

## WELCOME BACK TO PARISH LIFE

### A creative new approach to Church School

Something's going on with the Church School Commission. They look nervous, but excited too: a sure sign that change is in the air!

As they tell it, they have a whole new way to do Church School this year. They've been looking for this for a while, seeking something that will challenge and engage both the kids and the teachers ... something that complements the stories and crafts of our Prayer Room program, and meets our very active and creative children where they are.

The program they've designed seems infinitely flexible. The kids will generally be split into two groups, of 4-7 and 8-11 year olds. Then, in three- or four-week blocks, each group will sing, or cook, or garden, or make a banner or whatever art (interpreted fairly broadly) the leader wishes to share with them. At the end of this time, the kids might then share what they've done, singing or chiming in church, or displaying a banner in the sanctuary, or something we can't yet imagine because they haven't done it yet.

The Commission will be seeking a different person (or team) to share a passion, talent or interest with the kids for each block. So one of the great beauties of the program is that an adult (this means you!) who wouldn't dream of signing on for an entire year of teaching Church School can now sign up for just a few weeks. And you'd be doing something (almost anything, really!) that you love. Plus, there'll be teacher's aides present to help with crowd control, so you won't be in it all alone. The kids, then, will get the chance to interact with a far wider range of adults in the congregation than they otherwise would have.

Are there any limits? Could it, say, be motorcycle repair? Sure, if we could come up with some models for the little kids to work on. Could it be mosaic making? Absolutely. Could it be mime? Uh huh. Could it be hair-cutting? Well, there are some things we'd need permission slips for!

Any and all of these things will provide ways in which the kids and adults can explore a biblical story or theme. While they are cooking they could discover first-hand the image of the kingdom of God as yeast leavening a measure of flour. In the garden, as they are planting, the idea of God as gardener will come to life. The possibilities are endless, and the experiences of what it means to be a people in relationship with God will be vivid and memorable.

So, the Church School Commission invites you to think about what you might share and explore with our young people. It's going to be a great year!

### *Parish Picnic kicks off a new year of Church School*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 11:15AM**

- Tasty burgers and hot dogs provided.
- Bring a side dish to share.
- Enjoy fellowship and fun

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

# Exploring creativity and the sacred story

There is something intrinsically holy about making, about creating. That's what I told the kids from the Summer Arts Camp, held

here at the church in June. At the time they looked suitably impressed, but it's possible they secretly considered this revelation one big "Duhhh."

Because when you are in the midst of it, you can tell. When you are digging your hands in the dirt to plant something, spreading bright colors across the emptiness of paper, feeling the music moving through your body, something in you connects with the Creator of all things. You are part of it, part of the work that lies at the essence of God's very being. God creates. And we, made in God's image, do too.

Anglican worship (and thus Anglican theology) has always reflected this knowledge. We believe we encounter God not only through the words of scripture, but also in the sensual tapestry of our liturgy, catching glimpses of God in the beauty of the music, the taste and texture of bread, the color of the priest's stole. Ours is a profoundly incarnate faith, knowing God to be not "out there," but deep at the heart of

everything that is. That which seems profane is actually filled with the holy. And to be creative—to engage in that which is growing, seeking and making—connects us to that reality.

Which is the thinking that underlies the new Church School program we will begin this fall (see front page article). In it, the kids will get the chance to explore their creativity and the sacred story through a variety of mediums. They will cook, they will make music, they will garden and they will no doubt get covered with paint and glue and glitter. Weaving through the midst of this will be the biblical themes of growth and the kingdom, redemption and resurrection, joy and wonder.

Christians are formed in so many ways, and we trust that this enterprise will shape our children (and those who choose to share their passions with them) in ways that are engaging, challenging, and always open to the surprising movement of the Spirit.

In peace,  
Clare

Explore

Create

Engage

Challenge

## Vestry Reflection

By Jamie Connelly

My 15 year-old daughter recently obtained her driver's permit. This is unsettling to me on a couple of fronts. First, it reminds me that I am getting old. I remember when I first got my permit, and here it is only a short time later that my child is that age. Time really flies! Second, I can't believe they let little kids drive. I guess I am in denial that she is getting older, but then again, I didn't want her to turn five.

