



Late Summer / Fall 2011

A Newsletter of  
Christ Church Ithan  
Villanova, PA

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A Newsletter of Christ Church Ithan

**Parish Mission Statement**

Christ Church Ithan strives to be an active, inclusive, family that embraces an ever present, loving relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It promotes leadership in the church and broader community through nurturing and developing each member's unique gifts from childhood throughout life.



**The Rector's Desk**

**A Storm Named Peace**

Dear Friends in Christ,

We're a little late getting this newsletter to press because my life (and probably yours as well) was disrupted for about three days as I prepared for, endured, and cleaned up after Hurricane Irene. I don't remember when in that process the idea came to my mind, but as I watched the rain fall horizontally, as I watched the Gulf Creek rise and flood my neighborhood, as I watched the wind knock over trees all around Wayne, the irony occurred to me that the name Irene is based on the Greek word εἰρήνη (eraynay), which means 'peace.' Well that storm brought a lot of things: floods, loss of electricity, blocked roads, etc., but it certainly did NOT bring peace. Another irony is that it hit at a time when church offices are a bit chaotic as we get ready for a new ministry year. We have a lot of ministries entering their second year, such as Wednesday Rocks, Koinonia Gatherings, Louis Perazza's leadership of our choir, etc., but we also have new ministries being introduced, such as revised educational ministries for all our children and youth, the beginning of bereavement counselling groups, and the arrival of our seminarian, Karen Sease. In an active parish, September can feel a bit like a hurricane, but my prayer is that what we experience this year is true to the name of the storm that hit us last week. I pray that we at Christ Church truly experience a ministry hurricane named Irene, a set of ministries for people of all ages which leads us to God's peace, which passes all understanding.

As you look through this Newsletter, I encourage you to find a ministry in which to participate. If you are a parent with children, I urge you to support our new Nursery and Sunday School ministries through regular attendance and participation. As you will see in our Stewardship Program for this Fall, we at Christ Church are about Sowing the Seeds so that we might Grow God's Kingdom, and this is a ministry in which we all have a share.

Thank you, and God bless,

Kevin

## Meet Our Seminarian



Karen M. Sease

Stories have a powerful claim in the church because we live with God’s story intertwining our own. This coming school year, my story will include being amongst you, the people of Christ Church, as a Lutheran seminarian and a second-year student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Getting to seminary has been an interesting journey. I left my home in Columbia, SC to attend Furman University in Greenville, SC then worked for Habitat for Humanity in Lynchburg, VA after graduation. As I began to feel God’s call in my life I explored seminary as an option—and here I am.

I have one younger sister and an adorable dog, both of whom still live in South Carolina with my parents. My favorite activities are cooking, hiking, and relaxing in my hammock.

Best wishes as summer winds down. I look forward to meeting you, hearing your stories, and about how God is at work in the life of Christ Church.

## Opportunities for Bible Study



1. Lectionary Bible Study and Eucharist. We meet in the Rector’s office on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:45 to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. We begin on Wednesday, September 14th and continue through Memorial Day.
2. Women of Christ Church Bible Study. This will be led by our seminarian, Karen Sease, and will meet on Saturdays in October and November from 9:30-11:00 am, beginning on October 1st with a gathering titled “Come Meet Karen.”
3. Our Sunday Morning Adult Education course will be titled “The Difficult Teachings of Jesus” and will look at those passages and sayings which have often perplexed us. These sessions will run from October 2nd -Nov. 20th and will begin at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. These session will be led by Fr. Kevin and Karen Sease.

## Confirmation is Coming!



On Sunday, September 25th, the Rt. Rev. Edward Lee, the retired bishop of Western Michigan, will be with us to preach at the 8:30 Eucahrist and preach, celebrate and confirm Will Soutendijk, Taylor Vastine and Collin Vastine at the 10:30 Eucharist. Bishop Lee is living in nearby Merion, and Fr. Kevin has been working with our confirmands to prepare them for their big day. Please come out to welcome the bishop and support Will, Taylor and Collin!

