



THE SPIRE

Christ Church, Ithan

Volume 11, Issue 4

September, 2001

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

SEPTEMBER SONG

I was looking in an old book belonging to our choir director Mary Prince at the music to "September Song." The first thing I noticed was it was written by Kurt Weill the year I was born. As an instrumentalist I seldom look at the words. I am mostly interested in the melody and the harmony but Maxwell Anderson, the lyricist, caught my attention. "Oh, it's a long, long while from May to December but the days grow short when you reach September." "Oh the days dwindle down to a precious few, September, November..."

It occurred to me, since I have reached the September of my life, that the days do grow shorter, and what's not fair is there aren't as many left as there were. It's all relative I suppose. There was a man in England who said his father died from drinking hard cider. He then went on to say it took him 84 years to do it. But certainly as one gets older the question of their faith becomes more urgent. Paul says, "For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So then, whether we live or die we are the Lord's." These are comforting words but unless we are in Christ and that doesn't mean just in our head, or His picture hanging on our bedroom wall, but in His Body, the church, we are not really living in Christ.

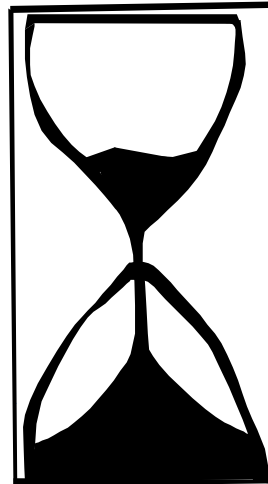
It is urgent that we understand this. If we wait too long, as the song goes, "one hasn't got time for the waiting game." "For the days dwindle down to a precious few..." Whatever our age this is the most important thing we can do with our time.

Life can be beautiful if we live each day in Christ and then if He is in our heart and soul life can be beautiful forever.

Fr. Ron+

IT'S NOT TO LATE !

Refresh your soul
Attend the fall Cursillo Weekend
October 11, -14, 2001



"For the days dwindle down to a precious few..."

Inside this issue:

<i>Women of CCI</i>	2
<i>Bible study</i>	4
<i>Happiness</i>	5
<i>Christmas Bazaar</i>	6
<i>Bishop's task force</i>	6
<i>Acolytes</i>	7
<i>Reflections</i>	8

Important Dates:

September 19-7:00 PM
Memorial service

?? **October 7-5:30 PM**

Taize Service

?? **October 11**

3rd Annual Ed Gallagher

Progressive Dinner

?? **October 20-9:00 AM-**

3:0PM Quiet Day

?? **December 1st-11:00**

AM-3:00 PM

CCI Christmas Bazaar

See the notice on the bulletin board or call Kate Holland for a sponsor.

The Women of Christ Church

The Women of Christ Church's Quiet Day will be on Saturday, October 20th.

Our mentor will be Phyllis Martin, a woman so steeped in spiritual exercise that Daylesford Abbey has installed her as an Oblate, the first ever. She is not ordained and does have a family so she knows quite well how busy we all are and how difficult it is to squeeze in little breaks to refresh our souls.

We usually have coffee and danish before doing whatever reading or thinking issue we are presented with by the mentor. We discuss our perspective on whatever the topic is. None of us is a "pro" at this sort of thing. We just enjoy the chance to think about spiritual matters in the company of friends and led by someone who knows more (presumably) than we do.

Bring a sandwich and \$10 and plan to stay however long you can between 9 AM and 2 PM. We need your presence!

--Debbie Payson



*"Women of CCI
Quiet Day, October
20,2001"*

Taize-On-My-Mind

Taize, an ecumenical service of praise and prayer and meditation, is held at Daylesford Abbey every first Sunday of the month. This month it will be on Sunday, October 7th.

We'll have a contingent of CCI people meet in CCI's parking lot at 5:20 PM and we'll carpool to the Abbey, returning at 7 PM in time for the first Jazz Vespers of the season.

