

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

This morning I took my children to school. It was the first day of classes and by chance last night Isabelle asked me to read Purrfectly Purrfect – Life at the Acatemy, by Patricia Lauber. This book is about kittens going to school and opens with them all reporting to the class on “What I did on my summer vacation.” So on the way to school today, Julian and Isabelle were reciting what they would say when their “Purrfessor” or catmates asked them that ever important post-vacation question. Thus inspired by my children and many of you – I thought I would share with you some “snap shots” from the summer.

Lancaster, England

High blue skies and friends with children welcome us. An old and dear friend of Elizabeth's meets us as we find our way from Heathrow. The adults are both clergy in the Church of England (a University Chaplain and part-time assistant) and their children embrace ours with open arms, running off to play. And, most importantly, Elizabeth is off, walking the English countryside in “Wellies!” A wonderful welcome, which, as the week unfolds, includes lots of conversations about the Church of England and the Episcopal Church, their parish's advocacy in the G-8 demonstrations and their very modern worship styles (video monitors in church, included) – no Cathedral Evensong here! Yet it is clear that parishes and chaplaincies in England struggle to gather people into their communities.

July unfolds... The Battle of Britain celebration! The Olympics in England in 2012! And, then the attacks in London on July 7th...Watching, listening and speaking of the death, bravery and uncertainty.

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DAVIS FISHER

Davis Fisher of MoneyTree Consulting will join us once again this fall on our continuing stewardship journey, “How Much is Enough?” This year, Davis will lead a conversation with vestry and other parish leaders on Friday September 23rd, and then offer a thought-provoking workshop and follow-up for the entire parish on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25th. The theme of this workshop will be “Getting and Giving,” with a focus on how Christians “get” (time, talents and money) and how we “share/give” back to God and specifically to Christ Church. Please note this date and join us for this reflective discussion.

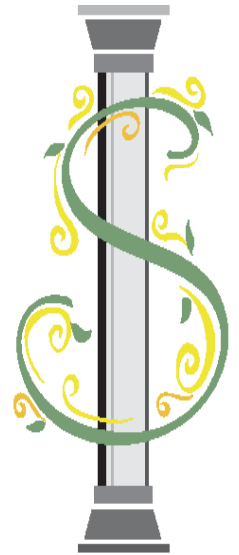
Friday evening—Dessert & coffee with parish leaders (Vestry, Stewardship, Finance, etc.)

Focus: “Christ Church and Money”

Where are we now ... and how did we get here?
Where are we going ... and how do we go there?

Saturday, approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—An open parish

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HOSPITALITY AND THE HATED "E" WORD

Hospitality and that hated “E” word (Evangelism) are not just something the clergy does, or the Vestry, or the Newcomer's Committee. Hospitality is part of who we are as a people of faith who have found something in this church that is worth sharing with others. With the Episcopal Church's “Back-to-School” advertising campaign being set to run August 26-29 and September 9-12 we have a great opportunity share the life of our community with others. Commercials are scheduled to run on ABC Family, Discovery Health, Hallmark, Galavision (a cable network widely watched among Latinos), and the Lifetime Movie Network. Another set of commercials titled “Grow in Gratitude” and “One Peace” will air in advance of the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, which makes this a perfect time to be launching our new Greeter program. The Greeters, trained to recognize and welcome visitors and newcomers, will provide them with information and assistance, invite them to coffee hour and introduce them to others.

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From the Rector

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Prayers are said, bells toll and silences are observed, as faith leaders gather to calm the fear of the "other" in this very multi-cultural country. What a time to have come to England! So much seems so very familiar! And, yet, so much is so very different.

Cambridge

As we leave our cottage for Cambridge, the children don't want to leave their new friends, nor we our old ones. No open arms await us, but a wonderful house does, along with four five week old Sheltie puppies, who greet our children with wagging tails. Almost as good as other children... or is it better? It will take us some time to find shops and learn how to get around. I busily make contacts with colleagues who are inter-faith leaders or involved with our Anglican Observer to the U. N. in Cambridge and the neighboring towns. My network begins to buzz, and all the while, Elizabeth and I search out activities for the children so this wonderful trip doesn't become a nightmare of "child boredom."

As we find a new daily pattern for our lives, Elizabeth and I discover a sabbatical surprise! We have spent some considerable time over the last 2 years discussing college for the children and where to buy a house and retire to. We engaged in two planning conferences: The Episcopal Church Foundation's "Credo" and "Clergy Families - Planning for Tomorrow." Now, this trip gives us the chance to talk in depth and visualize what such a transition would mean for us. My retirement from active ministry in the Episcopal Church suddenly looks nearer than I could have imagined! Hours are spent imagining, worrying, researching and wrestling with different plans. I know how richly God has blessed us and how these honest discussions will shape our life as a family. I am thankful even in the difficult moments.