She was driving recently on the way home from a friend's cottage just south of Chelsea. The road we were on was exceptionally winding and hilly, especially if you have only driven on city streets. As she approached the turns, I noticed she was slowing down way too much and I was worried about getting rear-ended. When I pointed out that she should maintain her speed unless the signs indicate a slower speed, she pointed out that she didn't know what was around the corner so she was afraid of going too fast.

This happened at around the same time that the Vestry was wrestling with changing the pledge year and discussions were starting about changing the budget process. In case you haven't heard, the Vestry recently approved changing the pledge year back to the calendar year. For the last few years our pledge year has been July to June. We are now reverting back to January to December.

We are also attempting to modify our budget process. We hope to get away from starting our budget process with the status quo. Instead we want to think about it as what is needed. Instead of budgeting for the coming year based upon what was spent (or not spent) in the past year, we want to dream big and think about what ministries we would like to undertake in the next year.

This is as unsettling to some as that winding, hilly road was to my daughter. Unfortunately there are no signs to give us an indication that we are doing the right thing at the right speed. We have to go forward on faith.

We have to have faith that the parish will continue to contribute at the same level (or higher) during the last half of 2006, even though there is no pledge identified for this period. We have to have faith that dreaming big for our future ministry will lead not to disappointment, but to new opportunities to share our faith and to expand our community.

As a member of the Vestry and Senior Warden, I ask you to join us on this journey of faith over the next six months and dream big. As a member of the Finance and Property Commissions, I ask your help in identifying our dreams. What would you like to see done that isn't being done now? If you don't know who to convey your ideas to, please let me know and I will get the information into the correct hands.

# Vestry motion means new title for Clare Oatney

The Vestry passed a motion in June that has, in effect, changed Clare Oatney's title from Assistant Rector to Associate Rector.

The motion defines the Associate Rector position as "an ordained clergy person with ten or more years of experience, or one who has served at Christ Church for at least three years and who, through experience and proven competence, is deemed by the Rector to have, or be ready to assume, major responsibility for leadership in the ministries of the parish."

The motion also included definitions for Curate as "a newly ordained clergy person, retaining that title for the first two years of employment" and Assistant to the Rector/Assistant Rector as "a newly hired clergy person with less than ten years of experience or a Curate who has served in that position for two or more years. The Assistant will retain this title for at least three years, after which he or she would be eligible for the title of Associate Rector."

Clare came to Christ Church in June 1998 and was ordained priest here on February 10, 1999.

## Vestry explores broader mission for Outreach Committee

By Sine Cookman & Edwina Simpson

As members of the Vestry working on one of this year's Vestry goals, we are in the first stages of exploring the mission of an Outreach Committee that will best represent our parish and the Church. We have concentrated our discussions on the three different sectors of outreach: local, national and international.

Through these discussions we have identified charities and needs that would like our help, many of which Christ Church has already embraced such as, Trinity Soup Kitchen, the Christmas gift project, Christ Church Detroit homeless shelter, etc. However all of these are in this local area, so over the next few months we would like to concentrate on extending our outreach efforts to the other two sectors.

Ideas that we've come up with are adopting a church in Louisiana/Mississippi, promoting international outreach through the Crop Walk, and introducing fair trade products in church.

A proposed mission statement has also emerged from our conversations:

*Our mission is to use our time, talent and money to help causes beyond the walls of Christ Church for local, national and international causes, with a mind to doing God's will for the good of all God's people.*

If you have other ideas or you are interested in helping with the formation of this committee, please come to a meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00pm in Room 213. Five to six more interested and energetic people will create an Outreach Committee that will do much to fulfill God's mission through Christ Church.

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

If you're a steward (you are!) you always have to deal with the prospect that the Owner (or Landlord) will be absent while you continue your faithful service.

In the asset-based approach, you acknowledge that reality — you're not waiting around for the Owner to come back. But you don't forget another reality: God doesn't leave stewards hanging high and dry.

When you're a steward (you are!) you understand that what remains present — you can hear it, see it, touch it — is the will of the Owner. As Owner, God wants to continue creating, redeeming and making things holy. God wants to continue rubbing out evil. God wants people to live in love. God has in mind that forgiveness will continue to overcome blame and guilt. You understand this as "God's will," and it's what you try to get done by the way you live your life.

You hear and see God's will because you understand your dependence on God's Word for your life's meaning. Jesus is the example. The Holy Spirit equips you for following that example. God continues to recreate you and the world around you so that Jesus' example can actually take place. You are surrounded by like-minded people of faith with a similar sense of life purpose.

