

From the Assistant Rector

By the end of Lent and Holy Week, I am thirsty for the joyous celebration of the Resurrection. I go home on Easter Sunday after a busy day at church and settle back to enjoy the glow left over from the liturgy of that morning — the glow that comes from the knowledge that Christ is risen and all is well.

Often it has been my experience, however, that this sense of isolation from the “real” world does not last for even a few hours. For example, several years ago I sat in my apartment luxuriating in my Easter mood, when I heard blood-curdling screams coming from the parking lot. I ran to the door and saw a young woman crouched down by the side of the building. I called out to ask if she needed help and she came running to me. I spent a good part of that evening with her and the police.

It seems that she and her boyfriend had gotten into a fight. To get back at him she kicked out one of the windows of his car. In turn, he drew a knife and tried to slash her. Her story, and the predicament in which she found herself that evening, were reminders that, while Jesus Christ surely is risen, all is not well in the world.

While Jesus Christ is risen, there is much brokenness in our midst, and that brokenness touches us too. Maybe, just maybe, we find ourselves weighed down by chaos and pain. As Easter approaches, perhaps we find it difficult to anticipate participating in the “alleluias” of the season — more able to identify with the tomb than with the Resurrection.

Easter always provides a challenge. How can we cry “Alleluia” in the midst of our own brokenness? How can we proclaim Resurrection in a world that is awash in pain? Is it all foolishness or, at the very least, denial of the reality of so much that is present in life?

I don't think it's foolishness at all. In the midst of all the ugliness of our world, in the midst of the pain that is so often a part of our lives, our alleluias are a claim that there is something

continued on page 2

Celebrating God's work among us at Christ Church

Spring has sprung and so we embark on a new adventure with this year's Spring Commitment Campaign. We're kicking off this year's campaign, called “Faith That Makes a Difference: How Much is Enough,” with a Festive Brunch on Sunday, April 25. The idea is to come together for a celebratory time of worship and fellowship focused on all that God is doing in and through us at Christ Church.

We'll begin the festivities at 9:00am with one combined Holy Eucharist service followed by a potluck brunch. In addition to the good food we'll share and the conversation among us, we'll enjoy the sounds of our choirs: Children's, Adult and Handbells.

“This will be a grand celebration,” said Kevin Goss, Stewardship Committee chairperson.

The kick-off marks the beginning of our annual stewardship campaign when parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider their commitment of time, talent and, in particular, finances to the ministries of Christ Church. Commitment cards for 2004-2005 will be distributed at the brunch or mailed to those who cannot attend. The cards will be gathered together on Commitment Sunday scheduled for Sunday, May 16.

“This event will be a great opportunity for all of us to reflect on the difference being a part of a community like Christ Church has made in our individual lives, and how as a community we have the potential to impact the lives of others,” said rector, Daniel Appleyard.

Kevin said the brunch provides opportunity for lots of parishioners to get involved by serving as hosts and hostesses or as table captains. The Stewardship Committee will offer training for table captains on April 1, 2 and 4. Parishioners can also be involved by bringing a “brunch” dish to complement the hot entrée that will be provided. If you're interested in helping in the preparation of this event in any way, please call the church office.

“Our hope is that everyone will make it a priority to be a part of this special time in the life of Christ Church,” said Pete Kenney, Stewardship Committee member.

In the fall, the committee is planning a dynamic weekend with Davis Fisher, founder of MoneyTree Consulting, when he'll present a workshop entitled “Christian Kids and Money: the Challenges of Rearing Children in a Money-Focused Culture.” Last year Fisher, who is an Episcopal priest and money consultant, presented a workshop to us on healthy wealth for the Christian.

See Parish Events and Back Cover for more information on the array of services and opportunities to reflect on our life in Christ offered during Holy Week and Easter at Christ Church.

more, something beyond all of that. In those moments when we feel most at peril — when God seems absent — the alleluias are a reminder that God is indeed present and is at work in us and through us, transforming us and the world in which we live. Healing us. Lifting us out of our tombs. Raising us to new life. The alleluias of the liturgy give us the chance to express our trust in the midst of the community of the faithful, in the midst of the community that supports us through times of joy and sorrow.