Daytrips to various sites and gardens or "rec-centers" with the kids, mark our days and are usually punctuated by tea in the afternoon. We walk a lot, sometimes along the river to The Orchard, for lunch or tea - the place where Bertrand Russell, Virginia Woolf, E.M. Forster and Ludwig Wittgenstein

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MUSIC NOTES

It is going to be an exciting year at Christ Church as we continue many of the ministries that we have supported and begin some new ones.

During the coming year, Tess Dowgiallo (Children's Choir), Jung Yoo (Organist) and I will continue to work together to offer a music program that enriches worship and offers opportunities for you to be involved in a musical way at Christ Church.

A highlight of this past summer was **Summer Arts Camp** from June 20 - 24th. It was a fun filled week involving all of the arts - music, drama, dance and the visual arts - in the context of scripture. Think Vacation Bible School meets Music, Drama and Arts Camp. All of the week's activities helped the children and leaders to see Jesus in their lives. On Thursday evening of that week there was a special worship in the sanctuary where all of the campers were able to share their gifts with the congregation. Special thanks go to the program leaders, Tess (chimes), Erika Morrison (art) and Emily Goward (dance). Two hard working lunch moms kept us well fed- Isabelle Behm and Margaret Green. Thanks as well to all of our volunteers, campers and parents for making that week possible.

Throughout the summer, various individuals and groups contributed to worship using their musical gifts. Notably, Diana Brehob and Margaret Green organized a handbell choir. In August, there was a women's chorus also organized by Margaret. Tony Johnson offered solos on several Sundays. Diana, Margaret, Rev. Clare and Ellen Boyes sang a quartet. This enhanced our worship while the ensembles were taking a much-needed rest. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.

Week at a Glance

SUNDAY ~ Children's Choir

Tess Dowgiallo, our children's choir director, will continue to meet the children of the congregation on Sunday morning starting at 9 am. Choir this year will continue to include chimes. Please contact Tess through the church office if you have any questions. There will be a schedule of Sundays available early in September which outline when the children's choir will participate in worship.

WEDNESDAY ~ Bell Choir

The bell group meets on Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m. and will start on **September 7th, 2005**. We will need at least two new people in the bell group this year. Please contact me or one of the group members if you have questions.

THURSDAY ~ Adult Choir

We meet in the choir room at 7:30 pm (until 9:00 p.m.) every Thursday, starting on **September 8th, 2005**. We will sing for the first time of the year on, Sunday, Sept. 11th. Fall is a traditional time to join things and we would love for you to make our choir one of your choices for this year.

JOIN US

TRINITY SOUP KITCHEN

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3, 8:30AM-3:00PM

Help us prepare and serve lunch for the hungry and homeless at Trinity Episcopal Church in Detroit. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am to car pool. Sign-up on the Education bulletin board.

PARISH PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

Bring a dish to pass. Grilled entrees (beef and veggie burgers plus hot dogs) and cold drinks will be provided.

RITE 13 CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11 AT 10:00 SERVICE

A rite of passage of four of our teens, honoring their turning 13 with the Celebration of manhood and Womanhood.

TEACHER & ACOLYTE INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18 AT 10:00 SERVICE

CHRISTIAN FORMATION BREAKFAST BUNCH

Sundays, 9AM

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

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.

Take-a-Break ! Carers and Tots Playgroup

Fridays, 1:00-2:30pm

Interested in meeting other people in the neighborhood who are caring for children? There is a planned craft activity and time of music for the children, while the caregivers gather for informal conversation. Small donation asked to cover the cost of coffee, tea, juice, and cookies.

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD

Tuesday, September 13

Ms. Dorothy McLeer from the Environmental Interpretive Center at

U of M, Dearborn has an awesome presentation which will engage us in their environmental work. This is popular for all ages and states. Bring a sandwich, beverage and dessert will be served. ALL are welcome.

"NOT NECESSARILY RELIGIOUS" BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7:30pm

The book discussed is "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" by J.K. Rowling. All ages are invited and welcome to join in.

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 & J2A

Two groups will be meeting this year. Contacts are: Susan Gregg or Dale Taylor at 277.1975 and 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)

HURRICANE KATRINA RESOURCES

At the time the of the production of this Courier, information was flowing into the office about relief for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Our own website can be a resource for our community as it seeks to respond: www.christchurchdearborn.org

The Diocese of Michigan website also has a special page for information on how to help: www.the-record.org/katrinanewsroom.html

Likewise, you can send into the office or donate directly to:

Episcopal Relief and Development www.er-d.org

Salvation Army 800-SAL-ARMY or www.salvationarmyusa.org

Red Cross 800-HELP-NOW or www.redcross.org

Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals www.la-spca.org

FEMA Charity tips www.fema.gov/rrr/help2.shtm [fema.gov]

NAACP Disaster Relief Fund <http://store.yahoo.com/naacp%2Ddonate1/?r=864&t=4>

As of Wednesday, September 07, Dan Appleyard was in contact with Mayor Guido's Office about the relocation of people from the Gulf Coast. The mayor has been in conversation with Governor Jennifer Granholm about her efforts to offer Michigan's resources to assist those affected by the hurricane.