When you're a steward (you are!) you're not left alone at all. Jesus promises you the same thing he promised his followers: "I will be with you always, even until the end of the world" (Matthew 28:29 CEV). How is that true for you?

*From Bob Sitze's book, The Great Permission: An Asset-Based Field Guide for Congregations*

THE YEAR  
OF FELLOWSHIP:  
Building Community  
with Open Hearts



By Sean Jackman

## Help fill the shelves at Crossroads

Crossroads is in dire need of travel-size toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo and other hygiene items. They also are in need of tuna fish, crackers, bread and canned fruit. These items do not stay on the shelves very long and are distributed as fast as they come in. Please drop off your donations for Crossroads in the main floor kitchen. Thank you for your past donations and in advance for the above items.

## Church World Service representative visits

David Bower, Church World Service/CROP Walk Director for Michigan, will serve as guest preacher in our services on Sunday, September 17, and as presenter at the Adult Forum that day. Bower has provided leadership for the Michigan Regional CWS/CROP office since 1970. Prior to that he served as a CWS representative in Pakistan for three years and received CWS' Outstanding Performance Award for his administrative work in East Pakistan as a volunteer in 1963. In his current role, he has traveled throughout the world, visiting CWS development projects, studying and photographing partner programs, servicing the communication needs of CWS staff, participating in an Overseas Educational Experience, and visiting refugees. Originally from Elkhart, Indiana, Bower lives in the Lansing area.

## Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen

*"Come to me all ye who travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you."* On Saturday, September 2, you can offer that sort of refreshment to those in need by helping out at the Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen, held at the church formerly known as Trinity Episcopal Church in Detroit. As always, what we need most is willing hands. The more the merrier and easier to prepare the food, set up the kitchen and dining room and then, most importantly, serve the food to those in need! It's really not a lot of time and there is a strong sense of satisfaction and true contribution that we don't often get in our other areas of labor. For those who would like to help prepare the food, we will carpool and convoy downtown, leaving the Christ Church parking lot at 8:30am. Anyone who would like to help serve the food may arrive at Spirit of Hope Church at 11:30am. Lunch is served from noon to 1:00pm. We should return to Christ Church by 3:00pm. A sign-up sheet is posted across from the church office or contact Paul Vandeventer and Carrie Serfass at 313-724-9330 or micawber@vanserf.com.

## Hatha Yoga classes at Christ Church

As part of Journey of Faith's fall offerings, two yoga classes will be offered at Christ Church. Led by Kirsten Antkowiak, RYT, they will be offered on Mondays from 7:00—8:15pm and Thursdays from 5:15—6:30pm. Cost is \$7 per class, payable on a monthly basis. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. The lessons will be tailored to the individual abilities of the participants and will include a spiritual-meditation component. For more information, contact Kirsten at 734-558-7625 or visit her website: [www.internetyogaclass.com](http://www.internetyogaclass.com). Classes start September 7. Dress in gym clothes, bring a yoga mat and a block or blanket.

The Music Department had a great summer and we are looking forward to the beginning of the 2006/07 program year this month. Children's Choir Director Tess Dowgiallo, Organist Jung Yoo and I will continue to work together to offer a music program that enriches our worship and includes some of the ideas and suggestions you've shared.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made our second annual Summer Arts Camp a wonderful experience for children. A special thanks to our program leaders: Tess Dowgiallo (Chimes and Orff Instruments), Erika Morrison (Art), Emily Goward (Dance), and Jane Lewy (Drama). I led the camp and taught the vocal music component. Isabelle Behm and Margaret Green kept us well fed with great lunches. Thanks also to all of our volunteers, campers and parents for making that week possible.

I'm also grateful for the various individuals and groups who contributed to worship this summer with their musical gifts. Diana Brehob organized a Young Women's Chorus in June, Tony Johnson offered solos on several Sundays, and Jung and I offered several organ/piano duets. I believe these special offerings enhanced our worship experiences while the ensembles took a much-needed rest. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.

## A New Season of Music

Fall is a great time to join the choir and I encourage you to do so. The **Adult Choir** will reconvene for weekly rehearsals on Thursdays, from 7:30-9:00pm, starting September 7. We will sing for the first time in church on September 10.

