

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

At the Great Vigil of Easter, in the darkness we read a passage from the prophet Ezekiel that precedes Easter Morning. It's a passage that is at the root of that famous Spiritual "Dem Dry Bones." In Eugene Paterson's paraphrase of scripture *The Message*, the prophet's encounter with God goes like this: "God grabbed me. God's Spirit took me up and sat me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones... He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'"

Can these bones live? What a question to be asked of Ezekiel as he surveyed a valley filled with lifeless, dry bones! What a question to be asked of Israel, as it lived its life in forced exile in Babylon! But, I think it's a question that God asks of the faithful in every era! It is therefore a question for us, as a community of believers: Mortals, can these bones live?

Not long ago, Dylan Breuer, president of Gathering the Next Generation and a candidate for ordination in the Diocese of Maryland, wrote about being visited by her three year old niece, who had only been to church once in her entire life. "When her mother dropped her off at our house," Dylan wrote, "she made sure to explain to our niece as best she could what church and the nursery would be like. She said it would be a little like when mommy went to the gym—there was a special class for the children to enjoy some exercise while the parents worked out. Our niece immediately understood, and from that point on referred to going to church by the name of the children's class at the gym: she called church 'Stretch and Grow.'"

What a great name for the Church: "Stretch and Grow." But, for many, the church is more accurately described as "Shelter and Shrink." If we continue to think in those terms, then the answer to our question, "Mortal, can these bones live?" will be a resounding, "No!"

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INTERFAITH NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2005

With the belief that prayer is the required foundation to solve the many problems facing our community, the Metropolitan Detroit Circle of Prayer plans to pray for the healing of our community at noon Thursday, May 5, 2005, the Interfaith National Day of Prayer in Detroit. Mariner's Church, 170 E. Jefferson, will open at 11 a.m. as the people gather and commit themselves to pray for our community. The Interfaith Health and Hope Coalition meeting at Cobo Hall will gather at 11:30 a.m. Both groups will proceed to the Spirit of Detroit Statue where, at noon, leaders of the major religions in the metropolitan area will gather at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Building, and offer formal prayers for our nation, our state and our city. After a few moments of prayer, those gathered will hold hands and encircle the City-County Building.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of prayer is an annual event established by an act of Congress that encourages Americans to pray for our nation, its people and its

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CREATIVE WORKSHOPS & INSPIRING IDEAS

Hopefully you have marked your calendar and arranged to carpool (sign-up sheets are posted across from church office) to the annual Diocesan Ministry Fair to be held Saturday, May 7, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Christ Episcopal Church, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd. Workshops have been carefully selected that encourage sharing of ideas, understanding more about resources available outside of our congregation, and developing ideas for creative worship and other programs.

In the fall of 2005, the Diocese of Michigan will join our national church offices in a national television advertising campaign planned for the back-to-school season this year. These advertisements will seek to invite Generation X seekers and their friends and families – specifically those unaffiliated with any church – into the life of local congregations. As we continue to explore our ministries of welcoming visitors and new parishioners into Christ Church, you may be interested in a workshop that will provide some new and far-reaching ideas.

The Episcopal Church Ad Campaign: How Can It Work for You; 3:15pm

This workshop will introduce the national advertising campaign and

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From the Rector

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Somewhere along the line, we seemed to have taken hold of the idea that the Church is a place where we go to find refuge and sanctuary. Sure, it may offer that from time to time in our lives. But, fundamentally, church is not about seeking a comfortable, easy chair where we can sit back and resist the changes that life sends our way. Far from it! Church is actually the place where we come to *learn how to change*. In short, Church is where we learn to Stretch and Grow!

Because we know the truth of that old adage that “the only thing that is unchangeable is change itself,” part of our Christian journey in faith is about learning the capacity to change. If we’re honest and believe what we profess to believe, then we know that change doesn’t stop when life stops. For, we keep on changing even after we’re dead and buried. So, I am increasingly convinced that church is a place where we can celebrate change together because change means life.

Church is where we share our lives with God and with God’s people. The Church is where we learn *how* to grow. And in that process of sharing life together, we are shaped in our minds and our spirits so that we can come to know what change is appropriate and what change is inappropriate. We come together as community, we can learn how to let go of the sort of sweet nostalgia that our world is so prone to without falling prey to a novelty-mongering, cheap and easy, change for the sake of change “trendiness,” that really is nothing more than just another form of entertainment and thrill seeking.