That's where the disciples were on that Easter day so long ago. They grieved the loss of their friend, the end of their discipleship, the dashing of their hopes that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. Doubtless, they felt ashamed of the way they had deserted him in his final hours out of fear for their own safety. We can say that death of a different kind than claimed Jesus had taken hold of them. They had been claimed by the tomb.

But that wasn't the end for them. The risen Christ met them and reminded them that God was with them and that they had work to do. He breathed his spirit on them, as John recounts, and sent them on their way to do the work of God, to prepare the way for God's transforming work. And so they went into the dangerous streets of Jerusalem and Rome and elsewhere and — in the midst of pain and chaos — were able to cry "Alleluia." They were able to rejoice in what God was doing in and through them.

And that is also true for us. The risen Christ meets us where we are, however we are, and breathes his Spirit on us, sending us out to do the work for which we are being prepared by our lives together at Christ Church. So we go to our families and schools and our workplaces. We go back to whatever awaits us in life — even that which is painful — and we know that God is with us. That the God who is a God of resurrection is with us. And because of that, and because of the fact that we are a new people, we proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia."

Margaret

Vestry meets to establish leadership areas and roles

During the Vestry Retreat on February 13 and 14, there was considerable discussion of how the Vestry has organized itself to effectively serve the parish and support our ministries. Our guest facilitator, John Keydel, spoke at length about the process of congregational transformation. His materials were taken from Arlin Rothauge's *Reshaping a Congregation for a New Future*, which is available in the church office.

After discussing and reviewing our new Parish Mission Statement (see below), Martha Amis was elected to serve a one-year term on the Vestry, while Michele Nolan accepted the role of Senior Warden and Thomas Trimble the role of Junior Warden. In addition other Vestry members agreed to serve as follows:

Service – Susan Ward;
Evangelism and New Members – Diana Brehob;
Property – Julia Garris; and
Stewardship – Martha Amis.
Jane Culp and Ross Groover will be working throughout the year to enhance effective communication in the life of our parish.

This goal of better communication is emphasized in the development of new job descriptions for Vestry liaisons. Liaisons are expected to 1) communicate between Vestry and commission; 2) communicate to the congregation, as needed; 3) help organize calendar meetings with commission chairs; and, 4) not serve on the commission to which they are liaison.

Because of the positive feedback we received from our leadership meetings last fall, the Vestry supported the formation of an executive committee to meet regularly throughout the year. Comprised of the Wardens, Clerk of the Vestry, Treasurer, and chairs of Finance, Property and Stewardship, the Executive Committee will meet with the Rector to better coordinate the leadership of the parish. It is hoped that this will also improve communication and lessen the "bumps in the road" around areas of common responsibility. And it will provide a forum for sharing wisdom and counsel with each other as leaders of our parish.

OUR MISSION

Seeking unity with God and one another through Christ, we

- commit to the spiritual growth and deepening discipleship of all our members;
- welcome and promote fellowship with all people seeking a relationship with God;
- value all generations in our congregation; and
- live out Christ's command to love one another through acts of service to each other and all those in need.

Communications Coordinator moves on

JoAnn Amicangelo has decided to leave her position as parish communications coordinator at Christ Church at the end of April. She will pursue her work as a free-lance journalist and business writer from her home in Dearborn. JoAnn has served Christ Church since 1996.

"Although it is difficult to leave what has been such a great place to work and where I have met so many amazing people, I believe this move is a necessary step for the journey I'm on," said JoAnn

A Farewell Tea in her honor is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, following the 10:00am service.

So, stop me if you've heard this one ...A lady was driving a little too close to the car in front of her, trying to push them along, make them go faster. Ahead, a light turned yellow, the car in front stopped quickly, and the lady slammed on her brakes. "WELL! We could have made it through that light!" she yells, (plus a few other choice phrases). Finally, the light turns green and she can move past the slow poke. Just then, she sees flashing lights in her mirror. She pulls over to let the policeman pass. Instead, he comes up to her car and pulls her out. He slaps handcuffs on her and carts her off to jail. She sits in the cell, trying to figure out what happened.

