



# The Spire

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.

**January 2007**

A Newsletter of  
Christ Church Ithan  
Villanova, PA

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## From the Rector's Desk

### IT'S A NEW YEAR!

Here we are beginning a new year. Just about every culture on the planet celebrates the promise of the New Year. For those of us who view things in a positive way we always hope the New Year will bring advancements in medicine, prospects of world peace, and more people coming to know a loving God.

For the wary, the New Year brings the frightening prospects of the unknown. "What, oh dear, what will the New Year bring?" "Will I be able to cope?"

For the resolved, the New Year means little. It's just a change in numbers. It's just a minor inconvenience remembering to change the date on checks and such. Many of those people live as though they are life's spectators watching the days go by. "Life goes on," they say! And it does!

Then there's that group of "The Young at Heart," who see each year, each day, each hour as a opportunity to achieve something however large, however small. They rejoice in every book they read, every cake they bake,

every life they touch. They see their life as a gift to be returned by serving God and their fellow human beings.

Most all of us, according to our situation, will fit into one category or another. The one thing about the New Year is it offers us choices. Will we base our choices on what we think IS, or what CAN be? God gave us the free will to make decisions that affect our lives and the lives of those around us. The New Year is always a gift. May this year of 2007 be one that opens new doors to the revelation that God made you very special and God intends to use you for the purpose for which you were created.

Have a Blessed and a prosperous holy New Year.

**Fr. Parker**



MULTIPLY  
GOD'S  
LOVE

### JAZZ VESPERS LINEUP

- February 11<sup>th</sup> - Suzzane Cloud, Vocalist
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - Denis D’Blasio, Baritone Saxophone
- April 1<sup>st</sup> - Pierce Vincent Eckart, Vocalist
- May 6<sup>th</sup> - Joanna Pascal, Vocalist
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Neil Weitzel, Sax & Rob Stoneback, Trombone



All 7:00 pm ... Don't Miss It!

## Annual Parish Meeting



**January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Following the 10:30 Service**

As an incorporated body, Christ Church Ithan is required to have a parish meeting once a year to elect new officers and review the work of the parish and the budget.

All baptized members listed in our rolls and over 18 are eligible to vote. Candidates for office must have been either received from another branch of Christ’s one holy catholic and apostolic church, or confirmed in the Episcopal Church and have attended more often than in the previous year. In most parishes the treasurer and Rector’s Warden are appointments but can be vestry persons also. It is also a time to pray for our future and to assess our direction in serving the Lord.

### Thanks to our Retiring Vestry Members

Due to our bylaws vestry persons can only serve two consecutive terms and must “retire” for at least one term. The people who are going off of the Vestry have been exemplary and have set a bench mark for the new folks coming on. It has been a tradition to award a personalized Teddy Bear to each person who has served. This comes from a hymn entitled, “Gladly, the Cross Eyed Bear.”

Our retiring officers are: Sarah Gifford, Pierce Eckhart, and Will McPherson. **Thank you** for all of your hard work and valuable input.

### Nominated Vestry Candidates

#### Mike Beausang

Mike received degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown Law School and NYU Law School. He has previously served two full and one partial term on the Vestry and has been Accounting Warden for the last 5 years. He practices law at the firm of Butera, Beausang, Cohen and Brennan in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. He and his wife Deborah have four children and five grandchildren. His hobby is sailing.

#### John F. Trickett

John was born in 1930 and attended The Episcopal Academy. He served in The United States Navy for seven years during the Korean War. He has been a member of Christ Church Ithan for twenty-four years and has served on our vestry as Accounting Warden. He is a board member of five different hospitals in the Delaware County area and has served as President of Aronimink Country Club. John lives in Radnor with his charming wife Phyllis.

**Jeff Boily**

Jeff, his wife Lynne, and his 18 year old daughter Julianna joined Christ Church in 1998 after living overseas for a number of years. Jeff and Lynne were editors for the Spire. Jeff has served on the vestry from 2000-2003, has been an usher and presently assists Father Parker as a Eucharistic minister during the 8:30 service.