We are called, as community, to join in God’s work of breathing new life into the dry and parched bones of the Christian church. We are called, as God’s community, to learn how to change and to help others to learn how to change in ways that are both true to who we have been and true to who we must now become.

Mortal, can these bones live? Yes they can! Write these words on your hearts and your minds and your souls: These bones can live! These bones will live! These bones must live! Shelter and Shrink is passed. Stretch and Grow is where we’re heading. After all Christ is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Faithfully Yours,
Daniel

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE STUDY

A series of Sunday afternoon Bible studies on the resurrection continues in May. The group meets from 3:30 to 5:00 in the lounge. We will focus on the following texts:

April 17: Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-10; and Luke 24:1-12

May 1: John 20:1-118 and John 11:1-44

May 15: Luke 24:13-43 and John 20:19-30

In reading and discussing all of these passages, we will explore the witness to Jesus’ resurrection, as well as the meaning of resurrection in our own lives.

In preparing for the sessions, don’t forget the resources that are available to you in the Murray Stover Library. Also, feel free to check with Margaret for books that are available in her office for your use.

If you were not able to make the first session, don’t feel that you can’t take part. Read on your own the material we discussed in April and then move ahead to the May 1st assignments and come to that second gathering. Questions? See Daniel or Margaret.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

The Discipleship Group continues to meet in May. In April the group discussed what it means to be a Christian and what it is that Christians are called to believe and to do. The last two meetings will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 8 and May 22, from 2:00-4:00 in the lounge.

Future topics:

May 8: Christian imperatives

May 22: Searching for a punch line

FAITHFUL LIVING, FAITHFUL DYING

At a Forum on April 3, several of us had the opportunity to unpack our responses to some of the issues—personal and public—that have been raised by the case of Terry Schiavo. At that meeting, some persons suggested that it might be helpful to spend time this summer discussing what it means to be faithful in our understanding of death and in our preparation for death. How does our Christian faith affect our attitudes toward death? The church has prepared a resource to assist groups in such an exploration: the book *Faithful Living, Faithful Dying*.

We have tentatively scheduled a discussion group for Sunday afternoon, June 26, from 3:00-5:00 around this issue. If you would like to participate in this group discussion, please let Margaret Haas know by May 22 so that we can order books for everyone. If you choose to purchase a book, the anticipated cost will be \$15.95 per copy.

~Margaret Haas



Interfaith Prayer—

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leaders. We are in the midst of war, governments are crumbling, neighborhoods are deteriorating, public schools are in trouble, and crimes are becoming more heinous. No one can deny that the world needs prayer.

For information call, Metropolitan Christian Council (Detroit/Windsor), 313.962.0340

11 am — The People Gather

Site #1 Mariners' Church

170 East Jefferson Ave, Detroit

Site #2 Cobo Hall

Interfaith Health and Hope Coalition Meeting

Noon — The People Pray

at the Spirit of Detroit Statue

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center

Mayor Kilpatrick, Interfaith Religious Leaders

Parking available in the Hart Plaza

(Ford Theater) Underground Garage

Ministries Fair—

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discuss strategies the Diocese of Michigan will implement to tie in with a campaign of its own. Sharing ideas will benefit Christ Church and the entire diocese.

If you desire to learn more or even want to explore helping to develop programs at Christ Church to help deepen our community's spiritual life, there are two workshops for you: **Introduction to Centering Prayer, 9:15.** We usually think of prayer as words - either silent or spoken aloud - that we address to God. Centering Prayer is a method of praying without words. It consists of responding to the Spirit of Christ by silently consenting to God's presence and action within us, leading to a deeper personal relationship with God. **Anglican Spirituality 3:15 - 4:30;** What defines us as a particular branch of the Body of Christ? What has shaped our understanding of God and our style of prayer that declares us Anglicans? This workshop will explore some of the people who have influenced our life together, our relationship with God and our work in the world. Resources include: *The Book of Common Prayer, Lesser Feasts and Fasts, the Hymnal 1982* and other historical writings.