Taize services are informal and decidedly calm inducing. Put the 7th on your calendar now and meet me in the church parking lot for a wonderful, unique 45 minutes.

--Debbie Payson

Adult Education

Starting September 16th come to the adult forum at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings and join in lively discussions on timely topics of interest to all of us; e.g.: "Are people innately good or innately sinful? Is ending a life ever justified? What about the environment? Who or what is the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be religious? Why hope?"

We will view a short video and then have discussion. Add your thoughts to what will surely be lively and sometimes controversial discussions.

Hope to see you there ---

Sarah Gifford
Adult education coordinator.



How many choir members does it take to change a light bulb?

How many choir members does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatics: Only one. Hands already in the air.

Roman Catholics: None. They use candles.

Pentecostals: Ten. One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians: None. God has predestined when the lights will be on and off.

Episcopalians: Eight. One to call the electrician, and seven to say how much they liked the old one better.

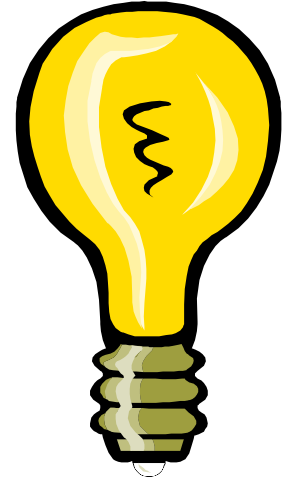
Mormons: Five. One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Unitarians: "We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb, and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence."

Baptists: At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and two or three committees to approve the change. Oh, and also one to provide a casserole.

Methodists: (see Baptists)

Lutherans: None. Lutherans don't believe in change.



"I have too heavy a cross to bear..."

The Cross Room

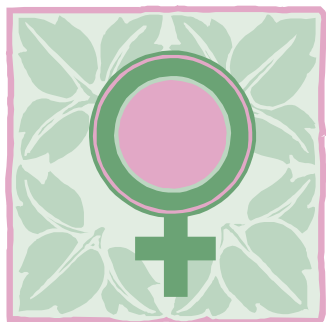
The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door, and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."



Women of Christ Church

It is with regret that we report Debbie Payson has stepped down as Chair of the Women of Christ Church. Thank you, Debbie, for all the wit, charm and energy you have given us over the years.



We are happy to announce that Mary Tattall and Nina Gauthron have agreed to Co-Chair the Women of Christ Church.

Mary-610-688-5623
and Nina-610-941-0292 would be delighted to hear any ideas you may have.

Fall Clean Up

A fall clean up of the Church grounds has been scheduled for November 17, 2001 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. All parishioners and their children are invited to participate. Please bring gardening tools.

"NEW Evening Bible study at CCI"

Bible Study at CCI

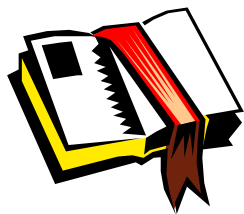
Wednesday Bible Study 11:15 AM

We will resume our regular Wednesday Bible Study on September 19, 2001, at 11:15 AM. At that time we will take a closer look at the Gospel of John. Who was he, when did he write and who was he writing to? What was he trying to communicate in that flowery, Hellenistic style of his?

The Bible Study continues with the Holy Eucharist at 12:15 in the chapel in the education building. Please join us.

NEW Evening Bible Study

We've had many requests for an evening Bible Study. We will begin September 19, 2001, at 7:30 PM for an hour each time. We've tried many different methods in the past but the one that seems to be the most rewarding and the most fun is the Serendipity Studies put out by Zondervan. Come join us for some Serendipity Bible Fun!



Are You A Wannabe?

Are you a Wannabe?

Yeh

Bet ya' wannabe an Acolyte?

Call Kate Holland at 610-527-3822 and we'll get ya' trained, robed and fit for service.

