augmented by a second chorus of men with organ and trombones. In the meantime, the Epiphany and Lent seasons will offer a wide range of beautiful music to support and supplement the scripture.

As explained in the October 2012 issue of *The Chart*, I spent most of the summer taking an inventory of the many, many resources belonging to the music program that have been collected through the

decades and was able to greatly consolidate both resources and space. The choirs are now functioning smoothly and practically, with all rehearsals taking place in the church and all materials and music within just a few steps.

As far as the organ, there is still a tremendous need for a major overhaul of the console and its outdated, worn internal circuitry. I have been in contact with Foley-Baker, Inc. regarding the particulars of a multi-stage restoration project of the organ at Christ Church. The first and most impending need is for a new console and for the engines operating the expression shutter mechanism to be replaced. Future stages involve extensive tonal work and replacement of some ranks of pipes as well as updating the blower system. A pipe organ, while an expensive piece of hardware, is a tremendous investment that should last for many, many generations. Steps must be taken to ensure this investment continues to provide returns week after week and year after year.

With the impending construction and all that entails, the calendar of choral services for 2012–2013 has been scaled back somewhat, with the choirs focusing heavily on excellence on Sunday mornings. There are brochures available in the back of the church for your own edification outlining the musical offerings for each of the sung liturgies in the 2012–2013 choral season. It is also a very handy booklet to reference dates and times of various services! Music is a vital and necessary component to the worship experience (not to mention an ubiquitous part of our rich heritage as Anglicans). The liturgy itself is like a living being that is created the moment we begin the service and lives on in each of us after the service is over. Music is the primary means by which the various components of that living liturgy are connected to one another temporally (the “glue that holds it together,” so to speak); and music is the means by which the liturgy speaks to us internally. You, as members of the congregation, add to that creation by singing hymns and psalm antiphons and various sung responses and canticles of the service. At other times, the members of the choir are, as the musical leaders of the liturgy, entrusted with the prayers of the entire assembly and use their unique talents as a means to weave them into this ancient act of love, trust and obedience that we call the Holy Eucharist. This is a big responsibility for the men, women and young people of the choirs—one I do not take lightly—and I thank each and every one of you for your continued support of these extraordinary people and your commitment to the long-celebrated music program here at Christ Church Manhasset.

Respectfully yours, *Andrew H. Yeargin*, M.Mus. Organist & Choirmaster

Public Relations

In 2012, the Public Relations Committee continued its focus on garnering more publicity and community awareness for Christ Church, its various worship services, its church choirs and music programs, its church school and children’s activities, as well as fellowship within the Christ Church community. The intent is to distinguish Christ Church as a spiritual home for the entire family, in comparison to other churches in the area.

To this end, press releases and calendar listings were distributed to the print media on a monthly basis, detailing such news as: Choral Evensong at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in May; Father Chris Ballard’s ordination as a Deacon of the Church in June; Father Lowry’s 40th Anniversary of his Ordination in July; Ice Cream Sunday and the Commencement of Sunday School in September; Blessing of the Animals in October; Halloween in the Cemetery for the Church Youth in October; Game Night for the Church Youth in November, all of which stories were featured in the *Manhasset Press*.

A Communications Committee reporting to the Vestry was also formed this year, with parishioners Pattie Gallatin and Clayton Tadler as chairs, and Laura Pavlovich; Michelle Deosaran; Danny Wright; Pam Smith; and Andrea Watson as members. The Committee determined to drive more communications from the website, both to parishioners and to the community at large, and to this end, changed the voice mail message on the Christ Church office phone to advise that all Christ Church activities were posted on the web, as well as advising when Sunday worship services and Sunday school occurred, and the Rector’s connect phone numbers.

The web site is continually being updated, with the most recent events posted. All the news stories cited above were posted, as well as other activities, such as information on how to participate in the children's Chapel Choir, calendar listings announcing special services, or fellowship events as the Men's and Women's Dinners. New and old photos are used to compliment the news stories. Although the web site could be a resource for the congregation to get the most up-to-date information, the main focus of the webmaster is visibility to the community-at-large. Everyone uses the Internet as a resource. Families moving into the neighborhood or long-time residents looking for a new church home will find us on the Internet. The webmaster hopes that a visitor may come to Christ Church once because of what he sees on the webpage, but will stay because of what he sees in person.