So organize a group, plan to carpool, and make a day of Ministry Fair 2005. Be ready to share your observations

VESTRY REFLECTION—

By Susan Ward

We had a very enjoyable Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off Event on Sunday, April 17. From the musical entertainment to the dramatic presentation to the delicious food to the stewardship discussions, it was enriching and thought-provoking. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents (especially the young musicians) on the Kick-Off Event.

Now comes the difficult part -- we as a parish need to decide what we want to do to fulfill our mission as a church. To fulfill our mission, the church needs our time, talent and treasure. During the next few weeks, we are being asked to fill out commitment cards to provide information on how much of our treasure we intend to give to the church in the coming year. The Vestry presented a 2005 budget of projected expenses of \$440,255 at the Annual Meeting. This is a deficit budget, as our projected income will not cover this amount; Vestry will be using funds from the Wormell Bequest to cover any deficit. The amount of the projected deficit is \$28,475. This was not an easy decision for me personally to agree with in the beginning of our Vestry budget deliberations. I eventually decided that we needed one year as a parish to work out where we want to be so that at the end of our deliberations I was able to comfortably vote in support of our 2005 faith-based budget.

I believe that we, as a parish, want to support the following goals:

- Focus on evangelism
- Build our capacity to respond in service and outreach
- Expand our education offerings
- Support and encourage joyful worship for all

To enable the parish to do this work, we need to increase our income, as we cannot use bequest funds to make up a budget deficit again next year. Please consider increasing your pledge. I realize that everyone is inundated with requests for donations from worthy organizations, but if we all increased our pledge by 10% – notice I did not say tithe, but rather increase BY 10%—imagine what could be accomplished.

Several people have asked me for clarification on the church's 2005 budget and how we are making up the deficit. As it has been several months since the Annual Meeting and budget discussions, I would encourage anyone with questions to ask a member of the Vestry or Finance Commission for information as we contemplate our church's mission and what it means to us.

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.

**CHRISTIAN
FORMATION SCHEDULES**

VIA MEDIA POTLUCK
Wednesday, 5:45 - 8PM
May 11

Last in the series of Via Media conversations begun before Easter. Bring your own dish for our potluck. Childcare will be provided.

ADULT FORUMS
Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM

May 1—
The Rector will continue conversation begun on April 24th regarding Anglicanism, the Windsor Report & Suggested Changes in the Communion

May 8—
Mother's Day; no Adult Forum

May 15—
Islamic Law(s) in Contemporary press and Policy Debates
Professor Cam Amin will be the speaker for anyone interested in learning about Islamic law. There is so much chatter about what is and what is not Islamic. He will map out some of the fault lines in how people talk about Islamic law as it relates to current events.

May 22—
Discussion will take place regarding our Season of Easter practice of using loaves of bread for Communion, rather than the wafers to which we are accustomed. Though unfamiliar to many of us, real bread has been the custom of the Church throughout most of its Eucharistic life, and carries strong echoes of the table fellowship that Jesus shared with so many and now shares with us. We invite you to enter into this new experience of the Bread of Life, and the fresh depth and insight it might bring. Reception of Communion will proceed exactly as it did with wafers.

May 29—
Memorial Day weekend; no Adult Forum

JOIN US

BREAKFAST BUNCH
Sundays, 9AM
Meets after the 8:00am service at Leon's Restaurant in Dearborn.

INGATHERING
Sunday, May 15
May 15th is the ingathering of pledges. Please try to return your pledge on or before this date to help support the mission of Christ Church.

PRAYER GROUP
St. Mary's of Bethany
Tuesdays, 10AM
Intercessory prayer offered for the needs of those on our current and sustaining prayer lists. Also sends notes of encouragement to those prayed for. All are welcome.

MEETINGS
ST. MARTHA'S GUILD
Tuesday, May 10, 12:00PM
"What's in YOUR Prayer Book?"
Barbara Hall will give a presentation on the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). A brief overview of the BCP will be followed by some interesting facts found in our beloved book of worship. (example: What Saint is listed in the front and also found in the back?) Bring a sandwich, beverage and dessert will be served. ALL are welcome.