On Sunday, November 19, at 3:00pm church choirs in our area will participate in a performance of Schubert's Mass in G Major with string and organ accompaniment. This will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (corner of Mason and Beech), conducted by John Haury of St. Paul's. Currently six other choirs have committed to be involved. This large ensemble is open to everyone. I will be rehearsing much of the music during regular choir rehearsals at our church and we will sing excerpts from the work as our anthems throughout the fall. With only one or two mass rehearsals at St. Paul's, you may want to think about this short-term commitment as you plan your fall activities.

With a desire to encourage more participation in the **Bell Choir** and **Children's Choir** and to make better use of our financial and human resources, these groups will no longer meet weekly. In consultation with

*Continued on page 7*

## JOIN US

### Parish Picnic

**Sunday, Sept. 10, 11:15AM**

Join us as we kick off a new year of Church School at our annual Parish Picnic. Hot dogs and burgers will be the main dish. We ask that you bring a side dish to share.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Breakfast Bunch

**Sundays, 9AM**

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

### St. Mary's of Bethany

#### Prayer Group

**Tuesdays, 10AM**

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

### The Adult Forums

**Sunday, Sept. 17 & 24**

**11:30AM-12:15PM**

**Sept. 17** David Bower on Crop Walk

**Sept. 24** TBD

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

### Prayer Room

**Sundays, 10:05AM**

Worship activities for children 3-7 years.

### Church School

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

Beginning Sept. 17. Children aged 4 to 7 and 8 to 11 participate in a variety of creative learning experiences exploring a biblical story or theme in three- to four-week blocks. If you are interested in sharing a passion, talent or interest with children for one of the learning blocks, please contact a Church School Commission member or call the church office.

### Rite 13

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

For youth ages 11-13. Contacts: Erika Morrison, 313-791-2709 and John Porter, 313-354-3169.

### J2A

**Sundays, 11:30AM**

For youth ages 14-16. Contacts: Susan Gregg and Dale Taylor, 313-277-1975.

## FAMILY INTEREST

### Baptism

**Preparation Class: Sept. 2,**

**10AM-12PM;**

**Baptism: Sept. 3, 10AM**

Baptism Preparation class is required for parents and godparents of children being presented for Baptism the next day. Call the church office by August 28 if you're interested.

### Chapel Day Preschool

**Parent Orientation: Wednesday,**

**Sept. 6, 7:00PM**

For parents of preschoolers enrolled this fall.

**First Day of School: Wednesday,**

**Sept. 13 and Thursday, Sept. 14**

## MEETINGS

### Adult Formation Commission

**Tuesday, Sept. 5, 5:00PM**

### St. Martha's Guild

**Tuesday, Sept. 12, Noon**

Enjoy a pleasant afternoon of fellowship as St. Martha's Guild kicks off a new year of meetings the second Tuesday of every month through June. This month Barbara Hall will tell the Guild about her recent trip to Austria. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. Any questions, call co-chairpersons Jo Reiner at 313-562-2363 or Luceil Pedler at 313-563-1843.

### Property Commission

**Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7:00PM**

### Vestry Meeting

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 1:00PM**

### Outreach Commission

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:00PM**

### Finance Committee

**Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:00PM**

## MUSIC MINISTRY

For more information related to this year's music program, contact Sean Jackman at seanjackman@hotmail.com or 313-562-0136.

### Adult Choir

**Thursdays, 7:30-9PM**

Starting September 7. Anyone interested in joining the choir is welcome to attend the choir's first rehearsal of the new season.

## Handbell & Children's Choir

These choirs will no longer meet weekly, but will have opportunity to participate in singing and playing throughout the year beginning sometime in October.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

### Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen

**Saturday, Sept. 2, 8:30AM-3PM**

Be a part of the team that helps to prepare and serve lunch to Detroit's less fortunate. Meet in Christ Church's parking lot at 8:30am to carpool or meet at Spirit of Hope Church (formerly Trinity Church) at 9:00am. Sign-up sheet posted near the church office or contact Paul Vandeventer or Carrie Serfass at 313-724-9330 or micawber@vanserf.com.

## HEALTHY OPTIONS

### Hatha Yoga

**Mondays, 7:00-8:15PM; Thursdays,**

**5:15-6:30PM**

Beginning September 7. Led by Kirsten Antkowiak, RYT, lessons are tailored to the individual abilities of the participants and include a spiritual-meditation component. Cost is \$7 per class, payable on a monthly basis. Sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. For more information, contact Kirsten at 734-558-7625 or visit her website: www.internetyogaclass.com. Dress in gym clothes, bring a yoga mat and a block or blanket.

