

# The Spire

A Newsletter of Christ Church Ithan



Fall 2008

One Community – One Calling

A Newsletter of Christ Church Ithan Villanova, PA

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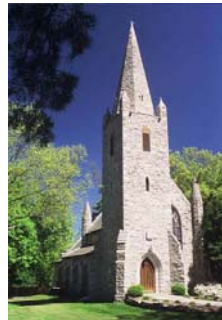
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### Parish Mission Statement

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.



### From the Rector's Desk

#### Fall Back!

I must say I love the seasons. In the winter I can dress nice and feel comfortable. I love the beauty of the snow and the tingle on my face. The brisk weather gives me energy.

In the spring everything bursts forth from the ground. The colors that God has painted the flowers with are a priceless gift. Each year it amazes me, the variety astounds me.

The summer calls me forth from my den and I enjoy the outside. We visit my daughter at the shore and sit on the beach, go fishing with my grandson. The outdoors becomes my home.

The fall is clean-up time. Spring and summer are over. The green goes back in hiding. The leaves

fall and have to be removed or carefully burned. The aroma is intoxicating. The beach is empty and lonely. Time to harvest God's plenty. Hay rides and pumpkins are the fare.

Fall is the end of some things but the beginning of others. Fall is the constant story of life.

God is so good to give us seasons. Who can deny His perfect gifts?

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew,

All winds and fire and heat.

Winter and summer, glorify the Lord,

Praise Him and highly exalt him forever. Amen!

#### Fr. Parker



**All our thoughts and prayers are with Fr. Parker and Jo, as they recover at Bryn Mawr Rehab.**

**Contact the church office for further information and mailing address.**

# Jazz Vespers



Christ Church has become famous for many things. CCI is famous for its loving, welcoming congregation, extended-family feeling, beautiful gothic architecture, and Jazz Vespers.

Jazz is the only truly original American art form. Our vespers\* begin again on October the fifth at seven P.M. with the Famous Philly chanteuse, Ms Justine Keys. Justine is a popular recording artist and easily one of the best interpreters of the standards of the 30s and 40s. She is consistently featured on WRTI. She will be accompanied by our usual Ithan Chamber Jazz Ensemble.

You may have seen the wonderful article about saxophonist Tony Williams in the Inquirer. Tony is a magnificent gentleman, and a super musician and teacher. Tony will be our featured artist in November along with sax giant Art Lord, and the Ithan Chamber Jazz Ensemble. Sunday, November 2nd, at 7:00 P.M.

# Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Our weekly Wednesday morning Bible Study and Eucharist, resumes on September the 17th at 11:15. Each week, we help the poor rector by reading and studying the scriptures for the coming Sunday. Following the Bible Study there is a weekly Eucharist using the lessons for the day. While it is recommended that you attend both the Bible Study and the Eucharist at 12:15, either can be exclusive of each other. Each one is an opportunity to know more and be closer to our loving Lord.

# Confirmed, Received or Renewing Baptismal Vows

We will be meeting in the vestry room to plan classes for adults and children on September 14th at 9:30 A.M.

You may be a member of Christ Church but you canonically are not considered an Episcopalian until you are confirmed or received by a bishop in the apostolic succession of this church. You cannot hold office or vote at any meeting without being confirmed.

Baptism makes you a Christian. Confirmation is an adult affirmation of your baptismal vows. It is not a completion but a continuation of your Christian journey. In a sense it is a “growing up and into the life that Christ offers us.

Many adults, who now understand their journey and are taking it more serious, desire to renew those vows. The 1980 prayer book offers us that opportunity and the laying on of hands by the bishop is a strengthening grace to carry on.

In 1980 it was realized that baptism was full initiation into the sacraments and children who were of age and instructed should receive communion. However, many parents remember their own confirmation as the key to opening the door to a different relationship with the Lord. If that is the case the wait is over.

Bishop Turner, former Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania will be the celebrant on Sunday, December 14th, at 10:30 A.M.

Please join us on September 14, at 9:30 A.M. for the scheduling of classes



### Children’s Drive

ECS is in dire need of children's underclothing, (size 3T to 14/18), socks and diapers (from infant to size 2) for their clients. Donations may be dropped off in the parish office. Last date for donations, Sunday, September 21st

## Nuns and Monks?

“WHAT!” “Nuns in the Episcopal Church.” Monks in the Episcopal Church.” “When did this happen? “

Well as early as 150 A.D. and maybe earlier there were monastics in Great Britain. Many took refuge in the homes of wealthy nobles after Henry the Eighth sold their property to pay off his debts. The church returned to Papal rule under Bloody Mary and made its final separation under Elizabeth the first. Monastic life was fairly dormant until a revival came with the Oxford movement in the late nineteenth century. (c.1833)

A group of Oxford academics sought to regain some of the ancient traditions of the church. With this revival the “Religious Life” began anew in England and rapidly spread to other parts of the Anglican Communion.

There are at present 23 Religious orders in our church who have many ministries from teaching and preaching to publishing. They care for the sick, the poor and homeless. Unfortunately, when seen in their habits it is usually assumed that they are Roman Catholics. But there are Religious in the Lutheran Church, The Eastern Orthodox Church, as well.

On October 26, we will be visited by Sr. Elaine of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor. Sr. Elaine is stationed at St. Anna’s House in downtown Philadelphia. Aside from making beautiful hand done cards and notepaper they minister to the needs of the community including having managed a hospice for the sick and dying.

Please welcome Sr. Elaine on September 29th at both the 8:30am and 10:30am services.

## Pre-Convention Meeting

SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. Christ Church, Ithan

On Tuesday September 30, we will have a “Merion Deanery pre-convention meeting,” at which representatives from the diocese will explain and describe resolutions that will be presented for the consideration and vote of the deputies from each parish in the diocese.