FAMILY INTERESTS
BAPTISM PREPARATION
Saturday, May 14, 1 - 3PM
A preparation class designed for parents and godparents of the children being presented for Baptism during the 10am service on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. Call the church office no later than Monday, May 9 if you are interested in participating.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION
PRAYER ROOM
Sundays, 10:00AM
Worship activities for children 3-7 years.

CHURCH SCHOOL
Sundays, 11:30AM
Bible stories, singing and crafts for children preschool-aged to 10.

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD
Sundays, 11:30am-12:15pm
Coordinators: Jerry Behm & Monica McLeod

RITE 13
Two groups for youth ages 11-13 are meeting. Call Susan Gregg or Dale Taylor at 277.1975 for more information on Group 1 which entered their 2nd year. Group 2 is being led by Erika Morrison, 791.2709 and Curt Ritter, 259.2296.

MUSIC MINISTRY
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Sundays, 9AM
For elementary school-aged children. Meets in Rm 213.

HANDBELL CHOIR
Wednesdays, 7:00PM

ADULT CHOIR
Thursdays, 7:30PM (Childcare available)

LOOKING AHEAD
END-OF-YEAR PICNIC
Sunday, June 12, 11:30
Watch the weekly Communicator as the details unfold.

WORLDVIEWS: A SEMINAR ON AMERICAN RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY, JUNE 20-25 on the campus of UMD/ Dearborn. This six-day seminar introduces participants to the beliefs and practices of the world's religions through classroom presentations and field trips. The basic cost of this six-day seminar is \$450 (checks made payable to the University of Michigan-Dearborn). This includes: transportation to religious centers, breakfast, lunch and some dinners, and course pack of readings. Please register by May 23, 2005—registration is limited.

Continuing Education Units may be available for an additional fee. If you wish to earn CEU's, contact Sharie Beard to obtain the additional paperwork and costs involved prior to mailing in the registration form.

Participants interested in Graduate or Undergraduate Credit and willing to complete the written assignments may register for Religious Studies 501 or 401; Religion in Contemporary American Culture.

For more information regarding CEU's, course credit, or scholarship possibilities, contact: Sharie Beard, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 313.593.4925 or sbeard@umd.umich.edu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:00 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School Rite 13, Forum 3:30 Bible Study	2 10:00 Senior Exercise 5:30 Peace is the Way 7:00 Scout Leaders 8:00 AA	3 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE & Healing 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 9:00-12:00 Art Class 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Children's Ed 7:30 AA	5 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	6 6:30 Grief Support 6:00 Brownie Troop Overnighter	7 12:00-1:30 AA
8 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:00 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School Rite 13, Forum 2:00 Discipleship Gp	9 10:00 Senior Exercise 8:00 AA	10 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha's 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 9:00-12:00 Art Class 5:45 Via Media 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA	12 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	13	14 12:00-1:30 AA 1:00-3:00 Baptism Class
15 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:00 Prayer Room 11:00 Fauld Intermt 11:30 Church School Rite 13, Forum 1:00 Vestry 3:30 Bible Study	16 10:00 Senior Exercise 5:30 Peace is the Way 8:00 AA	17 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts Service Comm	18 9:00-12:00 Art Class 1:00 Library Meet 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Property Meet 7:30 AA	19 11:30 AA 7:00 Finance Comm 7:30 Choir	20 Chapel Day Graduation 6:30 Grief Support	21 12:00-1:30 AA
22 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:00 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School Rite 13, Forum 2:00 Discipleship Gp	23 10:00 Senior Exercise 8:00 AA	24 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 9:00-12:00 Art Class 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA	26 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	27	28 12:00-1:30 AA
29 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:00 Prayer Room	30 Memorial Day Office Closed 8:00 AA	31 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts				

WEEK OF MAY 1

ACOLYTES TBD
USHERS (8:00AM) T FOSTER
(10AM) TEAM 4 – D HIPP, M HIPP,
MATTHEWS, OATNEY
LECTOR/LEM (8:00AM) M A ZAWADA
(10:00AM) D PETTS, D BREHOB, M A ZAWADA
ALTAR GUILD J COHOE, K HIPP, K GREEN, A GREEN
LEV'S J ANDERSON, A JOHNSON
VPOD S WARD
SUNDAY READINGS: THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ACTS 17:22-31; PSALM 148:7-14;
1 PETER 3:8-18; JOHN 15:1-8