### Martial Arts

**Sundays, 3:30 & 4:30PM;**

**Wednesdays, 6:30PM**

ShitoKan martial arts classes designed to address the body as a temple of spiritual life. One-and-a-half-hour classes for 12-year-olds and up offered Sundays at 4:30pm and Wednesdays at 6:30pm. \$40/month. One-hour class for children aged 6-11 years offered on Sundays at 3:30pm. No fee. For more information, contact Michael Mroczek or Martha Amis at 313-724-8845.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	2 8:30-3:00 Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen 10:00 Baptism Prep 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
3 8:00 HE 10:00 HE & Baptism 10:05 Prayer Room 11:15 Lemonade on the Lawn 3:30&4:30 MartialArts	4 <b>Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8:00 AA	5 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE & Healing 5:00 Adult Formation 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 6:30 Martial Arts 7:00 Chapel Day Parent Orientation 7:30 AA	7 11:30 AA 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Garden Club 7:30 Choir	8 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	9 10:00-12 Exploring Your Spiritual Journey Orientation 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
10 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 11:15 Parish Picnic 3:30&4:30 Martial Arts	11 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Scout Leaders 8:00 AA	12 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha's 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 <i>Chapel Day Back to School</i> 6:30 Martial Arts 7:00 Property Comm 7:30 AA	14 <i>Chapel Day Back to School</i> 11:30 AA 5:15 Yoga 7:30 Choir	15 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	16 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
17 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 1:00 Vestry Meeting 3:30&4:30 Martial Arts	18 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	19 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Outreach Comm	20 1:00 Library Meeting 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA	21 11:30 AA 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Finance Comm 7:30 Choir	22 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	23 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
24 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 3:30&4:30 Martial Arts	25 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	26 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA	28 11:30 AA 5:15 Yoga 7:30 Choir	29 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	30 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith

**OCTOBER COURIER DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15**

Log on to: [www.christchurchdearborn.org](http://www.christchurchdearborn.org) for Staff, Vestry, Ministry Listings; Weekly Sunday Readings; Community Highlights; The Courier

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3**

**Acolytes** TBD  
**Ushers** (8am) L. Crane  
 (10am) Team 3 – M. Piernick, Prokoff, Kedzo  
**Greeters** TBD  
**Lector/L.E.M.** (8am) D. Green  
 (10am) N. Lehnert, D. Cardwell, B. Hall  
 G. Morrison, B. Caldwell, L. Conklin  
**Altar Guild**  
**LEVs** M. Pellegrino, P. Poceta  
**VPOD** A. Johnson  
**Sunday Readings: The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Deuteronomy 4:1-9; Psalm 15; Ephesians 6:10-20;  
 Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10**

**Acolytes** TBD  
**Ushers** (8am) G. Ebling  
 (10am) Team 4 – J. Groover, L. Leduc, D. Young  
**Greeters** TBD  
**Lector/L.E.M.** (8am) D. Petts  
 (10am) K. Green, R. Groover, A. Johnson  
 S. Mulkern  
**Altar Guild** C. Goss, J. Shaw, E. Boyar  
**VPOD** D. Brehob  
**Sunday Readings: The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146:4-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:31-37

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17**

**Acolytes** TBD  
**Ushers** (8am) T. Foster  
 (10am) Team 5 – Brim, Mills, Searles  
**Greeters** TBD  
**Lector/L.E.M.** (8am) M. Piernick  
 (10am) D. Petts, M. Sallman, E. Simpson  
 L. Pedler, K. Hipp, D. Hipp  
 J. Connelly  
**Altar Guild**  
**VPOD**  
**Sunday Readings: The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 116:1-8; James 2:1-5,8-10,14-18;  
 Mark 8:27-38

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24**

**Acolytes** TBD  
**Ushers** (8am) J. Pedler  
 (10am) Team 1 – Baker, Garris  
**Greeters** TBD  
**Lector/L.E.M.** (8am) B. Hofmann-Porter  
 (10am) M. Piernick, M. Amis, D. Brehob  
**Altar Guild** TBD  
**LEVs** B. Hall, M. Pellegrino  
**VPOD** M. Amis  
**Sunday Readings: The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Wisdom 1:16-2:1(6-11); Psalm 54; James 3:16-4:6;  
 Mark 9:30-37