**Judith Englerth**

Judy was born and raised in New York City where she spent most of her life. In the summer of 1986 she moved to Ocean Grove, NJ (a northern seashore town) where she was involved in their summer programs of religious and cultural events. In the fall of 1990 she moved to Berwyn, PA

She has been employed for the last 15 years at Radnor Township School District in the capacity of Chief Payroll Specialist. She previously worked for the United Airlines for 23 years as an Internal Tariff Specialist, and the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association of the United Methodist Church as the Program Assistant. She is also a veteran of The United States Marine Corps.

She began to attend Christ Church Ithan in 1990 and became a member in 1992. During this time she served on the vestry for two terms, acting as the liaison for the Organ Restoration Committee. Along with singing in the choir she is also a chalice bearer, lay reader, acolyte, greeter, representative to the Merion Deanery and a member of the Church Growth Committee.

Christ Church, Ithan is a very special place and she is looking forward to serving again on the vestry.

**Sanctity of Life Sunday**

**January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Amnion offers open hearts and open arms to young women who find themselves in difficult situations with unplanned pregnancies and are looking for an alternative to abortion. On January 28th you will find baby bottles in the back of the church. We ask you to take them home, fill them with your loose change and bring them back on the First Sunday of Lent, February 25th. Amnion also offers pregnancy tests, post abortion counseling, and help with adoptions. Amnion is in Upper Darby, Kennett Square and right here in Bryn Mawr at 610-525-1557. [www.Amnion.org](http://www.Amnion.org)

**Newcomer's Brunch**

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Newcomer's Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. As has been the case the past two years, we will have only **one Service at 9:30 am** on that day. This is to encourage participation by those who attend the 8:30 am and 10:30 am services. The Brunch will immediately follow the 9:30 am Service.

Please plan to attend to welcome those who have recently joined our congregation.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**

12:15 pm

Holy Eucharist Said service with the Imposition of ashes

8:00 pm

Service with Choir, Sermon and Imposition of ashes

**Valentines Service**

**February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**



Wednesday, the evening of Valentine's Day, we will have our third special service for the romantic people in our parish who would like to renew their marriage vows or their commitment of love to each other. Please let the office know by February 9<sup>th</sup> if you would like to be involved. 610-688-1110

## Guest Preacher

February 25<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday of Lent at 10:30 am

The Rev. Canon James Lowel Shannon



Canon Shannon is the former Executive Director of The Philadelphia Theological Institute. (He also happens to be the Nephew of our own Miriam Hook.)

## 2nd Annual Parish Retreat

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9:00 am until 1:00 pm (Including Lunch)

We are looking forward to our second annual parish retreat and quiet day at our Cathedral. The retreat day will be led by The Very Rev. Richard Giles, Dean of the Philadelphia Cathedral.

Dean Giles was recommended to be the Dean of our Cathedral by the Arch Bishop of Canterbury and is the author of several books, including, Mark My Word, Repitching the Tent and We Do Not Presume.

## Dinner & Show

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>



Please mark your calendars now for this year's Dinner and Show presented by the Christ Church Choir and Friends on the evening of Saturday, March 17.

After a successful 1940's Radio Show and a Twilight Zone Trip back to the 50's, you can be sure that the choir has 'cooked up' an interesting and entertaining theme for this year's show. More details, including ticket information will be available in the next few weeks. Stay tuned!

## Confirmation or Reception

March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am Service

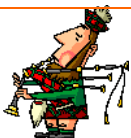
Our Episcopal visitation is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. If you have not been confirmed or received from another denomination with the historic Apostolic Succession, (Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox), please let Fr. Parker know so we can schedule private classes. Children over 12 classes will be scheduled Saturday or Sunday mornings depending on the size of the classes.