The Dearborn Ministerial Association hopes to work with the Mayor and Governor.

For more information you can refer to:

The City's website:

<http://www.cityofdearborn.org/index.shtml>

The State Website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/>

The Governor's Website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/>

Think about what we can do together. It is best if you work through established agencies - all are asking that you do NOT go lone rangering - you will just add to their burden.

Other helpful Websites are

Diocese of Louisiana --- <http://www.edola.org/>

Diocese of Mississippi --- <http://www.dioms.org/>

Diocese of Central Gulf Coast -- <http://www.diocgc.org/diocesanhouse.html>

By Edwina Simpson

Several weeks ago Bruce and I were musing over what we'd do if we had won the \$205 million lottery. Of course we'd have to play the lottery to win, but fantasizing what we'd do with that kind of money was an interesting exercise.

I said that I'd probably give half to a variety of charities that I care about and that I'd take the other half, set up a 5% charitable remainder trust with Bruce and me and our six sons as the income beneficiaries for 20 years. At the end of the 20 years, the remainder in the trust would be dispersed among those charities that I care most about and that had used my initial outright gifts in ways that were life-giving to the organization's mission and ministry.

Because a gift is a challenge, large gifts can be great resources for furthering and expanding a charity's mission, or they can be destructive. This is especially true with congregations. In fact, when, as a field representative for the Episcopal Church Foundation's Giving Services, I meet with a congregational committee or vestry about starting a planned giving process, the first thing I ask is, "What will you do with the large gift WHEN (not "if") you receive it?" Usually the members of the committee or vestry give me a blank stare.

I then ask them to spend some time visioning what St. Swithin's would do if they had \$5,000,000 in invested funds that provided additional annual income of \$200,000 (4% of \$5 million) AND they cannot use any of this income for the usual operations of the church—current programs, clergy salaries and benefits, administrative overhead, etc. That is when the fun begins. I've heard all sorts of response that describe ministries that they would love to be able to do but lack resources—ministries like setting up a program to help troubled teens in their community, expanding a mission project that they have been doing in countries like Haiti, or starting a school that provides opportunities for interfaith education.

We then get into a discussion about developing policies and procedures that will make invested funds life-giving to the congregation's mission and ministry

Of course I inevitably get the question as to why they can't use the income to "save" the church from its current financial crisis, and then I get my turn to tell about churches that I know about that are struggling to wean themselves from dependency on their large endowments because they are finding that this dependency is death-giving. Annual giving is low and current members don't feel the need to participate financially in the life in the congregation, and their hearts are not there. (Jesus did say that where our treasure is will be our hearts.)

So back to Bruce's and my musing about the \$205 million, I began to wonder what Christ Church will do when we get the BIG gift. Will we have thought through good policies and procedures for receiving, managing and using invested funds so that there won't be arguments and disagreement over the gift's use? Will these policies and procedures turn us inward or will they create possibilities for expanding our work in this community and beyond?

My fervent prayer is the latter. To that end I am happy to say a group of us are reviewing our current policies and procedures for invested funds and planned gifts, expanding and amending them and adding policies or procedures where needed so that hopefully our invested funds will increase and be a source of life and energy to Christ Church.

Dialogue/Hewar From Syria To Perform Concert for Peace in Dearborn, Sept. 29

Dialogue/Hewar, a music group from Damascus, Syria, will be bringing their unique style of music to Christ Church in a Concert for Peace on Thursday, September 29 at 7:30 pm. As their name suggests, Dialogue ("Hewar" in Arabic) seeks to build understanding and trust between people in America and the Middle East through music, the universal language. Their unique style combines the music of their homeland with the beat and style of contemporary jazz for a sound like nothing you've ever heard before! Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, children, and persons on limited income and are available at the door.

If you enjoyed Kulna Sawa last fall, you will enjoy Dialogue. For more details, visit www.concertsforpeace.net.

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reflected on life and meaning and the world. The puppies continue to grow and I get back into my cooking – at least a bit. We share the garden and the puppies with The Rev. Dr. David Ford and his family. He is the Regis Professor of Divinity at Cambridge and is an advisor to both the Primate of the Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury. He is also one of the founders, along with our host, of The Society for Scriptural Reasoning (<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/journals/ssr/>), an interfaith project. Our backyard is an archetypal “English garden” bustling with the exultant proclamation - “The Puppies are out!” as well as quiet reading and significant conversation. The days begin and end, stories are read as children complain about bed time and Elizabeth soaks in the culture of her birth.

