



THE SPIRE

Christ Church, Ithan

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FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

When I was a kid, (child, that is) Easter was nice but not my favorite holiday. There were no lights, adorned trees, and reindeer with blinking noses, just eggs, candy and itchy clothes. I knew it was special and we did get off from school, so it had to be something good. It was also one of those few days we went to church and I loved that. We were what is known in the trade, "C and E" people. Those are the people that swell the congregation on Christmas and Easter. Being very young I wondered what the church did for the rest of the year. Well now I know! We survive. God bless the C and E people. They are like the cavalry who rush in to

save the fair maiden just before disaster happens and to say they are not welcome would be foolish indeed.

This little monograph is to praise them but to let them in on a secret. To have Easter without Lent and Holy Week is like having the dessert without the main course. It sure is sweet and enjoyable but the principle elements for healthy growth are not there.

Can you imagine a person who has had a life without anything ever going wrong? Some of our movie, rock and athletic stars have tried to do that. I am not judging them but it seems reasonable to say that to try to make life all desserts creates shallow

unhealthy individuals. What is it the Amish used to say, "We get too soon old and too late smart."



By observing Lent and Holy Week we travel the human road with Our Lord. We experience the trials and temptations of humanity. There is a

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Here are a list of dates for the year for IHN. Please mark your calendars!

The Week of :March 4 ,May 6, July 15, Sept 23 and Dec.2

We are very fortunate not to have a major Holiday!

Please volunteer.

For the next article I would like responses from those in the congregation that have volunteered for IHN, to comment on why you do IHN and what it means to you. I think this will be a great way for people to understand what the Program means to the people at Christ Church.

You can e-mail me your responses at mchefmichelle@aol.com or send them to my new address: 20 Ivory Rock Rd. Levittown Pa 19057.

I will be handing over the organizing of IHN to Will McPhearson and Kate Holland. I will be there back up when they are both out of town.

Thank you very much for volunteering in the IHN Program!

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Special points of interest:

??Newcomer's Luncheon
Sunday Feb. 11 after
10:30 service. All are invited.

??Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Dinner February 27.

??Jazz Vespers March 4 at
7:00 P.M .

??Ash Wednesday Services
12:15 & 8:00 P.M. at Church

SHARE Kit World Concern

Please join us this Lent in sharing Christ's love with children in Sudan, Uzbekistan or Bolivia.

Many children around the world are suffering. As families are torn apart through the crippling effects of poverty and the devastations of war, children are losing their chance to survive.

From the dilapidated classrooms of Sudan and

Uzbekistan, to the vacant halls of Bolivian schools children without sufficient means to learn can be seen. Those who go to school, often go with nothing more than the clothes on their back. They forfeit hope and the tools to a better life.

Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me." If you want to make a difference in a child's life, now's the time. All it takes is for

you to fill a 2-gallon Ziploc type bag with \$16 worth of school supplies: 2 spiral notebooks 8 1/2 x 11", 1 metric ruler (12"), 1 small pencil sharpener, 1 box (12 count) colored pencils, 1 soft eraser, 1 pair of 5 1/2 scissors, 3 unsharpened No. 2 Pencils (black lead), 2 pens (black or blue ink) and \$5 cash or check –tax deductible—to cover overseas shipping, made payable to World Concern. Please include only the

Share Kit Continued

"Join us in this wonderful outreach to children in Sudan, Uzbekistan or Bolivia."

supplies on the list. Items must be new or unused.

We have chosen to partner with World Concern in their SHARE Kit program, and you can join us in this wonderful outreach to children in Sudan, Uzbekistan or Bolivia.

SHARE Kits should be

turned into the Parish Office no later than March 18th, 2001.

From The Rector's Desk

happy ending but it is not in view during our own Good Fridays nor should it be. This is a religion of substance. The substantial growth factor is in the meat of the message. That is, no matter what happens, we have a God who understands and stands with us in all our ordeals

and finally brings us to Him with total love and care. We are Resurrection People! So please join us for Easter but try the main course first.