Happiness

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough and we'll be more content when they are. After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage.

We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together, when we get a nicer car, when we are able to go on a nice vacation, or when we retire.

The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when? Your life will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway.

Happiness is the way.

So, treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time with...and remember that time waits for no one.

So, stop waiting....

- until your car or home is paid off
- until you get a new car or home
- -until your kids leave the house
- until you go back to school
- until you finish school
- until you lose 10 lbs.
- until you gain 10 lbs.
- --until you get married
- until you get a divorce
- --until you have kids
- --until you retire
- --until summer
- until spring
- until winter
- --until fall
- until you die

There is no better time than right now to be happy.

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

So-work like you don't need money, Love like you've never been hurt, and dance like no one's watching.

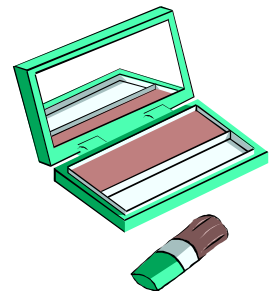
If you want to brighten someone's day, pass this on to someone special.

You never know if you'll fail unless you try, and if you have the courage to try, you'll never fail.



Happiness is the way!

"Happiness is a journey, not a destination"



Sundries and Toiletries

The long lazy days of summer are almost behind us, but some of the basic needs of our sisters and brothers at IHN, En-dow-a Home and St- Francis still remain.

Please continue your generous gifts of new hotel and cosmetic samples.

They can be placed in the basket at the rear of the Church. The families in

these shelters are very grateful for your continuous.

Christ Church Christmas Bazaar-December 1



CCI's Christmas Bazaar this year will be different in a few delightful ways! The Bazaar has been changed from a Woman of Christ Church event to a fellowship event inviting all CCI members to participate. The first planning meeting will be held on Tuesday September 18 th at 7:30 p.m. All volunteers welcome.

This event was originally used to support on-going maintenance of the Church grounds. It is with this in mind that the Bazaar has been changed to a parish event. Last year the Bazaar monies were held in account to provide for air conditioning and refurbishing of the hall. We are well on are way to making this wish a reality so that we may improve the hall for weddings and events that will bring revenue into the church. A large amount of money also went to provide for Anna's family and two other families for Christmas expenses.

All members of CCI are invited to participate in this wonderful tradition. Many volunteers are needed as well as "home grown" donations either from your particular talent, your baked goods, or your attic treasures! Leaders are needed for Attic Treasures and the Church Table. Do you know any crafters that would like to reserve a table at the Bazaar?

Please call Denise Carpenter at 610-325-9693 to volunteer or if you have any questions.

The Bishop's Task Force

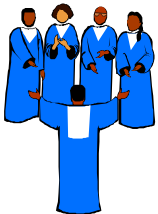
"Join in all CCI activities"

The Bishop's task force for public education formed in 1998, after the Diocesan Convention delegates voted to support public school reform. Bishop Bennison and the Task Force members are joining forces with a new grass roots initiative; Good Schools Pennsylvania, which is the first statewide effort uniting religious and civic organizations to seek reform in public education. Congregations are forming study & action groups which will meet monthly for six months. Is there anyone who wants to start/participate in a CCI group ?

If you want to know more or you can contribute your knowledge and experience, consider this opportunity to make a difference!

For more information, please contact Margaret Sipple at Church House , 215-627-6434 Ext. 116 or Mary Girling at 610-558-9272.

Christ Church Choir



The choir of Christ Church, Ithan returned to lead the congregation in worship on September 16th at the 10:30 AM service. We urge anyone who is interested in singing with us to speak to Mary Prince, Organist/Choirmaster, after services or call her at 610-644-1541.

We are planning some special musical events here at Christ Church along with our regular Jazz Vespers Series which begins in October. Details of these events will be available soon - look for information in The Spire and in your mailbox!



*"Congratulations to
all our Acolytes"*

A Joyful Noise... ..We Love It.