Clearly the terrorist attacks of July 7th and 21st invaded our garden. But, they also laid bare where the grace of God was taking root to overcome such evil. For in Leicester, Loughborough and Lancaster, I took part in an interfaith community meeting, witnessed a Hindu-Christian Wedding, listened to young people discuss the events at a local library and spoke with theologians in the C of E about their strategies for engaging their society in interreligious and multicultural relations (locally, politically and ecclesiastically). As we sat together over drinks and compared notes, Christ Church was with me in spirit. It seems to me that we are all part of a common movement, inspired by God and striving to cultivate a new religious landscape, where hatred and alienation would lose their grip.

Home

As the wheels touched down, and I gently shook Julian to awake, I thought about how ten months ago, I discussed with the Vestry the opportunity of extending my vacation with two weeks of Sabbatical leave. As we ended our journey and turned toward home, I felt truly blessed. The time away proved restful, memorable and significant. Our hosts, The Rev. Dr. Daniel and Perrin Hardy, had graced us with the use of their wonderful home in Cambridge for six weeks. My family and I had the great opportunity to see friends and live in this premier university city.

Purfessor – That is what I did on my summer vacation!

Daniel

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workshop

Focus: “Getting and Giving: How Much is Enough?” Getting – what and how we as Christians “get,” with a focus on time, talents and particularly treasure (money); means of acquisition; use of resources; relationship to values; includes a parish panel on how the church gets its resources (annual pledge, capital campaign, planned giving, etc.)

Giving – how we as individuals have the opportunity to share what we have received, including the “who, what, when, where, why and how” of giving our financial resources; also includes a parish panel on how Christ Church gives (allocates) its resources.

Sunday morning

An Adult Forum focused on the Saturday workshop

A summary with key points, followed by a discussion led by selected workshop participants on the “take-aways” and personal applications.

An International Day of Peace Vigil Achieving Peace through Spiritual Observations

On September 21st, we will once again join with millions of others around the world in honoring the International Day of Peace. At 7am, noon and 5:30pm there will be prayer services in the Chapel and time to meditate there throughout the day and evening until 9pm.

This tradition began in 1981, when the United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Peace (IDP). Twenty years later that this same body modified its resolution by fixing September 21st as the annual date for its compelling notion to set aside strife for just one day. It seeks to have the entire world observe a 24 hour global ceasefire and nonviolence. This is the vision behind the United Nations' resolution for an International Day of Peace. Building p[ea]ce one day at a time. Come join us for a time of prayer and reflection.

MUSIC NOTES CONTINUED

There will be a special recital of organ music at Christ Church on Sunday, October 30, 2005 at 2 p.m. This fundraiser will feature our own church organist, Jung Yoo and a guest organist from the University of Michigan School of Music, Kirsten Hellman. Kirsten is a third year, DMA organ student at Michigan and studies with Marilyn Mason. She is the Music Director at the First Congregational Church of Wayne. I will also be playing on this program.

The organ recital is being sponsored by WADOS, the Women's Association of the Dearborn Orchestral Society. Celebrating its 43rd anniversary, the 300 members of the group raise thousands of dollars annually for the maintenance of the Dearborn Symphony. Our concert here at Christ Church is part of their Music Medley Chamber Series, now in its 16th season. I hope you can join us.

As always I am interested in hearing from you if you would like to see (or hear) something that you are not. Also, please bring forward your suggestions or concerns.

Welcome back to a new program year at Christ Church!

Yours,
Sean

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WELCOME JOSH! THANKS BEN AND PAUL

We're happy to announce that we have hired an assistant sexton, Joshua Groover. Josh is a senior at Dearborn High School and plans to study computers at U of M-Dearborn after graduating. While attending Christ Church he has served as an acolyte and an usher.

As many of you know Ben Kedzo found an employment opportunity this summer. Thanks go out to him after three years of service at Christ Church. Our sincere thanks go out to Paul Gray, who graciously offered to tend to the church grounds over the summer. As always, Paul has done a great job; we are all very thankful for his good work.

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.

FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of July 31, 2005

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$196,253	\$201,465
Other	\$40,974	\$14,370
Total Operating Income	\$237,227	\$215,835
Less Operating Expenses	\$257,192	\$258,032
Surplus / Deficit	\$(19,965)	\$(42,197)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all who have made their commitments to the 2005/2006 campaign! We have heard from almost everyone in our congregation and many have heard the call to increase their pledges. For this we are extremely thankful. As a reminder, it is not too late to submit your commitment card. We recognize that this has been a busy spring and summer for everyone and hope that the fall will allow you the time to reflect on the blessings God has given you and the place that Christ Church holds in your life.