All deputies and alternates are required to be present since they will be responsible for the decisions of the diocese. It was decided at the formation of this country that our church would have the same democratic approach as our nation. We have little right to complain about decisions made by the church if we did not take part in the decision making process. Deputies from ten churches will be present.

Our deputies are: Frank Tatnall  
John Trickett  
Jo Parker

Our alternates are: Charlotte Woehr  
Tom Cooley  
Nina Gauthron

# Announcements

## Healing Service



On the first Sunday of the month, in the Chapel after the main service, we gather for healing prayers. It is an informal setting, and we pray together for the needs of those there. We offer prayers for ourselves, our families, and friends, and any circumstance in God's world. I invite you to join with us and offer your prayers and concerns to the Lord. Prayer is a powerful link with God, and the results can be truly amazing.

## Acolytes Needed!!!!



As we get back into the swing of things in September, we are in need of more acolytes to serve on Sunday. As of now, we only have three young people that acolyte. If you have a son or daughter that would be interested in helping out on Sundays, please don't hesitate to contact Father Parker or myself. We could really use the help!! Acolyting is fun, and a satisfying experience because we serve God, Father Parker, and the congregation as a whole. By the way, there is no age limit for acolytes. We have albs in all sizes, and are happy to have adults as well!! God bless, Tom Cooley

## Hospitality



What a treat it is to wander to the parish hall after church and see cookies, cakes, sometimes fruit, cheese, and crackers. This is all provided by wonderful volunteers of our church.

If this is a part of your church life that you value, then we need your help!

**Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall and volunteer.**

## Capital Improvements

This summer two capital improvements were completed at Christ Church, Ithan. The first was the cleaning and waterproofing of the bell tower and the resetting of two capstones. Masonry Restoration Group, Inc. completed the work at a cost of \$14,685.

During the week of July 14th, our parking lot got a much needed resurfacing. Due to the increased price of asphalt the contract price increased \$8,316.00 since the contract was signed. Delaware Valley Paving performed the work at a cost of \$49,254.00

To pay for these improvements, we have borrowed \$55,000 from the CCI Endowment Fund, repayable over five years and will pay the balance from the CCI Capital Reserve Fund. Since the completion of these projects, we have discovered several new leaks in two pillars, and will be investigating the cost to repair and the source of the money to pay for this new project.

## Planned Giving

### REMEMBER CHRIST CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

A gift to the endowment of Christ Church, Ithan, however small, would be well utilized and gratefully appreciated. A gift may be made by simply adding a codicil to your will. The codicil can specify conditions, desires, or intentions which you may have with respect to the gift.

If you would like to consider adding Christ Church, Ithan as a beneficiary to some portion of your estate, please contact Father Parker.

# Amazing!

Beauty of Mathematics !!!!!!!

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 \times 8 + 1 &= 9 \\
 12 \times 8 + 2 &= 98 \\
 123 \times 8 + 3 &= 987 \\
 1234 \times 8 + 4 &= 9876 \\
 12345 \times 8 + 5 &= 98765 \\
 123456 \times 8 + 6 &= 987654 \\
 1234567 \times 8 + 7 &= 9876543 \\
 12345678 \times 8 + 8 &= 98765432 \\
 123456789 \times 8 + 9 &= 987654321
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 \times 9 + 2 &= 11 \\
 12 \times 9 + 3 &= 111 \\
 123 \times 9 + 4 &= 1111 \\
 1234 \times 9 + 5 &= 11111 \\
 12345 \times 9 + 6 &= 111111 \\
 123456 \times 9 + 7 &= 1111111 \\
 1234567 \times 9 + 8 &= 11111111 \\
 12345678 \times 9 + 9 &= 111111111 \\
 123456789 \times 9 + 10 &= 1111111111
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 9 \times 9 + 7 &= 88 \\
 98 \times 9 + 6 &= 888 \\
 987 \times 9 + 5 &= 8888 \\
 9876 \times 9 + 4 &= 88888 \\
 98765 \times 9 + 3 &= 888888 \\
 987654 \times 9 + 2 &= 8888888 \\
 9876543 \times 9 + 1 &= 88888888 \\
 98765432 \times 9 + 0 &= 888888888
 \end{aligned}$$

Brilliant, isn't it? Look at this symmetry:

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 \times 1 &= 1 \\
 11 \times 11 &= 121 \\
 111 \times 111 &= 12321 \\
 1111 \times 1111 &= 1234321 \\
 11111 \times 11111 &= 123454321 \\
 111111 \times 111111 &= 12345654321 \\
 1111111 \times 1111111 &= 1234567654321 \\
 11111111 \times 11111111 &= 123456787654321 \\
 111111111 \times 111111111 &= 12345678987654321
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, take a look at this...

101%

From a strictly mathematical viewpoint:

What Equals 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to GIVE OVER 100%. How about ACHIEVING 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O- R- K

$8+1+18+4+23+ 15+18+11 = 98\%$

And:

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$11+14+15+23+ 12+5+4+7+ 5 = 96\%$

But:

A-T-T-I-T-U- D-E

$1+20+20+9+20+ 21+4+5 = 100\%$

THEN, look how far the love of God will take you:

L-O-V-E-O-F- G-O-D

$12+15+22+5+15+ 6+7+15+4 = 101\%$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that, while Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, It's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

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### Pruning Thanks!

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Thanks go out to the wonderful person who trimmed the vines from the Episcopal Church sign on Conestoga.

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### Spire - Do you have an interesting story?

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If you have something you would like to share with your Christ Church Ithan family, please send articles, stories, poems or pictures to Nancy in the Church office or to Porter Gould at [blpgould@verizon.net](mailto:blpgould@verizon.net).