Finally, the policeman comes to let her out. "Sorry about the confusion, ma'am. But I saw what happened at the intersection. I saw your "Follow me to Sunday school" bumper sticker, saw the chrome plated fish on your tailgate, read the "Jesus loves you" license plate holder and the "4 given" window cling, I just knew that the car was stolen!"

This little bit of humor made me think about how I show my faith out in the "real world." Now that we are shedding our winter coats and coming out of our hibernation, I actually see people on my street each day. Some I know, most I do not. I wonder, do my everyday actions and behavior reflect my spiritual life? Do I "love my neighbor as myself?" Even in church, do I say good morning to others

or do I just sit in my little space that I have barricaded for myself? (By the way, my last car had one of those chrome-plated fish!)

Now, sometimes in Farmer Jack's, the checkout clerk tells me to "Have a blessed day!" Wow! That makes me feel great! It doesn't make me feel uncomfortable like she is preaching to me or something.

So, why don't I say that?

In his letter to Philemon, Paul says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."(Phil 1:6). What a thought! Sharing our faith not only helps others, but also deepens our own understanding of God's love for us.

O.k., so why don't I do it?

Well, personally, I know I have a few fears. Fear of rejection, of not being politically correct. Maybe I'll get my facts wrong, or maybe I just won't know what to say. Maybe someone will ask me something that I don't know the answer to. All in all, perhaps I lack the faith that God will supply me with the words. While I work on building that faith, I guess I can start with my actions. They sometimes speak louder than words, don't they?

Paul also said to the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God to salvation." I guess I

have to admit that I have nothing to do with that power. That is God's power; it's not up to me. Perhaps I need to get the focus off me and my inadequacies and put the focus back on God!

So, how do I begin? Perhaps in order to "love my neighbors," I have to offer what I know to them.

SHARING OUR FAITH NOT ONLY HELPS OTHERS, BUT ALSO DEEPENS OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US.

The New Testament is full of "One Another" statements: Love one another; forgive one another; share with one another. The book of Romans says that people don't ask spiritual questions or take an interest in spiritual things unless the Spirit is working in them. God seeks us, we don't seek God unless He encourages us. God prompts us to desire knowledge. Once again, the power is not mine. I think my responsibility is to be a help, not a roadblock. So, let's go!!

Reclaiming the Story of the Passion

By The Rev. Clare Oatney

Seeing *The Passion of the Christ* and talking with my rabbi friend about her community's reaction to it was just a reminder of what I've always known. After all, there's a lot of history between passion plays and the Jewish people. Some Christian rulers in the Middle Ages warned local Jews to stay indoors on Good Friday to protect them from violence. Even not so long ago, Christians who saw or heard the Passion have reacted violently against the nearest Jews. And so I am reminded. Knowing the history of violent anti-Jewish feeling that has been whipped up by the image of Jews as "Christ-killers," I am reminded how crucial it is for all churches to acknowledge the misuse and regain the historical context of this story, so central and so sacred to us.

During Holy Week we are invited to dwell within the drama of Christ's trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. In the company of Jesus and Pilate, the chief priests and the disciples, we experience the breadth of human emotion and behavior. It is often tremendously powerful. The story insists upon a response, not allowing us to remain passive listeners. This, after all, is what the gospel writers intended: not simply to present a factual account, but to invite others into a relationship with the God they had encountered in Jesus. And so they draw us into these dramatic stories, full of their emotion, their conviction and their own unique perspectives.

Throughout history, these stories have succeeded in evoking intense responses. People have heard a message of abun-

dant love and forgiveness and have been transformed. They have encountered a God who has shared the very depths of human suffering and found themselves no longer alone. They have felt doubt, fear and rejection and yet glimpsed the rising sun of Easter morning and known hope. These stories have been the source of great joy and new life.