As of August 1, the amount of pledge income for the 2005/2006 pledge year is \$310,683. More pledge cards are expected to be turned into the office before the end of the summer. By comparison, last year the pledges received as of August 2, 2004 for the 2004/2005 pledge year totaled \$318,571.

This year we have received eleven new pledge commitments, and sixty-one members of our parish increased their pledge over what those members had pledged last year. Sixty-two members of the parish made no change to their pledges from last year, and only eleven members reduced their annual pledge.

The Stewardship committee is making calls to remind those who haven't turned in their pledge cards. Getting in those outstanding pledge cards is important. It allows the Vestry and commissions to plan future programs and events.

Stewardship Committee

PROPERTY COMMISSION COOKS DURING SUMMER

The Property Commission has been very busy during the summer months putting your donations to the Capital Improvement Drive to work. I am very proud to report that through intense efforts of several members of the Property Commission, Christ Church was able to negotiate with the City of Dearborn and secure a building permit for the repaving of the parking lot without having to spend any money for engineering work or drainage construction. As a result, by the time you read this, the parking lot repaving should be complete, as well as the replacement of more than 3,000 square feet of sidewalks. This should both enhance our visible appearance and, more importantly, provide a safer environment for all who use the parking lot. Note that as a part of the negotiations with the city, a small "speed bump" was placed at the parking lot exits to divert water runoff from rail to the grass areas.

The Property Commission also successfully oversaw the completion of the purchase and installation of a new sound system, another Capital Improvement Drive item. The system includes new microphones, speakers in the church and speakers in the Prayer Rooms (which should help Prayer Room teachers know how the service is progressing).

Another audio-type improvement was the repair of the bells which was completed this summer. While this was not a Capital Drive item, the repair returns the bells to their ability to produce sweet sounds.

So much done, so much left to do. The exterior of the Church needs a lot of attention. The repair of the sidewalks has further disturbed the bell monument area that will need attention in the near future. While the Property Commission never seems to run out of things that need to be done, we have (almost) run out of Capital Drive funds. If you have made a pledge to the capital drive but are behind in fulfilling that pledge, please send what you can to the Church Office. If you have not made a pledge but would like to, please contact the Church Office for a pledge form. Donations can also be made to the Capital Drive at any time (with or without making a pledge) if the spirit moves you.

LOG ON TO:

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

LOOKING FOR LOST BOOKS!

The Murray Stover Library is currently missing about 50 books, both children's and adult's. Some have been checked out for over a year! Please take a look on your bookshelves at home and return any books that belong to the church. There are no late fees, just leave them on the return cart so other folks can enjoy them. Thanks from The Library Staff

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

In response to the requests made on Sunday mornings, a number of persons have volunteered to help keep the clothing cupboard in order and to deliver clothing to distribution points. In addition, persons have volunteered to deliver food destined for Crossroads. We would still like more volunteers. If you have a little time to offer, please talk with Jan in the office or with Margaret Haas. Remember, many hands make light work.

ECW ANNUAL MEETING

The 125th Annual Meeting of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be held on Saturday, October 1st at St. Paul's Cathedral – Detroit. The details and registration forms are on the bulletin board opposite the Church Office. This is open to ALL women. Let's get a group together and show the diocese that Christ Church – Dearborn is still alive! Questions: contact Barbara Hall (313) 274-4843 or Jan in the office.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

What a busy summer at Christ Church! Your Vestry has been busy too!

Some highlights of our summer meetings include:

- Revising Financial Policies
- Preparation for Mutual Ministry Review
- Stewardship Campaign Follow-up
- Coordinating Yearlong Commission Calendars
- 2006 Budget Preparation
- Responding to Congregational Concerns

For more information regarding these topics, refer to the Vestry meeting minutes in the office lobby or ask any Vestry member!

SUNDAY FORUM SCHEDULE SET

The Adult Formation Committee has finalized the forum schedule through January. It is a diverse schedule that should appeal to many different interests.

Let me draw a few special presentations to your attention.

On September 18—the first forum of the year—members of the congregation will speak about the value of the small-group experiences, namely, the Bible study and discussion groups that are springing up at Christ Church.

During the last weekend in September stewardship consultant Davis Fisher will be making presentation and leading discussions. He will present the forum on September 25.

Our friend Cam Amin will be back with us on October 2 to discuss events in the Middle East.

Bishop Gibbs will visit Christ Church on December 11 and will have forum time on that day.

Four weeks will be devoted to Via Media spin-off discussions, to more in-depth discussions of topics raised during Via Media presentations.

The full schedule is listed below. Read it and mark your calendars.