WEEK OF MAY 8

ACOLYTES TBD
USHERS (8AM) R PETERSON
(10AM) TEAM 5 – J GROOVER, D PIERNICK,
L LEDUC, D YOUNG
LECTOR/LEM (8AM) B HOFFMAN
(10AM) M PIERNICK, R GROOVER, B HALL
ALTAR GUILD L PEDLER, E BOYAR, L LEDUC
LEV'S S MULKERN, M SHELTON
VPOD E SIMPSON
SUNDAY READINGS: THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ACTS 1:8-14; PSALM 68:1-20;
1 PETER 4:12-19; JOHN 17:1-11

WEEK OF MAY 15

ACOLYTES TBD
USHERS (8AM) J PEDLER
(10AM) TEAM 1 – BAKER, KB MATTHEWS, GARRIS
LECTOR/L.E.M. (8AM) A JOHNSON
(10AM) A JOHNSON, M SALLMAN
ALTAR GUILD S MCCULLEN, B CALDWELL, A JOHNSON
LEV'S CLERGY
VPOD J CONNELLY
SUNDAY READINGS: THE DAY OF PENTECOST
GENESIS 11:1-9; PSALM 33:12-22;
ACTS 2:1-11; JOHN 20:19-23

WEEK OF MAY 22

ACOLYTES TBD
USHERS (8AM) G BORGESON
(10AM) TEAM 2 – LUDWIG, BRIM, SALLMAN,
D LEDUC
LECTOR/L.E.M. (8AM) R GROOVER
(10AM) B SIMPSON, E SIMPSON, M A ZAWADA
ALTAR GUILD C GOSS, I BEHM, L COGHILL
LEV'S D LEBLANC, C GOSS
VPOD R GROOVER
SUNDAY READINGS: TRINITY SUNDAY
GENESIS 1:1-2:3; PSALM 150;
2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14; MATTHEW 28:16-20

WEEK OF MAY 29

ACOLYTES TBD
USHERS (8AM) L GOSS
(10AM) TEAM 3 – M PIERNICK, PROKOPP, MILLS,
SEARLES
LECTOR/L.E.M. (8AM) M AMIS
(10AM) M SOMERVILLE, D BREHOB, D CARDWELL
ALTAR GUILD J REINER, J COHOE, K GREEN, A GREEN
LEV'S M PELLEGRINO, L GRAY
VPOD M AMIS
SUNDAY READINGS: THE 2ND DAY AFTER PENTECOST
DEUTERONOMY 11:18-21,26-28;
PSALM 31:1-5,19-24;
ROMANS 3:21-25A/28; MATTHEW 7:21-27



Dear Friends,

I have had reason lately to grapple with just what Christ Church means to me, as a place of worship, a community of fellow seekers, and a source of deep friendships. I found myself needing to make some hard choices about where my loyalties lie, because Sunday became a day in demand. For a while, I tried to trade off Sunday commitments – one Sunday in church, the next Sunday involved in another endeavor. But all the while I knew something was out of kilter. I kept musing on that phrase, “One cannot serve two masters...” Finally, I owned up to the inner conflict and consciously decided to reserve Sundays for Christ Church. And on making this decision, I felt a great sense of peace.

But the struggle brought into sharp relief for me the importance of our life together. I think while I was in the midst of my juggling act, I was not truly clear on the value Christ Church has for me. Where else do I hear, Sunday after Sunday, wisdom and truth coming to me through sermons from the heart, through forum discussions that open us to each other, through music that lifts, soothes and touches me? Where else do I find fellow searchers willing to lay bare their souls and engage with me in asking those questions that haunt us and demand deep probing? Where else have I found friends that have met me in tragedy, in pain, in joy, in solace?

As this clarity emerged, I knew deep within not only how I really wanted to spend my Sundays, but also the place Christ Church has in the whole context of my life. As we approach the period of time set aside for our Stewardship focus, I know where I want to place my priorities – priorities of money and time. Our Christian community is such a gift to the larger world. I urge you to ponder its meaning and place in your life and to enter this Stewardship season with a commitment that reflects the value of Christ Church in your life.