## Stewardship 2011

### Sowing the Seeds; Growing the Kingdom

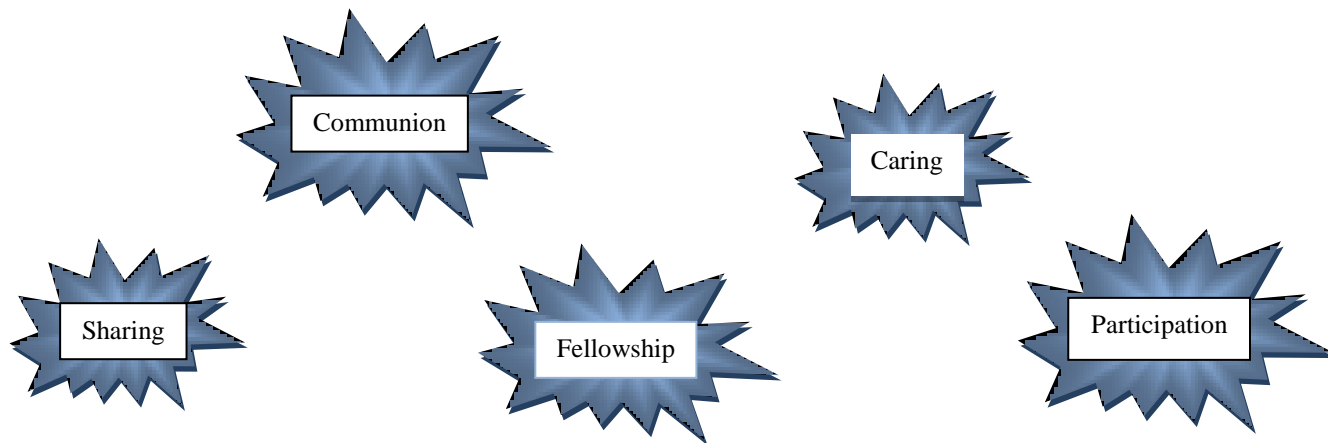
The Stewardship Committee for 2011 is busily preparing a different type of program for this years' Stewardship season. It will culminate on Stewardship Sunday, October 30th with a parish wide meal following the 10:30 service! As Christ Church-Ithan is a growing community in Christ, we have decided to use an agricultural theme for our campaign which is based on Jesus' parable of sowing the seeds. We will spend four Sundays leading up to October 30th briefly presenting different aspects to our life which keep our parish growing, just like a flower. What does a plant need to grow? Our Christ Church Community needs similar nurturing! We hope to give you "food for thought" when you make your annual pledge.

Our campaign is interactive, so we hope you all can participate learning what it takes to "grow" Christ Church.

The Stewardship Committee



"Koinonia" is a Greek word that appears in the New Testament nineteen times with various meanings, but with a common theme - COMMUNITY. Within that context the following elements of Koinonia appear:



Many members of the Christ Church parish have expressed the feeling that they love our spiritual community and its people, but wished they could know each other better. Throughout this year we will have a number of social (Koinonia) gatherings to get better acquainted and to share our thoughts, interests, insights and good cheer.

Further details will be provided, as the year goes on. Please contact Susan Lastowski with interest or questions - 610-527-5268.

## CCI Youth Program 2011-2012!

We are very excited to announce our new Youth Program for this year. Starting September 11, our program will include a mix of outreach and social activities for kids first grade and up!

Our schedule includes monthly planning meetings on the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 (just after Children's sermon), followed by the project on the subsequent weeks. During the planning meeting we will discuss the need addressed by the project-of-the-month, for example, hunger, and literacy, and Christ's lessons on service, as well as the logistics for the project. Our beneficiaries will include St. James the Less School, the Ardmore Food Pantry, the Church World Service and others. We are also planning ice skating, bowling and more! (If you are wondering, this program will replace traditional church school for this age group.)

In addition, we will be continuing our monthly Youth Sunday on the first Sunday of every month. It is a great way to get our kids involved in the service. Our first Youth Sunday will be October 2, 2011.