September 18: Small-group opportunities

September 25: Davis Fisher on stewardship

October 9: Cam Amin

October 16: Sean Jackman on church music

October 23: Via Media spin-off: What makes us special as Christians—and how does that affect our relationships with persons who are not Christians?

October 30: Via Media spin-off: "Isms" in the Church: Racism and Discrimination of all kinds

November 6 and 13: Simplifying Christmas

December 4: St. Nicholas versus Santa Claus

December 11: Bishop Gibbs

January 8 and 15: Via Media spin-off discussions; topics to be decided

January 29: The Immaculate Conception" and other popular misconceptions

On the following Sundays there will be no forum:

September 11: parish picnic

November 20: packing of Thanksgiving baskets

November 27: Thanksgiving weekend

December 18: Greening of the church

December 25: Christmas Day

January 1: New Year's Day

January 22: Annual Meeting

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

The Journey to Adulthood program is inspired for another fantastic year. This fall, one of the Rite-13 groups graduates into the J2A component of the program. Dale Taylor and Susan Gregg just can't part with this wonderful group and will continue on with them for another two years. Erika Morrison and John Porter will continue to guide the other Rite-13 group through their second year. Here's to the start of another wonderful Journey!

RITE-13 CELEBRATION

During the 10:00 service on Sunday, September 11, we will celebrate an important rite of passage with Thomas LeDuc, Elizabeth Hines, Eleanor Bell, and Isabelle Howes. This liturgy is formally called "The Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood," but is referred to as "Rite-13" since it takes place near the candidate's 13th birthday, much like a bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah.

During the ceremony, we recognize the gift of womanhood or manhood that God bestows on each one of us. This is a free gift that we cannot earn and need not prove. This gift is the essence of who we are. As we grow and mature in the journey to adulthood, our knowledge and skills increase, but the magical core of who we are remains the same.

Please keep Tom, Liz, Elli and Isabelle in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this celebration.

PRAYER ROOM

A special thank you to all the readers and teachers who helped with the summer Prayer Room program: it was great fun! With the start of the new church-school year, we will resume our regular Prayer Room classes. Each Prayer Room offers an age-appropriate Christian-formation experience for our children during the church service. Our three- and four-year-olds participate in a Montessori-based curriculum in the "downstairs" Prayer Room, while our children aged five through seven learn through liturgical-based stories and action in the Prayer Room on the second floor.

BIBLE STUDY

Two opportunities for Bible study will begin in September. The Sunday afternoon Bible study group, which began last spring, will begin meeting again after a summer's rest. The group will look at some of the psalms and psalm-like passages from the Bible. Rather than going from Psalm 1 to Psalm 150, we will look at some of the themes contained in the psalms and concentrate on a few examples of each theme. This group will hold its first meeting on September 18 from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Subsequent meetings are tentatively set for October 2, October 16, and October 30.

There has been some interest expressed in having a weekday morning Bible study. This fall we will begin to respond to that need by inaugurating a Wednesday morning study group. That group will begin by reading and studying the book of the Acts of the Apostles, the second book written by the writer of the Gospel of Luke. The first meeting of this group is set for September 21, from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Subsequent meetings are tentatively set for October 5, October 19, November 2, and November 9.

Watch your Sunday "Communicator" for reading assignments. If you have questions, please contact Margaret Haas.

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Last fall a group of persons began to meet at Christ Church around the subject of what it means to be a Christian in twenty-first century America. What are the joys and difficulties for us as we seek to live as disciples as Jesus Christ? That group—which was to have stopped meeting in early February—is still meeting. Members challenge one another and offer support to one another.

There is room at Christ Church for more groups of this kind, small discussion groups that allow us to explore our faith with one another in ways we do not normally do.

At the Sunday forum on September 18, persons who have had the opportunity to participate in small groups will talk about the benefits of that experience. And those of you who may be drawn to such an opportunity will have the opportunity to respond—if you want to do so—by forming a new group and by choosing the issue you would like to discuss.

I invite you to that September 18 forum. I also invite you to speak with me if you have any interest in the small-group experience—or if there is an aspect of your faith experience that you would really like to explore with others.

Margaret Haas

HOMECOMING PARKING

We would like to thank everyone who helped with J2A's most important fundraiser during the Homecoming weekend. It was good fun and great conversation, with full cooperation from the weather and the asphalt repaving crew! We raised \$1,962 from parking donations. The donations are designated to partially fund the Pilgrimage component of the J2A curriculum. Thank you, thank you!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN WHO WANT TO SERVE AS AN ACOLYTE

All children in 4th grade and up are invited to serve as acolytes. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to participate in and learn more about the worship service with a front row seat! The next training session for Torch Bearers will be on Sunday, September 25, from 11:30 to 12:30 (right after church). Please meet in the choir pews.