It cannot be ignored, however, that the intensity of the story has also evoked less life-giving responses. Long history and current events continue to remind us that the polarities in the story of the passion, particularly, have led Christians to blame, malign, persecute and kill Jewish people. The root cause of this, of course, is human sinfulness: our broken nature that

continued on page 6

JOIN US

PALM CROSS MAKING

Saturday, April 3, 9am

The Altar Guild, and anyone who wants to help, will craft more than 300 palm crosses for distribution on Palm Sunday. Bring scissors, a sharp knife and a cutting board. An Altar Guild meeting will be conducted during the palm cross making. Membership dues of \$3 may be paid at that time. (Undercroft)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

See Back Page for complete listing

EASTER SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Sunday, April 11, 11:30AM

Bring a food item to share at the Easter Sunday Coffee Hour after the 10am service. (Undercroft)

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 11, 11:30AM

Annual children's hunt for candy-filled eggs hidden on the church lawn. Bring a basket and join in the search.

FAREWELL TEA

Sunday, April 18, 11:30AM

Opportunity to bid farewell to our Communications Coordinator, JoAnn Amicangelo, who is leaving at the end of this month to pursue her freelance writing interests full time.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 25, 9AM

Kick off of our Spring Commitment Campaign. One combined worship service at 9am, followed by a festive brunch. Bring a brunch dish to share; a hot entree will be provided by the Stewardship Committee. Volunteers needed to help prepare for the event. Call the church office if interested.

FAMILY INTEREST

BAPTISM

Saturday, April 10 – Preparation

Class: 10AM-12PM; Baptism: 8PM

The Baptism Preparation Class is designed for parents and godparents of the children being presented for Baptism during the Great Vigil of Easter service. Call the church office no later than Monday, April 5, if you are interested.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

LENTEN PRAYER

Weekdays, through April 8, 7AM

Start each weekday in Lent with morning prayer. Any questions, call Don Cardwell @ 313-277-0574. Location: kitchen

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, April 4, 9AM

Bible study focused on one or more of the lessons for the day. A listing of the lessons to be studied will be available in the office reception area in Stacey Hall. Meets in the lounge.

BREAKFAST BUNCH

Sundays, 9AM

Meets after the 8:00am service at Leon's Restaurant in Dearborn.

THE FORUM

No Forums this month.

ST. MARY'S OF BETHANY

Tuesdays, 10AM

Intercessory prayer group for the needs of those on our current and sustaining prayer lists. All are welcome.

"NOT NECESSARILY RELIGIOUS"

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30PM

Don't miss out on this opportunity to discuss *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. The book is available in paper back at local bookstores or online. Group contact: Kevin Green @ 313-792-9839.

"INQUIRING HEARTS"

Sunday, April 25, 4:30PM

Opportunity to ask questions and talk about a variety of issues affecting our faith. Participants bring a snack, sweet or savory to share. Meets in lounge.

FOYER GROUPS

Small-group opportunity at parishioners' homes for simple meal and casual conversation. To be a part of one, call Margaret Green @ 313-792-9839.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

PRAYER ROOM

Sundays, 10:00AM

Worship activities for children 3-7 years. (Pre-K: Rm 12; K-2nd: Rm 213)

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sundays, 11:30AM

Bible stories, singing and crafts for children preschool-aged to 9. (Education Hall)

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

RITE 13

Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM

For youth ages 10-13; meets in Room 17. Contacts: Susan Gregg & Dale Taylor (313-277-1975).

J2A

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM

For youth aged 14 to 15; meets in Room 19. Contacts: Chris Goss (313-565-7647) or Thomas Trimble (313-581-6268).

YOUNG ADULTS

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM

For ages 16 to 18; meets in Rm 212. Info: Jerry Behm (313-277-7607).

MEETINGS

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD MTG.

Tuesday, April, 13 12:00PM

"Spring Is Sprung" at this month's meeting. You bring a sandwich lunch and the Guild will provide beverages and dessert. All are welcome.

MUSIC MINISTRY

ADULT CHOIR

Thursdays, 7:30PM

Join the choir this month where you can raise your voice in praise to God. (Childcare available)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sundays, 9:00am, except April 18

Children's Choir for elementary school-aged children. Meets in Rm. 213. Contact: Sean Jackman @ 313-562-0136.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Thursdays, 6:30pm

For more information, please call the church office.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