Love,

Fr. Ron

World Mission Sunday February 25, 2001

Did you know that the Episcopal Church's official name is The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. The General Convention of 1835 took the historic step of proclaiming that all members of the Church were also members of the Society. Therefore, we are all missionaries.

The recent earthquakes in El Salvador and India give Episcopalians a wonderful opportunity to help our Central American neighbors in need. Episcopal Relief and Development responded with an initial \$25,000 emergency grant to the Diocese of El Salvador to help those whose lives were devastated. As we all know, recovery from such destruction takes time and a lot of resources.

On Sunday, February 25, 2001 Christ Church, Ithan will place a box in the back of the church for donations to be sent to Earthquake Relief.

Another Great Parish Meeting

The annual meeting of Christ Church Ithan was held on January 28, 2001. Four new members were elected to the Vestry; Sarah Gifford, John Condon, Pierce Vincent Eckhart and William McPherson. Father Parker thanked the four members whose three-year term expired; Ed Gallagher, Judy Englerth, Anne Peckham and Jeff Allyn. Each were presented with teddy bears!

Over twenty Committee reports were presented each outlining the tremendous accomplishments that were achieved during fiscal 2000.

Although we are a small church with only some eighty pledging units, we have a 97% pledge fulfillment, which is truly remarkable.

Last year also saw an increase in attendance with seventeen new families joining our congregation.

Special thanks to the office staff, Nancy, Ed, Charles and Ginny for their tireless efforts. Christ Church is indeed blessed to have father Parker and Win Richardson minister to all of us.

"Seventeen new families joined CCI in 2000!"

Sebastian Clarke

Baptized

Sebastian Arturo Vargas Clarke was baptized on January 21, 2001 at Christ Church. Sebastian is the son of David and Ana-Vargas Clarke.

LENTEN CLASSES "THE ELECTRONIC CAMP-FIRE" WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN THE VESTRY ROOM MARCH 7TH THROUGH 28TH AT 8:00 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK & ANNE SAVILLE

Mark & Anne Saville will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary . They were married at Christ Church 50 years ago!



WHAT IS LENT?

Well, basically it is the 40-day period preceding Easter. The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word for "spring or lengthen." (Did Phil say six more weeks?)

It begins on Ash Wednesday and is seen as a time for self-reflection and penitence. Acts of fasting and self-denial are usual and in liturgical churches, e.g. Anglican, Roman Catholic, some Lutheran and most Orthodox a form of "Reconciliation of a Penitent" (BCP p.447) is available and practiced.

In almost every Christian denomination there is some form of confession whether practiced or not.

In more recent times the emphasis has shifted from long periods of fasting, prayer, and meditation to reflection on the true meaning of Easter. (Cop-out?) Lent has always been important as a time for preparation for adult baptism and renewal of baptismal vows. I have always felt that the best way to give something up is to take

something on. It might cost you something in time or money but the reward very much surpasses the time and effort.

Fr. Ron

New Digital Piano Arrives

"Lenten program starts March 7"

Christ Church, Ithan is now the proud owner of a brand new digital piano! The full sized, versatile instrument arrived on January 31st just in time to be used in the 10:30 AM service and then for jazz vespers on Sunday, February 4th! We have needed a piano in the sanctuary for alternate accompaniment of the choirs and "just in case" the organ has an off day, so when the need for a permanent keyboard for jazz vespers became apparent, we decided to purchase an electric piano with all the necessary features to serve multi musical purposes. Some money was available in one of the music funds, so we traveled to Jacobs Music Store in Philadelphia and purchased a Rowland digital piano. Please ask for a demonstration at any time – I think you'll like what you hear! Mary Prince

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PROGRAM

This year we are going to join along with another church from our deanery, St. George's Episcopal Church, in Ardmore for our Lenten program. The program is an exciting tape and workshop program put out by The Electronic Campfire. We will begin on March 7, with

Evening Prayer at 6:00, followed by a potluck supper and class at 7:15 for both adults and children. We hope you can join us. Please let Fr. Parker know if you and your family wish to attend. 610-688-1110



Helping Hand Fund

We often take for granted that we have warm, comfortable beds in which we sleep through the night. We know that good sleep is the foundation for a healthy and productive life. However, there are many people who are not so fortunate— they sleep on a cold floor or an old mattress without proper support. Without good rest, they are not prepared to be effective providers or parents. Recognizing this basic need, several parishioners at CCI, coordinate the nonprofit Helping Hand Fund that gives blankets and beds to those without.