Children in seventh grade and up are invited to train for Crucifer and Server. Training for these two acolyte positions will also be in September at a time to be announced (watch the Communicator for details). Acolytes serve about once a month, with the schedule made up two months at a time. All Acolytes are reminded that they should dress respectfully for their duties as acolytes—please do not wear T-shirts with slogans as they are visible under the albs. Contact Susan Ward (791-0483) for more information.



DIVERSITY AND FUN ABOUNDS AT GIRL SCOUT DAY CAMP HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH

Thank You Christ Church for the use of your fabulous building and grounds for our 2nd annual In-Town Adventures Day Camp. 100 girls from all over Metro Detroit gathered in Dearborn for 4 days of fun.

Nine of our 22 volunteer adults and 32 girls were from Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. Girls traveled from as far as Gibraltar, Birmingham and Grosse Pointe.

In the Undercroft, we had arts and crafts center that included tie dying our bandanas, making sand candles, dipping candles, and making bug box habitats. The basement kitchen was a great place for our science program as well as our "Sweet Shoppe" where we learned about cooking and made candy! We used every inch of the basement when we had thunderstorms! How wonderful to have so many rooms!

In the backyard we played field sports, did painted art projects, explored suburban ecology and had a family picnic complete with songs and skits. We even used the ENTIRE parking lot for our "Car Care" badge. We learned about engines, care and maintenance, and washed the leaders, Church Staff and Clergy's cars!

We hiked to Ford Field and worked in the native Michigan gardens there, planting native plants and weeding out the invasive species. We saw just how great the location of your church is!

The ramp and elevator were invaluable to us as we had two physically handicapped scouts, including one in a wheelchair. Because of your facility, those girls could participate in every activity! Thank you for being conscientious of the needs of all types of people!

Thanks to your kindness in allowing us to use your facility, day camp was a huge success! Everyone was very pleased and impressed with the church and grounds. A special "Thank You!" to Bob Smith for cleaning up after us each day and keeping us well in order! What a huge job to put things to rights after five days of 125 people!

May God continue to bless Christ Church, as you have been a blessing to these girls. Your service to the community is a credit to your congregation!

Yours in Scouting,
Lee Ann Mulligan and Jane Culp,
Directors
In-Town Adventures Day Camps,
Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit

Hospitality

continued from page 1

But the job of welcoming still belongs to all of us. Here is a thought provoking piece from a book entitled *Entertaining Angels*, by Elizabeth Rankin Geitz, which just might help us prepare for visitors this fall.

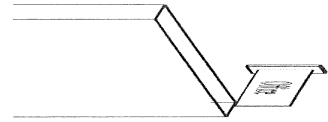
"Hello, I am a Newcomer to Your Church. Won't you please ...

- § Make eye contact and smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of your church community and this first impression will probably stay with me a long time.
- § Please don't make me walk over top of you. I know you like to sit on the end of the pew. But your willingness to share your pew space tells me that you are glad I am here.
- § Speak to me at the end of the service. Stay for Lemonade on the Lawn and invite me to stay as well.
- § Notice me – especially if I am standing alone, looking unsure. I don't want to feel invisible just because I don't know anyone.
- § Tell me good things about your church. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important with and for God.
- § Invite me to return. And speak to me again if I do. Please don't feel that you have "done your duty" by me just because you made a point of greeting me the first week I was here.
- § Invite me to become part of some church group or activity. I need more than worship every Sunday. I need a deeper sense of purpose and of being known as an individual.
- § If you reach out and speak to me, and find out that I have been a member for years, please don't be embarrassed – I don't know your name or face either. Now I do.

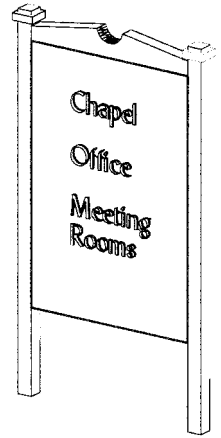
If you can find it in your heart to do these things, I will come back. I will worship with you again, and maybe even join your choir, teach in your church school, contribute to your pledge campaign, become a highly involved member in your church. In doing so, I will find my life immeasurably enriched. Perhaps you will as well.

A GOOD SIGN

"We, the Building Evangelism committee, believe that our building begins to speak for us before anyone utters a single word. It expresses what we value, what we believe about God, and how we understand our community: it tells the story of who we are. And because we know this to be a place that invites strangers and newcomers into its midst, we wanted first and foremost to make sure that the building speaks words of welcome" (from "A Proposal for Building Evangelism").