## Book Review - The Lambs of London



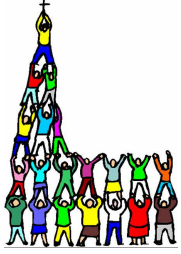
If you are interested in literature, Shakespeare in particular, you might be interested in this recent book entitled "The Lambs of London". Charles and Mary Lamb (brother and sister) were 19<sup>th</sup> century writers who put together a book for children called, "Lambs Tales," a wonderful collection of Shakespearian classics rewritten for children but certainly enjoyable for adults as well. This book by Peter Ackroyd is an historic novel based on the lives of these interesting people and a lost Shakespearian play. Ackroyd is the author of a biography of the Bard, so it is hard to know where the novel begins and historic fact ends. However, the enjoyment of the read doesn't end until the end. F.P.+

## Last Call for Parish Trip to Scotland



The trip departs on June 21, 2007, for ten days. Total cost is \$2,900. Visit Edinburgh, Inverness, Loch Ness, St. Andrews, The Isle of Skye, and Glasgow. If interested, please call Fr. Parker as soon as possible.

## Stewardship Update



### Thank you for your pledges to the 2007 Stewardship Campaign!

We have had a very successful Stewardship Campaign. Thanks to everyone’s generosity and faithfulness in Christ Church Ithan, we have \$238,000 in pledges which surpasses our goal of \$222,000.

Your continued support is so vital to the church and its mission. If you have not yet pledged, please send in your pledge card or call Nancy at the Church. She can take your pledge over the phone.

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

Upcoming Dates: Monday January 29<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup> / Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. We are always in need of new volunteers to provide dinner from 5pm-7pm, supervision from 7pm-9pm and a few to bunk there overnight from 9pm-6am. Please sign-up in the parish hall or contact Chris Williams

## CCI Food Pantry – 2nd Sunday of the Month



Donations can be dropped off in the Parish Hall. To make a monetary donation, please mark your check “Food Pantry”

## Announcements

### Are you Sick or in the Hospital?



Hospitals do not inform us of member hospitalizations.

Father Parker very much wants to visit with you at home or in the hospital and see to your pastoral needs.

### Flower Power



We are always looking for people to help with the flowers for the altar. If you are feeling creative, please contact Deb Beausang at 610-688-1512.

### Altar Guild



If you have any questions or interest in being a part of the Altar Guild, please feel free to contact Yoko Young at 610-293-1220.

### Go Paperless



If you would like to receive church notices via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to our office manager, Nancy McLaughlin, at [guardianangel720@hotmail.com](mailto:guardianangel720@hotmail.com).

### THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
 God stuck U in the name of His Son,  
 And each time U pray, you’ll see it’s true,  
 You can’t spell out JesUs and not include U.  
 You’re a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
 For U, He was born; that’s why He came.  
 And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
 It even takes U to spell crucified.  
 Isn’t it thrilling and splendidly grand  
 He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?  
 The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,  
 And this word resurrection is spelled with a U.  
 When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,  
 He felt there was one thing He just had to mention  
 “Go into the world and tell them it’s true  
 That I love them all – Just like I love U.”  
 So many great people are spelled with a U,  
 Don’t they have a right to know JesUs too?  
 It all depends now on what U will do,  
 He’d like them to know,  
 But it all starts with U.



### VALENTINE'S DAY QUIZ

1. Who had a top ten hit in the UK with "Cupid" in 1961?
2. Who wrote the poem "A Red, Red Rose"?
3. Which company manufactured Love Hearts - packets of small round sweets each of which had a short message on?
4. Which 1999 Oscar winning film has a title which refers to a breed of rose and features a red rose on it's poster?
5. Who played the title role in the film 'Shirley Valentine'?
6. Approximately what percentage of Valentine's cards are bought by women? 50%, 70% or 85%?
7. In which TV sitcom is one of the characters said to have proposed to another on Valentine's Day by putting the message "Lee love Dawn, marriage?" in their local paper?
8. In which century were the Wars Of The Roses fought?
9. The word "love" as used in the scoring of tennis is thought to have originated from the French word for what type of food?
10. How many times does the word "love" appear in the Bible? 3, 73 or 733?