SANDWICH MAKING

Wednesday, April 9, 4:30PM

Help us make sandwiches for the Central United Methodist Church Bag Lunch Program. Any questions, call Julia Garris at 313-563-2060.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	(Morning Prayer offered weekdays at 7:00am through April 8)			1 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7pm Table Captain Training / LWV Mtg. 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 2:30pm Grief Support Group 7pm Table Captain Training	3 9am Altar Guild Mtg. & Palm Cross Making 12-1:30pm AA
4 PALM SUNDAY 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 9am Children's Choir / Bible Study / Table Captain Training 10am Prayer Room 11:30am Church School Rite 13 / JZA / YA 1pm Vestry Meeting Daylight Savings Time Begins	5 10am Senior Exercise 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 7pm Boy Scout Comm. Mtg. 8pm AA	6 9:30am Quilters 10am Prayer Group 11am HE & Healing 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Energy Healing 7pm Boy Scouts	7 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7pm Cycling Saddlemen 7:30pm AA 8pm Tenebrae Service	8 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30pm Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist & Stripping of Altar 9pm Prayer Vigil begins	9 GOODFRIDAY (Church Office Closed) 12pm Prayer Vigil Ends / Ecumenical Service at Cherry Hill Presbyterian / Contemplating the Cross 7:30pm Solemn Prayer & Collects	10 10am Baptism Prep. Class 12-1:30pm AA 8pm Holy Eucharist with Baptism
11 EASTER SUNDAY 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 9am Children's Choir 10am Prayer Room 11:30am Coffee Hour & Easter Egg Hunt	11 EASTER MONDAY (Church Office Closed) 6pm ECW Mtg. 8pm AA	13 9:30am Quilters 10am Prayer Group 11am HE 12pm St. Martha's Guild 6:30pm Energy Healing	14 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7pm Property Comm. 7:30pm Book Club / AA	15 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 12-1:30pm AA
18 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 10am Prayer Room 11:30am Church School / Rite 13 / JZA / YA / Farewell Tea 6pm Central United Methodist Sandwich Making	19 10am Senior Exercise 8pm AA	20 9:30am Quilters 10am Prayer Group 11am HE 6:30pm Energy Healing 7pm Finance Comm. / Boy Scouts	21 1pm Library Comm. 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm AA	22 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 12-1:30pm AA
25 9am Holy Eucharist / Prayer Room 10am Stewardship Celebration 4:30pm "Inquiring Hearts"	26 10am Senior Exercise 8pm AA	27 9:30am Quilters 10am Prayer Group 11am HE 4pm Christian Formation 6:30pm Energy Healing 7pm Boy Scouts	28 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm AA	29 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 5:30pm Domanian/Yelovina Wedding Rehearsal	

WEEK OF April 4

Acolytes A. Piernick, S. Mathews, L. Hines, E. Brehob (8am) G. Ebling (10am) Team 1 – R. Baker, K. B-Matthews, C. Groover, Garris,
Ushers J. Pellegrino
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) C Garrison (10am) C. Garrison, A. Johnson, M. Sallman
Altar Guild L. Pedler, M.J. Crane, C. Bauer
VPOD M. Nolan
Sunday Readings (Palm Sunday)
Isaiah 45:21-25; Psalm 22:1-11;
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:39-71;23:1-56

Maundy Thursday, April 8, 7:30pm

Acolytes M. Swiecicki, C. Kappauf, J. Pellegrino
Ushers Team 2 – Ludwig, Brim, Sallman, Leduc, Cardwell
Lector/L.E.M. N. Lehnert, D. Brehob, M.J. Searles
VPOD D Brehob
Readings Exodus 12:1-14A; Psalm 78:14-20,23-25;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Good Friday, April 9, 7:30pm

Ushers Team 3 – Piernick, Durbin, M. Kunys, J. Groover, L. Prokopp, Kedzo
Lector/L.E.M. K. Green
VPOD TBD
Readings Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 22:1-21;
Hebrews 10:1-25; John (18:1-40) 19:1-37

Easter Vigil, April 10, 8pm

Acolytes J. Groover
Ushers Team 4 – D. Hipp, Matthews, Oatney, Quaint
Lector/L.E.M. B. Simpson, M. Farquharson, E. Simpson, M.A. Zawada
VPOD TBD