# Looking back on 30 years in the parish choir

By Nancy Lehnert

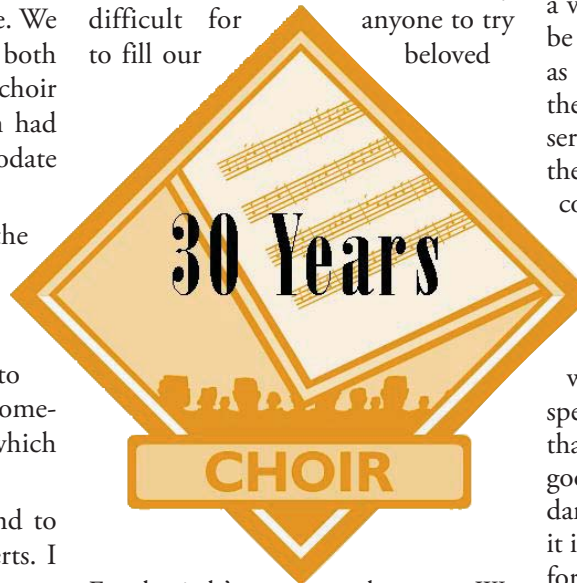
When I joined the Christ Church Choir in September 1976, we had two choirs — the Family Choir and the Parish Choir. The Family Choir was composed of children and adults, usually parents of the children. They sang at the 9:00am service which was considered the family service. The Parish Choir sang at the 11:15am service, a more traditional service. We had four paid singers who were both section leaders and soloists. The choir was much larger then; we often had to add folding chairs to accommodate all our members.

Frederick Bellinger was the choir director at that time. He was also the director of the Cantata Academy and he often brought members from Cantata to sing with us if we were doing something especially challenging which needed more singers.

There was also a special fund to enable us to put on choir concerts. I remember one of those concerts soon after I joined the choir. We were having a special rehearsal for a concert of music by Benjamin Britten. I found it so difficult I was frustrated practically to the point of tears. I was ready to quit the choir. But other members prevailed and I finally became convinced that this was a team effort and my inability to sing the music well would not ruin the concert! We all survived.

Through the years there have been many changes. We no longer have two choirs and the two ser-

vices have been combined into our current 10:00 service. After being choir director for more than 25 years, Frederick died following an automobile accident six years ago. The days surrounding and after his death were extremely painful ones for the choir. Our grief went on as we tried to find a new director. In all honesty, it would have been extremely difficult for anyone to try to fill our beloved



Frederick's shoes. We struggled emotionally and tried to be accepting of the new directors, but it wasn't easy to find the right fit. Finally, I feel we have attained that with Sean Jackman. We once again have fun in choir as well as getting a good "workout." I am also pleased that Jung Yoo, our organist, has stayed with us through all these difficult years.

But other changes have occurred. We are no longer able to afford to pay support singers. When you have paid singers, it is their job to be at every

rehearsal as well as on Sundays. This gives a stability to the choir as well as a strong lead which enables the rest of us to learn the music more quickly. Without support singers, the rest of us have to work a bit harder to learn new music and it takes longer. The same people are not always there as other commitments call us away from rehearsals or services. But this is how a volunteer choir works. We may not be able to perform at the same level as before, but then the purpose of the choir is to help lead the worship service and to enhance the beauty of the service with music, not to be a concert choir.

As I look back over these 30 years, I have tried to assess just what it is that makes it so worthwhile for me to devote 3½ hours a week for 8½ months, not counting special holidays, to the choir. It's true that being in the choir has given me good fellowship, regular church attendance, and a feeling of belonging. Yet it is the challenge of learning and performing the music which brings both a spiritual and emotional satisfaction. Sometimes the music is so moving it is difficult to sing through tear-filled eyes. Other times it is so joyous that I feel a long-lasting "high." Sometimes there is a poignancy that touches a level of sadness within and often it is just comforting to sing the old familiar "stuff."

One of my top priorities and subsequent commitment has been to be a member of the Christ Church choir. It has been a satisfying 30 years and will continue to be an important priority for me as long as I am able.

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## Music Notes continued from page 4

church leadership and the groups, I am proposing "blocks" of activities that include singing and playing for four to six weeks of the year starting in early October. These will be intergenerational and will hopefully encourage people of all ages to be

involved together in an artistic activity. The success of the blocks will be reviewed and a plan put in place for a second block for winter 2007. I will have more information as the program year starts and I have heard back from those interested in being

involved.