Answers to Valentine's Day Quiz- 1- Sam Cooke, 2- Robert Burns, 3- Swizzel, 4- American Beauty, 5- Pauline Collins, 6- 85%, 7- The Office, 8- 15th, 9- Egg (L'ouef), 10- 733

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### EASTER SYMBOLS



**Easter Bells** - Are rung in France and Italy throughout the year but they are not rung on the Thursday before Good Friday. They are silent as way to remember the death of Jesus. They are then rung on Easter Sunday as way of telling people Jesus is alive again.

**The Cross** - This is the symbol for the Christian religion as Jesus was nailed to a cross but then came back to life.

**The Easter Lily** - The lily was a reminder of how Jesus came back to life. The white Easter Lily is used in many Easter services. It is supposed to be a symbol of the purity of the Virgin Mary.

**Easter Flowers** - Such as daffodil, narcissus and the tulip. Area symbol as they bloom in the spring.

**Pussy Willows** - These are especially picked at Easter in England and Russia. People would tap each other on the shoulders with a branch of the pussy willow for good luck.

**Lambs** - The lamb is a symbol as people thought of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who would watch over them as they were lambs. Lambs are born in spring. The Israelites also used lamb's blood to save their firstborn in ancient Egypt.

**Rabbits** - Rabbits are reminder of spring and new life. They were the favorite animal of the spring goddess Eastre.

**The Egg** - These are a symbol of spring as well as Easter. They are a sign of new life.

**Chicks** - The chicks are born from eggs and are a reminder of spring and Easter.

**Candles** - Candles give light in darkness. Jesus is seen as "the eternal light" showing Christians the way from death to life.

**Palm Branches** - These are used as a symbol of peace.

**Bread** - Unleavened flat bread is eaten to remember Jesus' sacrifice.

**Wine** - Red wine is drunk to remember Jesus shedding His blood for humans.

**Fireworks** - These are believed to frighten away evil spirits. They also show that out of darkness comes light.



Of all the symbols associated with Easter the egg, the symbol of fertility and new life, is the most identifiable. The customs and traditions of using eggs have been associated with Easter for centuries.

Originally Easter eggs were painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring and were used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts. After they were colored and etched with various designs the eggs were exchanged by lovers and romantic admirers, much the same as valentines. In medieval time eggs were traditionally given at Easter to the servants. In Germany eggs were given to children along with other Easter gifts.

Different cultures have developed their own ways of decorating Easter eggs. Crimson eggs, to honor the blood of Christ, are exchanged in Greece. In parts of Germany and Austria green eggs are used on Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday). Slavic peoples decorate their eggs in special patterns of gold and silver.

Pysanki eggs are a masterpiece of skill and workmanship. Melted beeswax is applied to the fresh white egg. It is then dipped in successive baths of dye. After each dip wax is painted over the area where the preceding color is to remain. Eventually a complex pattern of lines and colors emerges into a work of art.

In Germany and other countries eggs used for cooking were not broken, but the contents were removed by piercing the end of each egg with a needle and blowing the contents into a bowl. The hollow eggs were dried and hung from shrubs and trees during the Easter Week. The Armenians would decorate hollow eggs with pictures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other religious designs.

For thousands of years, people thought of eggs as the symbols of new life. People also thought that the Earth itself hatched from a huge egg. So that is why the egg was chosen as the symbol of the resurrection.

Long before Jesus, people used to give each other eggs as presents. These eggs were dyed or painted in fancy colours and designs. Some of the most elaborate and beautifully designed eggs came from countries such as the Ukraine. The tool used by the Ukrainians was called a Kistka. It's a brass cone mounted on a stick. The artist filled this with wax and heats it so that the wax melts; the artist then draws patterns on the melted wax. All the designs used have a religious meaning.

Every country has its own customs. In the Northern counties of England the children go around begging for eggs and other presents and acting out the Pace egg Play, this was known as "Pace egging".

"Pace eggs" comes from the Hebrew word Pesach (Passover). In Scotland the word also appears as Peace or Paiss.

In Poland girls used to send eggs to their favorite boyfriends. Finnish children would beat the grown-ups with birch twigs until they were given eggs for ransom.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