WEEK OF April 11

Acolytes (8am) E Brehob (10am) R. Green, E. Sallman, T. Leduc
Ushers (8am) T. Foster (10am) Team 1 – R. Baker, K. B-Matthews, C. Groover, Garris,
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) N. Lehnert, M. Amis, D. Brehob (10am) K. Green, D. Cardwell, R. Groover
Altar Guild E. Boyar, B. Caldwell, J. Cohoe, L. Renda
VPOD J. Garris
Sunday Readings (Easter Day)
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:14-29;
Colossians 3:1-4; Luke 24:1-20

WEEK OF April 18

Acolytes S. Matthews, L. Hines, B. Green
Ushers (8:00am) R. Peterson Team 2 – Ludwig, Brim, Sallman, Leduc, Cardwell
Lector/LEM (8:00am) C Garrison (10am) C. Garrison, B. Hall, A. Johnson, R. Groover
Altar Guild C. Garrison, S. McCullen, K. Hipp
VPOD R. Somerville
Sunday Readings (The 2nd Sunday of Easter)
Job 42:1-6; Psalm 111; Acts 5:12a,17-22,25-29; John 20:19-31

WEEK OF April 25

Acolytes M. Swiecicki, A. Piernick, D. Piernick
Ushers (8am) J Pedler (10am) Team 3 – Piernick, Durbin, M. Kunys, J. Groover, L. Prokopp, Kedzo
Lector/LEM (8am) R. Groover (10am) N. Lehnert, M. Sallman, M.J. Searles
Altar Guild E. Coghill, C. Bauer, C. Goss
LEVs A. Johnson, J. Anderson, B. Hall, S. Mulkern
VPOD M. Amis
Sunday Readings (The 3rd Sunday of Easter) Jeremiah 32:36-41; Psalm 33; Acts 9:1-19a; John 21:1-14

Impressions of the 170th Diocesan Convention

By KEVIN GREEN

Christ Church was ably represented at the 170th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan on March 5 and 6 in Novi. Our clergy, Daniel, Clare and Margaret, were present, along with our lay delegates, Jane Culp, Edwina Simpson (serving in place of Carol Garrison), Barbara Hall (our alternate) and me. These same delegates will represent Christ Church at the continuation of the Convention on October 30. An adjournment was required due to the plan for Conventions to be held in the fall and the rule limiting Dioceses to one convention per year.

It should please you to know that our six voting delegates were far from a unified voting block, but rather, were more representative of the diverse opinions of our parish -- voicing opposing views and casting different votes on many of the resolutions and other matters.

Rather than trying to summarize all of the activities, discussions, resolutions and votes that comprised this year's Convention (and that you can read about in detail in *The Record*), I want to provide you with some of my strongest impressions of Convention.

First and foremost is the feeling of joy that I experienced worshipping with the representatives of the various parishes and ministries that make up our Diocese, even those, and perhaps especially

those, with whom I disagreed on some issues. As Presiding Bishop Griswold has repeatedly stressed with regard to the General Convention's approval of the ordination of an openly gay bishop, the path to peace and reconciliation is through continued worship and celebration of the Holy Eucharist together as a community of believers and seekers. This Diocesan Convention strengthened my belief that this path is the correct one, whatever the issue or disagreement.

In my opinion, who is "right" or "wrong" on any particular issue, if it matters at all, is ultimately something for our Lord to determine. Until then, we should strive to follow our Lord's command to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. If we can do that, everything else will take care of itself, as I found at this year's Convention. That is not to say that the Convention was all hugs and kisses, because it was not; but it was an opportunity for respectful disagreement in the context of our common bond in Christ.

My second strong impression was that the theme of this year's Convention, "Living the Gospel ... Proclaiming the Good News," seemed particularly fitting and timely as the National Church, the Diocese and our parish explore the challenge of evangelism in our community and in the world. As noted by many of the speakers, and as we have been dis-

cussing at Christ Church, evangelism is about more than increasing numbers, it is about spreading the Word of Jesus Christ to others in our midst and beyond.

Two examples of this type of evangelism that stick in my mind were the stories about Holy Spirit, Novi, a mission church in our Diocese that is doing great things with youth and the community at large, and the new Hispanic Ministry that has developed at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. These two exciting new ministries show that it is still possible to reach out to others who are searching for some kind of faith home.