Respectfully,
Martha Amis, Junior Warden

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

"Described in the Book of Acts, this was a momentous day in the life of the new Church. Jesus had died and then came back. Now he had left again. The little band of followers could not understand what had happened. In their minds they still expected him to restore the Kingdom of Israel and overcome the hated Romans. It was not until the Holy Spirit came to them a few days later that they finally understood that the Kingdom of God was within and not of this world"

Parishioner Marion Farquharson has devoted some time and scholarly effort to the topic of Ascension. To see her complete text, copies will be available in the library before The Feast of the Ascension, observed Thursday, May 5.

SUMMER COURIER DEADLINE

As many of you know, the *Courier* ceases publication during the summer months. We will publish one Summer issue highlighting activities in the months of June, July and August. Articles for that edition are due in the church office no later than Sunday, May 15. Drop them off on your way to or from church that morning. Please look ahead and make sure all your church activities are on the church calendar. The *Courier* resumes monthly publication in the fall.

FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of March 31, 2005

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$87,031	\$86,890
Other	\$19,898	\$6,266
Total Operating Income	\$106,930	\$93,156
Less Operating Expenses	\$114,156	\$113,992
Surplus / Deficit	\$(7,227)	\$(20,836)

Volunteer Opportunity for Trinity Soup Kitchen

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 7, to help prepare lunch and/or serve and clean-up at Trinity Soup Kitchen. Please meet in the Christ Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. or go directly to Trinity Church at 9 a.m. to prepare lunch and then to serve it at 11:30. Please contact Susan Ward (791.0483) or Ruth Warner (563.1306) for more information.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Since last fall Dominic Maltese, of the D.J. Maltese Construction Services, has been helping our Rector explore possible donors for a new phone system. Having donated our last phone system in 1994, Dominic has now joined with Jason Miller, owner of RE-MAX Home Sales Services, Plymouth to update our system again.



Over the weekend of April 9 & 10, a multiple handset Nortel Norstar System with voice-mail capacity (and more) was installed by Troy Brackey (and a few of his friends) who likewise donated his skills to our parish. The basic system is up and operational. We will be exploring the voice mail capacities in the near future.

Thank you Dominic, Jason, and Troy!

—A Grateful Staff and Parish

FOCUS GROUPS TO ASSESS NEEDS FOR DIOCESAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES ARE SCHEDULED

A Diocesan Children and Youth Ministries Focus Group Advisory Team is ready to launch focus groups and has scheduled dates and locations around the diocese.

The purpose of these focus groups is to gather information and input that will help discern the direction of future programming for children and youth offered at the diocesan level. Uproar Communications, a marketing firm in Ann Arbor, is working with the team and will be conducting the focus groups.

At this point we are focusing on ministries for children and youth, age 0-18. We very much hope that young people who are in the 6th grade through the 12th grade will participate in a focus group; so parents, teachers, leaders, clergy: please invite your middle and high school youth to participate!

We have identified three groups to interview separately to gather information:

USERS of children and youth programs – the children and youth themselves (for practical reasons we will engage 6th-12th graders in the discussion).

PROGRAM PROVIDERS – church school teachers, youth group leaders, J2A leaders, clergy, etc.

SUPPORTERS of children and youth – parents, grandparents, mentors, church members, clergy, anyone who is interested in this type of ministry but not a user or a provider.

On each date there will be these three focus groups conducted. Because of the discussion and data collection processes to be used, there will be no more than 20 people in each of the three focus groups held on each date. You must make a reservation for a spot in a focus group. Please e-mail Karen Bota at kbota@edomi.org or call at 313/833-4426 to let her know on which date you wish to attend, and whether you are a USER, PROGRAM PROVIDER, OR SUPPORTER. You can participate on whatever date and location is most convenient for you. Once we get to 20 for a particular focus group on that date, however, that group is closed and you will have to choose a different date. The remaining dates are:

Sunday, May 1, 1-3 p.m. St. Clare's, Ann Arbor

Wednesday, May 4, 7-9 p.m. All Saint's, East Lansing

Saturday, May 7, during Ministry Fair—Two morning sessions

*The Ministry Fair date, May 7, is for program providers and supporters. These two focus groups will be held during the first two workshop time slots—9:15 and 10:45 am. We are offering these meetings for those folks for whom NONE of the other dates and locations worked out. Again, each group is limited to 20 and you must reserve with Karen as with the other dates.