Looking forward to seeing all of our youth at the first planning meeting on September 11, right after Children's sermon! For the parents, there will also be a meeting to discuss the program schedule for the year right after the 10:30 service in the vestry room. If you are interested in helping out or if you have any questions, please come to the September 11 meeting or email Chris Soutendijk at [soutendijk@verizon.net](mailto:soutendijk@verizon.net). See you all soon!

## Wednesday Rocks!



ATTENTION MUSICAL KIDS AND PARENTS! WE NEED MUSICIANS for WEDNESDAY ROCKS! If you play in the ORCHESTRA or BAND at school, COME ON OUT and join in the FUN! We are also looking for GUITAR players, BASS players, DRUMMERS, and PIANO players AS ALWAYS. Rehearsals will start Wednesday, October 5th, and will continue every Wednesday until THE BIG NIGHT - ROCK VESPERS IS DECEMBER 11TH. We usually meet from 4:30 - 6:00, but that is subject to change slightly, depending on how soon YOU can get here after school. There is a \$10 weekly fee to participate, but arrangements can be made if necessary. Please contact Father Kevin, me or Jimmy Edwards if you plan to be a part of Wednesday Rocks. We are so excited to see you!

Lori Weidner

## Grief Support Group



The death of a loved one can evoke a variety of thoughts and feelings, from sadness or anger to gratitude and peacefulness, depending upon the context and circumstances. Each person's grief, and expression of grief, is unique. Some people prefer to express their grief privately, perhaps with only the closest of family members. Others find it helpful to share their grief with a small group of people who have experienced a similar kind of loss. Since the beginning of human history, people have come together in times of grief to help one another heal, grow, and go on recomposed and renewed. Grief support groups provide such an opportunity.

The start-up of a grief support group is being considered for the members of Christ Church. This group, which would meet for an hour and a half, over six consecutive weeks, beginning in October, would be for 6-8 adults who have experienced the death of a loved one (an adult child, spouse, partner, sibling, parent, relative, or dear friend) as recently as six months ago or as long ago as three years. The group will meet in the church library on a weekday and be led by Heartland Hospice Bereavement Coordinator, Woody Sheetz-Willard, who met with us this past spring to talk about this possibility.

If you feel that your bereavement needs might be served by this ministry (no registration fee or material costs), please speak with Father Kevin to indicate your desire to participate, remembering that "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

In the Spirit of the Sacred Journey,  
Woody Sheetz-Willard

## Something NEW in the NURSERY!

For the past several years our Nursery has provided baby sitting services during our 10:30am Eucharist. However, starting September 11th, the nursery ministry will begin BIBLE STORY TIME, which will be similar to the story time programs at the local libraries, except in the nursery the stories, songs and crafts will all be from the Bible. This will be a great way for our kids who are Kindegarden age and younger to learn the stories of our faith. If you would like to help out, please speak to Lori Wiedner or Fr. Kevin.

## Jazz Vespers (It's not what you think)



Recently the inimitable Tony Bennett gave a performance for some young people who accepted him with such fervor that his career at the age of 85 began again. What surprised him and everyone else was that the young people wanted to know where he got such beautiful tunes with such beautiful lyrics. Stunned he responded with, "well they're just standards."

"Standards," are those tunes that, unlike popular music, that lasts a matter of weeks, have stood the test of time. Today, they make up the music that most musically educated people call jazz. (e.g. WRTI "Your jazz and classical music station.")

I am talking about the music of George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, and Cole Porter. I am talking about music like, "Night and Day," "My Funny Valentine," and "All the Things You Are."

Question is, aside from only one radio station in Philadelphia where can the young and old still hear this great music and the virtuosity of inspired musicians?

### HERE'S THE ANSWER!

Christ Church Ithan, on the second Sunday of the month beginning on November 13 at 7:00 P.M., with Vesper Prayers, and the incomparable Miss Justine.

(All featured participants in Jazz Vespers at CCI are recording artists with Dream Box Media and are featured on WRTI.)