Children in the congregation will also have the opportunity to be involved with singing and chimes through the newly created Church School program being launched this month (see page 1).

# CONGREGATION 2 CONGREGATION

## *Journey of Faith Church*

By Mark Jenkins

I've been reading *A New Reformation* by Matthew Fox. Fox, as some may recall, is the former Roman Catholic priest expelled from the Dominican order in 1993 by the church's chief inquisitor, the former Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI). A year later he was received as a priest into the Episcopal Church.

Last year, on the feast of Pentecost, Fox reenacted Martin Luther's famous call for a Reformation by nailing a new 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg, Germany. These new theses call for a reawakening of the Christian faith. As the Religion News Service summarizes it, "The book's premise is that we are confronted with two versions of Christianity: one that is fundamentalist and is characterized by a Punitive Father God, a rigidly hierarchical church structure, a belief that we are born of original sin, intolerance of gay lifestyles, a fear of science; and the other version of Christianity which is expressed by a loving God of justice and compassion, is earth centered and eco-conscious, is interfaith and lifestyle tolerant, embraces the feminine, believes in original blessing and encourages scientific thought."

In essence, Fox is calling for Christians to choose which form of Christianity they will follow: one that worships an angry, punitive God or one that worships a loving, embracing God. While I am not as vitriolic as Fox is in his argument, I do think the reformation for which he calls is one very much in line with what Journey of Faith already embraces. And I am increasingly convinced it may well prove vital to the continuation of life on our planet.

The question, as I see it, boils down to this: Will we continue to allow our religious affections to be ruled by a spirit of tribalism, remaining a force that buttresses our separations, our fears, our hatred and prejudice? Or will we learn to move beyond ethnocentrism and embrace a religious expression capable of embracing diversity; one that shows compassion for all people and for every element of the ecosystem in which we live?

"The traditional purpose of a thesis is to open up constructive debate in the search for truth," says Fox. At our July vestry meeting, Journey of Faith decided to spend some time in our fall Saturday services discussing these 95 new theses. Whether you can be with us for some of these times or not, I encourage you to spend some time with this impressive new book.

## A bit of Christ Church history

By George Ebling

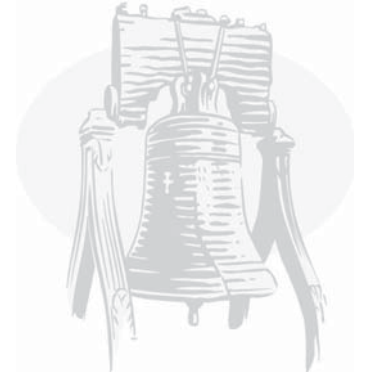
I'm sure that everyone who enters Christ Church from the parking lot has noticed the old bell that sits on top of the brick pedestal. Some may know that it is the church bell from the original Christ Church located on Michigan Avenue. What most of us don't know is that the bricks that form the pedestal are also from "old" Christ Church and that they ended up where they are now by a somewhat circuitous route which is interesting in itself.

The story goes like this. When old Christ Church was torn down, the bricks were purchased by a contractor. Some of these bricks were later used to build the home of a parishioner, Irene Panter.

Some were also purchased by Andy Palmer, a history and antique gun buff who owned the Military Inn located on the southeast corner of Telegraph and Warren. Older members will remember it.

Mr. Palmer had some bricks left over laying in a field behind his establishment. Being aware of where they had come from, he called the church to see if we wanted them. Virginia Ebling, church secretary at the time, took the call and quickly called Kay Cushman, a lifelong member of Christ Church and church historian, and told her about Palmer's offer. Kay immediately had a truck sent over to pick up the bricks. When it was decided to mount the old church bell, longtime parishioner Ben Kennedy used the bricks to build the pedestal.

So thanks to Andy Palmer's sense of history, Virginia's knowledge of who to call to get the bricks over to the church and Kay's immediate action, a piece of our history remains for everyone to see.



### FIGHTING TO WIN

A Cherokee elder sitting with his grandchildren told them, "In every life there is a terrible fight – a fight between two wolves. One is evil: he is fear, anger, envy, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, and deceit. The other is good: joy, serenity, humility, confidence, generosity, truth, gentleness, and compassion." A child asked, "Grandfather, which wolf will win?" The elder looked him in the eye. "The one you feed."