The Helping Hand Fund purchases blankets and beds at or below wholesale from highly regarded local companies, such as BEMCO Sleep Products. We work with local charities to distribute blankets and beds to people with genuine needs. Since March 2000— the Helping Hand Fund has delivered over 160 beds and almost 200 blankets. The need is great and we need your contributions to further Helping Hand Fund's mission— to give blankets and beds to those without.

Your tax-deductible contribution will buy needed beds and blankets for those without. For example, a \$10 donation can purchase a washable wool blanket or 6 bed frames, \$39 buys a box support, and \$61 will buy a quality mattress. Your contribution can make a real difference in someone's life. Won't you help us?

Please mail your generous donation to CCI— Helping Hand Fund, 536 Conestoga Road, Villanova, PA 19085. Your contributions are fully deducted for federal and state income tax purpose as a donation to an organization qualified under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia

Organized in 1895, membership in the Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia is open to all lay members of the Episcopal Church and those who may have special interest in the Church and its community. Luncheon and dinner meetings are held in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley are during the fall, winter and spring seasons. The meetings feature outstanding speakers of interest to the membership including a

range of religious, ecumenical and secular topics.

Principal Aims and Purposes:

Promote spiritual enrichment and Christian fellowship; exchange ideas for strengthening church operations; have an awareness of matters of religious, civic and national concern; assist the Bishops in the

work of the Diocese when called upon; provide support, when asked, for institutions supported by the Diocese.

“ Helping Hand Fund that gives blankets and beds to those without.”

Being An Acolyte By Christina Cary

Being an acolyte is really important and it can make you feel important. It can make you feel a lot of things. Like proud, special, and full of grace. Being an acolyte is fun but sometimes it can be a little boring sitting up on the altar and not talking. But before long the communion starts and we either go get the wine or the bread, open the gates or go to our sides to shoe people where to go. I love acolyting.

Christ Church, Ithan

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The Rev. Winfield Richardson, Deacon
536 Conestoga Road
Villanova, PA

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"A Growing Community In Christ"



Changing of the Guards

Church Growth : Vince Eckhart has agreed to become the new Chair for the Church Growth Committee. Many thanks to Neil Palmer for the past three years of hard work.

The Church Growth Committee has gained two new members: Jane Packer and Art Saxon.

IHN- together Will McPherson and Kate Holland have agreed to Chair IHN. Many thanks to Michelle McWilliams for all her hard work.

UPDATED CCI PARISH DIRECTORIES will be placed in the back of the Church on Sunday, February 11th.

CCI Calendar of Events

February, 2001

11th – Newcomer’s Luncheon following 10:30 A.M. Service
14th – Valentine’s Day Service and Renewal of Vows, 8:00 PM
15th – Vestry Meeting
25th – World Mission Sunday
27th – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper hosted by Youth Group
28th - Ash Wednesday Services 12:15 PM, 8:00 PM

March, 2001

4th – Jazz Vespers- 7:00 PM featured artist Miss Justine, Vocalist
7th – Lenten Series – 8:00 PM
14th- Lenten Series – 8:00 PM
15th – Vestry Meeting – 7:30 PM
21st – Lenten Series – 8:00 PM
28th – Lenten Series – 8:00 PM

April, 2001

1st – Jazz Vespers – 7:00 PM, featured artist to be announced later
8th – Palm Sunday
11th – Tenebrae Service – 8:00 PM
12th – Maundy Thursday Service – 8:00 PM
13th – Good Friday Service – 8:00 PM
14th – Holy Saturday Service – 8:00 PM
15th- Easter Services 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Thanks to everyone for your gifts, cards and good wishes during the Christmas season and throughout the year – I am fortunate to serve such a wonderful and supportive congregation and hope the New Year is full of good things for all of you!

Mary Prince, Organist/Choir Director