## Training Session for Acolytes / Crucifers, Ushers and Readers

Training Session for Acolytes/Crucifers, Ushers and Readers

Fr. Kevin would like to take the opportunity provided by the start of a new ministry year to spend about fifteen minutes with each of the above groups to go over a few items. On Sunday, September 18th, Acolytes and Crucifers are asked to stay immediately after the 10:30 Eucharist, around 11:45, then Ushers at 12:00 noon and Readers at 12:15. It will give us a nice opportunity to ask any questions and get on the same page. Thank you!

## Hospitality

### Hospitality Ministry



Thank you all for your tremendous support to Coffee Hour this past year. Many new people have been involved. Everyone is enjoying that there is always someone from the Hospitality Committee to help them. Coffee Hour hosting is a wonderful and fun way to become a more integral part of the ministry of Christ Church.

More volunteers are needed for the Hospitality Committee as well as host for the Fall. Please e-mail me if you are interesting in joining the Hospitality Committee, and I will explain what is required. Joan Keator ([kjoan44@msn.com](mailto:kjoan44@msn.com))

## Parker Library



Have you really browsed in our one year old Library (in honor of our beloved FP)?? We have quite an assortment of books. I would like to mention When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner as a truly helpful and easy read .

Another book which is clear, up-to-date, and informative - The Everything World's Religions Book by Robert Pollock. Or how about perusing C.S. Lewis' The Joyful Christian. There are 127 readings from which to choose - and all delightful. Do come and taste !

Anne Churchman

## St. James the Less Soon to Have More



Please keep bringing in books for St. James the Less. In case you haven't heard, there is a contest going on to guess why St. James the Less was so named. Each book donated entitles you to one guess (or maybe you know the answer). Just place your guess in the box along with the book (not inside it) and submit as many guesses as you do books. All the correct answers will be placed in a basket. Then, on October 2, after the Youth Service, Father Kevin will draw a name out of a basket and the winner will receive two tickets to the Broadway show, "The Wizard of Oz" for December 27 at the 2 o'clock performance at the Merriam Theater in Philadelphia.

The reason for the books: There is a new school being formed at St. James the Less and there are no books at all in their library! New or slightly used books are great and the grades needed are 4th thru 8th.

Any questions? Call Dode Tague at 610-527-0393 or email at [dbtague@verizon.net](mailto:dbtague@verizon.net)

### United Thanks Offering (UTO)



Hope you are all filling up those little Blue UTO Offering Boxes I sent out in May. If you prefer to write a check don't forget to make it out to Christ Church and on the memo line UTO. We will collect the money on October 2.

Jo Parker, UTO Coordinator

### Weekly Sunday Memorials



Would like to honor or remember someone on Sunday? Maybe there is something to celebrate? You can do so by sponsoring the sanctuary candle (\$10) or alter flowers (\$50).

Please contact Deborah Beausang at 610-188-1512.

### Food Pantry Update



Summer has been just wild in the Food Pantry. The pantry is only open on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings until Labor Day so the amount of guests has been staggering.

On Mondays, there is a crowd of people waiting for the door to open and it takes three or four volunteers to service these people. Supplies have come and gone in a hurry but somehow we never run out of everything at the same time. The gardens at St. Marys have yielded tons of tomatoes, zucchini, patty pan squash and green beans. This has been very helpful. Thanks for your support both in bringing in food and in volunteering. It has been seriously needed as the guest numbers continue to increase. The Narberth Food Pantry tries to limit their guests to Lower Merion and Narberth and it may be that the Ardmore Food Pantry may have to install some limits.



### New Ministries at Christ Church Ithan

Inspiration	•These new ministries have been inspired by the ideas and insights of the members of this parish. They came from the parish survey interviews, the Ministries Task Force and spontaneously.
Aspiration	•The strong hope of implementing these ideas was manifest by the active involvement of many parishioners in conjunction with Fr. Kevin
Perspiration	•The time, talent and treasure of many parishioners went into the active and ongoing success of these new ministries.