I firmly believe that we at Christ Church also have a loving Christian home and family to offer to others in our community. Unfortunately, we have not yet removed our bushel basket and let our light fully shine. I am hopeful that this Convention has re-energized those who attended and that we can spread that energy to other members of our congregation and ultimately to the Dearborn community and beyond.

Thank you for allowing me to represent our Church at this year's Convention. I encourage those of you who are interested in serving as a delegate at future conventions to let the clergy or the Vestry know so that you can be considered for this wonderful and rewarding experience.

Reclaiming Passion

continued from page 3

leads us to seek an "other" to fear and despise. But the stories as we have received them have contributed fodder to that unholy fire.

Much of the problem with the passion narrative is caused by two historical divides: between the actual events of Holy Week and the writing of the gospels, and between the writing of the gospel and its re-telling. Regarding the first, the gospel writers came to their task several generations after the actual fact. Each of them understood that Jesus' teaching brought him into conflict with the "powers-that-be" — this is, after all, a story in which "the last shall be first and the first shall be last." The way in which they dramatize this truth, however, was shaped by the events that had transpired in the

meantime. Conflict between the synagogue and these new Jewish Christians had arisen, leading to their eventual expulsion. As the two bodies separated, they began to compete for Rome's favor, each of them hoping to avoid persecution. In such a situation of estrangement, when the emerging church was coming under harsh persecution from Rome, gospel writers had good reason to shift blame for Jesus' death from the Romans to the Jews. Pilate, then, while a notoriously brutal ruler, gets painted as a reluctant and almost innocent participant. And the chief priests, who in actuality served at the whim of the Roman procurator and possessed no power to compel him to any action, are cast as the prime movers in Jesus' trial and death at the hands of Roman authorities.

Time and cultural distance have made such historical influences less and less visible to Christians through the ages. Alongside this, the movement of Christianity away from its Jewish roots has made the original context of an internal Jewish struggle next to invisible, rendering the anti-Jewish polemic more virulent and more dangerous. The problem does not lie in the original intent of the gospel writers so much as in how we *hear* the stories. And only education, close attention and the movement of the Holy Spirit can help us to hear them differently. Doing so, however, will not only help to right a deep and ancient wrong, it will also give us back our own sacred story—full of life and truth and forgiveness. We have, as they say, nothing to lose and everything to gain.

ETC.

Did You Know?

The Rev. Daniel Appleyard celebrated his 20th year of ministry in the priesthood on Tuesday, March 23. Congratulations, Daniel! We are grateful that many of those years have been among us at Christ Church.

FLOWERS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

Honor your loved ones – and help decorate the church at Easter – by purchasing altar flowers in their memory. To make your purchase, call the church office by Monday, April 5 or send your check made payable to Christ Church Altar Guild in the amount of \$20. You must do this even if you have had a standing order in years past.

NAME BADGES

Thanks to Jan Timpko, you all have shiny new name badges to wear on Sunday mornings. Please make a point of pinning them on so everyone can easily identify one another.

Thank you to all who donated fabric and men's ties for a Troy-based church making quilt-like bed rolls for those in need. Ruth West has plenty of fabric and 173 ties to deliver to the church. Donations are still being accepted in Murray Stover Library.

FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of February 29, 2004

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total 2004 Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$48,441	\$45,557	\$372,761
Other	\$11,671	\$1,200	\$23,700
Total Operating Income	\$60,112	\$46,757	\$396,461
Less Operating Expenses	\$76,240	\$81,652	\$452,599
Surplus / Deficit	\$(16,128)	\$(34,895)	(\$56,138)
Carry Over Cash* Applied	\$16,128	\$34,895	\$23,262
Financial Deficit/Surplus	0	0	(\$32,876)

**We used carryover cash contributions from 2003 to balance our budget in 2004.*

HELP YOUR RECTORS DO THEIR JOBS!

If you are hospitalized – or you know of a parishioner who is – please call the church office. We want to come alongside you during difficult times in your life, but often hear of the hospitalization long after you've returned home and are well on the way to recovery.

TIME SPRINGS FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, April 4. Move your clock ahead by one hour.