To that end, we have been working for the past year to devise a system of signs that will allow newcomers to navigate our parking lot and building more easily. At a series of adult forum sessions, we brainstormed with congregants about visitors' needs, and presented our working ideas for discussion. We then took this information and began consultation with a number of sign companies, eventually arriving at a comprehensive proposal for interior and exterior signs. We sent this proposal to Property for input, and then sent the amended proposal to the Vestry, who gave it their full support.



When considering the signs themselves, we sought a design that would complement the beauty and style of our colonial building and grounds. Looking around, we were inspired by the graceful curve of our current marquee sign. Beginning in early September, then, we will be working with Spectrum Signs and Designs (a local Dearborn company) to create and install signs that echo those lines. Including processing time for city permits, the project should be completed in about two months.

There will be five outdoor signs at key decision points around the building. Each finished sign will be approximately 3-½ ft tall, with a white frame surrounding a metallic bronze face with white lettering.

Indoors, there will be six 24"x15" wall signs, made of the same metallic bronze face with white lettering. These will be cut to echo the same curve as the outdoor frame, and mounted at appropriate locations on each floor.



Additionally, small signs will be projection-mounted (perpendicular to the wall) above certain doorways and fixtures, indicating key locations such as the Office, Restrooms and Elevator.

After much research, consultation and compromise, we trust that we have succeeded at the task with which we were entrusted, arriving at a plan that will enhance both the beauty and the accessibility of our building.

Respectfully submitted,
The Building Evangelism committee

PASSAGES

Birthdays

9/1 Dolega, John
 9/2 Marzonie, Christopher, Ukrainec, Collin, Zaler, Shirley
 9/3 Bache, Leslie, Nini, Peter
 9/5 Logan, Gwendolyn
 9/6 Ebling, George
 9/8 Kish, Barry
 9/9 Farkas, Ann
 9/10 Mooney, Shirley
 9/12 Audi, Grace, Sell, Gertrude
 9/14 Audi, Richard, Blasier, Katherine
 9/15 Lieberman, Al, McLeod, Monica
 9/16 Pearce, John, Thomas, Sarge
 9/18 Sallman, Georgiana
 9/19 Gray, Jonathan

9/20 Eifert, Robert
 9/21 Culp, Jane
 9/22 Pierce, Hannah
 9/23 Gauthier, Catherine
 9/24 Groover, Charles, Joens, Alexander
 9/25 Amis, Martha, Waddell, Stuart
 9/27 Hall, Barbara, Hodges, Evelyn
 Stuber, Suzie
 9/28 DeGiulio, Brian
 9/28 Oatney, Clare
 9/29 Woolever, Karma
 9/30 Clickner, Mary Agnes

Anniversaries

9/2 Dolega, John & Eleanor, 51 years
 9/4 Farkas, Elmer & Ann, 57 years

9/11 Buzby, Robert & Eunice, 57 years
 9/13 Audi, Richard & Susan, 8 years
 9/14 Behm, William & Donna, 37 years
 9/15 Oelkers, Ted & Jean, 49 years
 9/18 Borg, Danny & Lynn, 6 years
 9/18 Kenney, Peter & Lynn, 34 years
 9/21 Cooper, Keith & Marie, 14 years
 9/22 Lieberman, Al & Leah, 4 years
 9/22 Rogers, Kent & Vicki, 15 years
 9/28 Eifert, Robert & Michelle, 9 years

Deaths

6/23 Helen Danes
 7/9 Marcia Porritt Strickler
 7/14 Allan C. Thayer
 7/21 Mildred Trimble

PERIODICAL

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website: www.christchurchdearborn.org

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID

“Getting and Giving: How Much Is Enough?”

**Date: Saturday, September 24
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Join Davis Fisher as he leads a reflective workshop for our parish. The focus is on understanding how we view “Getting and Giving to God” within our personal lives and our life at Christ Church.

**Christ Episcopal Church
120 N. Military
(313) 565-8450**

**Please note that lunch will be served.
Call the office to register.**

Staff

The Rev. Daniel S. Appleyard, Rector
The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Margaret A. Haas, Assistant Rector
Bob Smith, Sexton
Josh Groover, Assistant Sexton
Jan Timpko, Parish Administrator
Communications Coordinator
Jung Yoo, Organist
Sean Jackman, Assistant Director of Music
Tess Dowgiallo, Children’s Choir Director

Vestry

Martha Amis, Junior Warden
Diana Brehob, Evangelism
Jamie Connelly, Finance
Jane Culp, Senior Warden
Kevin Green, Education/Christian Formation
Ross Groover, Property Commission
Brooke Hofmann-Porter, Communication
Sean Quaint, Service Commission
Edwina Simpson, Evangelism
Roger Somerville, Stewardship
Susan Ward, Service Commission

Officers of the Vestry

George Morrison, Clerk
Robert Buzby, Treasurer
Susan McCullen, Recording Secretary
Jan Motsinger, Recording Secretary

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.