Christ Church is now on Facebook! Dan Wright made us a Facebook page which is updated periodically with light news of general interest to the Parish. Laura Pavlovich has tracked the number of times Christ Church gets "hits" on Facebook, and it is gratifying that the number increases month over month.

Both ongoing press coverage and web updates will be important tools to help in Christ Church's future growth.

Respectfully submitted by Pattie Gallatin and Laura Pavlovich

2012 Report of Christ Church Sunday School

As you know, the sale of the Parish House brought changes to Christ Church. We have combined our Sunday School with that of the Community Reformed Church (CRC) and hold classes in their education building. We begin class each week at 9:50 and end with our chapel service led by Fr. Lowry with communion and prayer. As in past years, the children learn about the same Gospel each week as that being read in church. We hope this provides parents and children with a basis for further talk about the lesson each week. The children in the combined Sunday Schools have had wonderful joint activities including Operation Christmas Child (coordinated by Susan Bunyon); Lessons and Carols (under the direction of Lesley Mazzotta) and the Valentine's for Veterans that the children make each year during our Annual Meeting.

Lesley Mazzotta, our new Director of Spiritual Formation for both churches, works closely with the teachers and puts together the lesson plans each week. Cathy Trezza, assisted by Andrew Polis, teaches the PreK-K class; Arlene Blocker teaches the 1st and 2nd grades, Lisa Carr teaches 5th and 6th, Lauren MacLeavy, our Seminarian, teaches the 7th and 8th grades assisted by Carter Paterson; and Steven Polis and I teach the 3rd and 4th grades. Jeannine Daly, as our substitute teachers, is always a gift to teachers and students.

Among Lesley's many duties with Christ Church and the Community Reformed Church, she has been working diligently on putting together a joint Youth Group with our two churches and the Congregational Church. She has scheduled some very exciting projects and activities for grades 7 through 12; among them a youth dinner, a soup kitchen service night, a ski trip, an interfaith Passover Seder, a girl's and women's retreat day on self-esteem, a sports night and a mission trip.

Last spring the Sunday School had a wonderful Easter "Egg" Hunt in the cemetery, we planted flowers for our Mother's and had a great Awards Sunday Picnic. My sincere thanks to all the parent volunteers who make each of these events possible for the children. Their contribution to our Sunday School is invaluable.

Arlene Blocker will again coordinate our First Communion class taught by Fr. Lowry. Our 9th -12 graders serve in church as lectors, crucifers and other supporting roles to continue their involvement with the church post confirmation.

My most sincere thanks and gratitude to our teachers who put so much time, thought and love into each of their roles in the Sunday School. They bring their best each and every Sunday to make their

class a wonderful event where the children can learn more about our faith and use the knowledge they gain in their everyday life.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Angus Bennett

Children and Youth Ministry - 2012

Last year saw exciting changes in our Children and Youth ministry. In September 2012, we kicked off a joint Sunday School with Community Reformed Church. Every Sunday, we offered a creative, Gospel-based lesson for our children to learn the Christian faith through storytelling, arts, crafts and group discussion. We also planned many special events and service projects, including Sundaes Sunday, Operation Christmas Child, an Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship program and a wonderful Christmas presentation of *Lessons and Carols*, featuring 25 children.

Our youth group grew leaps and bounds with ongoing social, service and spiritual programs that built connection and friendships with other youth at local community churches. These included Halloween in the Graveyard, a November game night/service project and a Christmas trip to New York City, to see the famous Fifth Avenue windows and Rockefeller tree.

There are many activities being planned in 2013 to enhance our Children and Youth Ministry and help our children become more involved in the church:

- Sunday School: Valentines for Vets service project, Pajama Sunday, interfaith trips to a Mosque and Synagogue, Vacation Bible School, and an overseas Pen Pal program, not to mention our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Awards Sunday Celebration in June
- Youth Group: *Dream It! Do It!* dinner, First Annual Leadership Lab, Lenten dinner and service project, May game night, girl's body image retreat, and a summer mission trip
- Newly developed curriculum for 2-3 year olds
- Spiritual growth programs for the community: evening conversations on important youth issues, including drugs and alcohol, self-esteem, peer pressure, bullying, violence in schools
- Spiritual arts camp in July for children in need
- Ongoing adult education (for the children in all of us): spiritual small groups, retreats, Bible study

Respectfully submitted, Lesley Mazzotta, Director of Spiritual Formation