# ETCETERA

## FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of July 31, 2006

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income		
(Pledges & Offerings)	\$210,605	\$200,202
Other	\$18,000	\$15,170
Total Operating Income	\$228,605	\$215,372
Less Operating Expenses	\$227,532	\$239,769
Surplus / Deficit	\$1,073	\$(24,397)

Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free-wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself.

C. S. Lewis

*“Religion in America is characteristically atheistic or agnostic. Religion has virtually nothing to do with God and has little to do with the practical lives of men in society. Religion seems, mainly, to have to do with religion. The churches – particularly of Protestantism – in the United States are, to a great extent, preoccupied with religion rather than with the Gospel.”*

- William Stringfellow, writing in 1962



## Giving to our community

Thank you, Christ Church, for your extremely generous donation of your Fellowship Hall for our Special Olympics Dearborn Spaghetti Dinner. The event was fun and the funds raised will benefit our Dearborn Special Olympics program.

Sincerely,  
Julie Kantz  
Special Olympics Dearborn  
Coordinator

## PASSAGES

### BIRTHDAYS

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

9/19 Jonathan Gray  
9/20 Robert Eifert  
9/21 Jane Culp  
9/23 Catherine Gauthier  
9/24 Charles Groover, Alexander Joens  
9/25 Martha Amis, Stuart Waddell  
9/27 Barbara Hall, Evelyn Hodges, Suzie Stuber  
9/28 Brian DeGiulio, Clare Oatney  
9/29 Karma Woolever

### ANNIVERSARIES

9/2 John & Eleanor Dolega, 52 years  
9/4 Elmer & Ann Farkas, 58 years  
9/11 Robert & Eunice Buzby, 58 years

9/13 Richard & Susan Audi, 9 years  
9/14 William & Donna Behm, 38 years  
9/15 Ted & Jean Oelkers, 50 years  
9/18 Danny & Lynn Borg, 7 years  
Peter & Lynn Kenney, 35 years  
9/21 Keith & Marie Cooper, 15 years  
9/22 Al & Leah Lieberman, 5 years  
Kent & Vicki Rogers, 16 years  
9/28 Robert & Michelle Eifert, 10 years  
9/30 Katie & Jason Hayburn, 6 years

### DEATHS

Lincoln Solberg, July 25

PERIODICAL

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

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

**SAVE THE DATE**  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2006  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

*INTERFAITH LEADERS UNITED FOR EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY*

CONFERENCES TO EMPOWER CLERGY AND LAY LEADERS  
TO EDUCATE MEMBERS OF THEIR CONGREGATIONS ABOUT  
THE UPCOMING BALLOT ISSUE WHICH SEEKS TO AMMEND  
THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

<p>CLERGY OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM (LUNCH INCLUDED) BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH 15122 W. CHICAGO DETROIT, MICHIGAN</p>	<p>LAY LEADERS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2006 6:30 TO 9:30 PM HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 26275 NORTHWESTERN HWY. SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN</p>
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PARTICIPANTS WILL HEAR FROM AREA RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON THE IMPERATIVE FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, BRIEFED ON TALKING POINTS FROM THE LEADERS OF ONE UNITED MICHIGAN, RECEIVE AN INFORMATIONAL PACKET INCLUDING PREACHING AND TEACHING TOOLS FOR YOUR CONGREGATION.

RSVP: STEVE SPREITZER, DIRECTOR OF INTERFAITH PROGRAMS, NCCJ-MI  
313-567-6225, X109 OR SSPREITZER@NCCJ-MI.ORG

WWW.NCCJ-MI.ORG

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The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, *Associate Rector*  
Jan Timpko, *Parish Administrator*  
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Josh Groover, *Assistant Sexton*  
Jung Yoo, *Organist*  
Sean Jackman, *Assistant Director of Music*  
Tess Dowgiallo, *Children's Choir Director*  
JoAnn Amicangelo, *Freelance Editor/Designer*

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Diana Brehob, *Property*  
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Sean Quint, *Christian Formation*  
Carrie Serfass, *Finance*  
Edwina Simpson, *Outreach/Service*

**Officers of the Vestry**

George Morrison, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Susan Ward, *Treasurer*  
Maggie Pellegrino and Michele Nolan, *Recording Secretaries*

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