Christ Church is a pretty raucous place when our Acolytes, Youth Group and younger members are around. Their presence and energy are obvious and we wouldn't have any other way. Here are some of the upcoming events they will be attending:

Oct. 6 Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C.
Nov. 16-18 Nightwatch II at Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.
Feb. 23 Acolyte Festival at Christ Church (Cathedral) in Philadelphia.

Everyone is invited to join in all these events. The festival in Washington draws as many as 4000 participants from across the country. We always need chaperones and drivers for Nightwatch as it is an AWESOME time!

While most of these events are paid for by CCI, a small donation is often requested to cover registration, lunches or transportation. Information is available in the church office if you'd like to join us.

Acolyte Recognition

CCI has the best Acolyte Team on the Main Line. Just ask us, we'll tell you. They're smart, good looking, clever, quick, and they know their business as acolytes. We're proud of them and they are essential to our services. Congratulations to all our acolytes who served this past year. We look forward to another super active year.

Jasper Zhang just completed his 5th year and will be a Crucifer and Chalice Bearer with us during his college years. Paige Stewart, Andrew Simonian and Meg Carpenter are entering their 5th year...look for their brown cinctures. Moving into their 4th year are Caitlen Andonian, Griffen Wright. Julianna Boily will serve this year as a substitute and all will wear a purple cincture. In their 4th year are Julia Aronson Churchman, Lauren Marshal, Charlotte Marshal, Joanie Thompson, Robbie Thompson, Jake Stewart and Brad Carpenter.

We are especially happy to recognize our good friend, Judith Englerth. Judith can move into any situation at any time and it will run smoothly. We thank her for supporting CCI as an Acolyte, Crucifer, Chalice Bearer and heaven knows what else.

Thanks to everyone.



Congratulations!

Victoria Jones graduated from Northwestern University in June and is now working in Washington D.C. She has a degree in journalism and a minor in political science. Alexandra Jones has just started her junior year at Cornell and is majoring in chemical engineering.

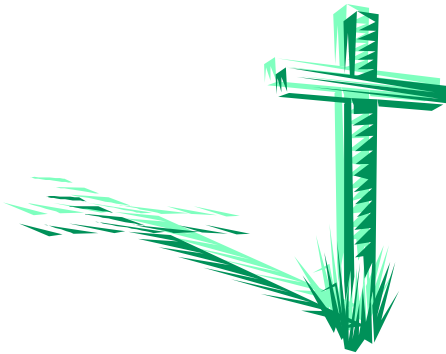
Victoria and Alexandra are the children of Ian and Jane Ann Jones of Newtown Square.

Christ Church, Ithan

The Rev. Ronald W. Parker, Rector
The Rev. Winfield Richardson, Deacon
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"A Growing Community In Christ"



Church Bloopers

1. Mrs. Johnson will be entering the hospital this week for testes.
2. Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan who are preparing for the girth of their first child.
3. The Lutheran Men's group will meet at 6 PM. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal feel.
4. The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."
5. Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."
6. Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.
7. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
8. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
9. The service will close with Little Drops of Water. One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.
10. Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
11. The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Reflections...

I write this amid the shock and sadness of the attacks on Wall Street in New York City and in Washington, DC. I suspect many of us know people whose lives were touched or even taken by the horror of the morning of September 11.

I ask each of you, amid feelings of shock, anger, and sadness to pause and pray for both the injured and those who caused the injuries.

We might all want to ponder some words in the Bible. In Genesis, Joseph reminds us that while others may intend harm, God will ultimately use it for good. The Psalmist often turns to God when overwhelmed by evil and attacks from enemies. In the New Testament, we are reminded that Light has already conquered Darkness, and that in Jesus the final struggle over pain and suffering is won.

Peace be with you on this difficult day, and in the days to come.

(Adapted from the Avodah Institute newsletter)

"I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

... Martin Luther (1483-1546)