PASSAGES

BIRTHDAYS

4/01 Anna Behm, Jodie Coghill, Erika Morrison
 4/03 Laura Brydges, Samuel LeBlanc
 4/04 Peter Kenney
 4/05 Theodore Oelkers
 4/06 William Behm, Toc Dunlap, Mary Jo Durivage
 4/07 John Culp, Edwina Simpson
 4/09 Mary-Louise Ketchman
 4/10 Paige Turmel
 4/11 Heather Giberson, James Ritter
 4/12 Daniel Angel, Carol Ward
 4/13 Jean Oelkers
 4/14 Olga Most, Richard Polcyn
 4/15 Virginia Ebling, Elsie Forbes, Elaine Passage, George Turmel
 4/17 Maria Wendt
 4/18 Eric Lowery, Charity Smith

4/19 Julia Garris, Andrew Poceta, Nina Wendt
 4/20 Carl Gray, Benjamin Ward
 4/21 Catherine Dicks, Elizabeth Dicks, Hardy Shelton
 4/22 Patricia Barber, Mary December, Robin Kedzo
 4/23 Griffin Giberson, Alan Kurth
 4/24 Jack Audi, David Leduc
 4/26 Nikki Piotrowski
 4/28 Ronald Juergens
 4/29 George Borgeson, Mike Hipp
 4/30 Bradley Cronk, Jeffrey Wojtowicz

ANNIVERSARIES

4/06 Paulsen & Caroline Vandevent, 10 years
 4/27 Jim & Gladys Blossfeld, 42 years

DEATHS

We grieve with the family of parishioner **Martha Pillsbury** who died last month. We also extend our sympathy to Sally Tilley whose friend, **Janice Guerriero**, died at the end of February.

LOG ON TO:

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHDEARBORN.ORG

- Staff, vestry, ministry listings
- Weekly Sunday readings
- Community Highlights
 - *The Courier*

PERIODICAL

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 120 N. Military
 Dearborn, Michigan 48124
 Phone: 313-565-8450 Fax: 313-565-8515
 E-mail: office@christchurchdearborn.org



BE WITH US DURING HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 4, 8:00AM & 10:00AM

Holy Eucharist

Monday in Holy Week, April 5, 5:30PM

Holy Eucharist

Tuesday in Holy Week, April 6, 11:00AM & 5:30PM

Holy Eucharist

Wednesday in Holy Week, April 7, 8:00PM

Tenebrae Service in Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 8

7:30PM*

Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

– **9:00PM**

Prayer Vigil begins in the Chapel and continues through Good Friday, April 9 at 12:00PM. (Sign-up for one-hour time slots.)

Good Friday, April 9

– **12:00PM** Ecumenical Service, Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church (corner of Cherry Hill & Telegraph)

12:00pm-3:00pm Contemplating the Cross: Time for Silent Meditation

– **7:30PM***

Service with Solemn Prayer & Collects

Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 10, 8:00PM*

Service including Holy Baptism, followed by a reception in the Lounge.

Easter Sunday, April 11, 8:00AM & 10:00AM*

Festival Eucharist in the Church. Potluck Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:00am service.

*Childcare provided

Staff

The Rev. Daniel S. Appleyard, *Rector*
 The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, *Assistant Rector*
 The Rev. Margaret A. Haas, *Assistant Rector*
 JoAnn Amicangelo, *Communications Coordinator*
 F. Marshall Dicks, *Minister of Music*
 Ben Kedzo, *Assistant Sexton*
 Bob Smith, *Sexton*
 Jan Timpko, *Parish Administrator*
 Jung Yoo, *Organist*

Vestry

Martha Amis, *Stewardship*
 Diana Brehob, *Evangelism & New Members*
 Jane Culp, *Communication*
 Julia Garris, *Property*
 Ross Groover, *Communication*
 Michele Nolan, *Senior Warden*
 Liz Leduc, *Youth Representative*
 Roger Somerville
 Thomas Trimble, *Junior Warden*
 Robert Vokac
 Susan Ward, *Service*

Officers of the Vestry

Isabelle Behm, *Treasurer*
 George Morrison, *Clerk*

The Courier (USPS 564320) is published monthly by Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124-1099. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at DBN. MI 48120. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Christ Episcopal Church, Courier, 120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124-1099.