Questions? Contact Karen Bota at kbota@edomi.org or 313/833-4426.

SOUP KITCHEN FOLLOW-UP

I just want to let the people of Christ Church know what a fabulous job your parishioners and friends did on Saturday morning April 2 and again on Sunday, April 3 when we served in the Soup Kitchen at Crossroads.

On Saturday, Ruth Warner, Liz Coghill, Doug and Phyllis Brim, Sally Tilley, Michelle Kurtzcan, Jeanne and Joanne Marteaux and Liz Leduc joined me

to chop 25 pounds each of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, green beans and celery. They also cooked 115 pounds of ground beef.

On Sunday, Ruth Warner, Liz Leduc, Nancy Weil, Jeff, Loretta Cory and Christina Smith, Ed Drazga, David, Alex Boyer and a friend, Matt and Emily Sallman, David Griffith, Sally Tilley, Ellen Chapman, Susan McCullen, Michelle Kurtjian, Elars and Mitch Kuny, and Joe Hines made 1450 sandwiches, bagged cookies and prepared soup. Fruit, tea and coffee preparations rounded out the meal that they served for 750 people. They worked from 9am to 3pm without stopping and all felt very rewarded for their efforts to feed the poor. I thank them for volunteering.

—Mary Agnes Clickner



LOG ON TO:

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHDEARBORN.ORG
Staff, vestry, ministry listings
Weekly Sunday readings
Community Highlights
The Courier

PASSAGES

Birthdays

5/01 Isabelle Appleyard, Laura Koch, Sarah Fisher
5/03 Inga Bullock, Mary Guzik
5/05 Bettina Caldwell, Christian Joens, William Matthews, John Oatney
5/06 Tyler Haney
5/09 John Anderson
5/10 Marilyn Douglas
5/11 Phyllis Brim
5/12 Amie Woolever
5/13 Kathryn Boyle, Theodore Morrison, Laura Poske
5/14 Zacchery Burns, Rylie Lowery
5/15 Robert Laux
5/16 Brayden Flaig

5/17 Marie Mulkern
5/18 Christopher DeGiulio
5/19 Andrew Angel, Bruce Simpson
5/20 William Snyder
5/21 Christine Goss
5/23 Mary Jo Crane, Violet Kalman
5/24 Charlie Groove, Janet Ostoin
5/25 Gregory Stuber
5/26 Benjamin LeBlanc, Connor Nolan
5/27 Lindsay Culp
5/28 Richard Audi
5/29 Joseph Cwiek
5/30 Alexander Green, Alayna Ritter

Anniversaries

5/08 Eric & Tammie Lowery, 6 years

5/09 Kevin & Margaret Green, 13 years
5/14 Jack & Luceil Pedler, 56 years
5/16 Richard & Barbara Markowsk, 46 years
5/18 Bohdan & Rebecca Ukrainec, 9 years
5/23 Kevin & Sandra Garrison, 7 years
5/25 Roland & Karen Kaven, 4 years
5/29 George & Virginia Ebling, 65 years

Deaths

Patricia Linton

The daffodils are peeking up, the tulips are starting to show. Stop by on one of our early spring days for a moment of quiet reflection and prayer or just enjoy the flowers.

—Doug Brim, representing the Memorial Garden Committee



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NITRO MAKES NEW FRIENDS

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD was treated to a wonderful and uplifting presentation on how God's love is being spread to our community by Jan B. and her pet therapy canine, "Nitro." Nitro and other pets from the Fur Angels group have been so successful with some school children that their reading levels have skyrocketed. Kids love interacting with "Nitro" and also reading to him and the other pets.

Seniors in our retirement communities and nursing homes also enjoy "Nitro" as they love to pet him and talk to him and his owner. His very presence lifts our spirits, as verified by all who attended St. Martha's on April 12th.

Look for more exciting presentations at upcoming St. Martha's Guild meetings which are the second Tuesdays of the months September through June. All are welcome.

—Debbie Taylor



Staff

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The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Margaret A. Haas, Assistant Rector
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Tess Dowgiallo, Children's Choir Director

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