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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.



The Rector's Desk

The Sermon Box

Dear Friends in Christ,

We're going to try something new and hopefully fun this Summer. At the entrance to the church there will be two boxes, one for the 8:30 service and one for the 10:30 service. These will be called "Sermon Boxes," because you will be providing me with sermon ideas this Summer regarding topics on which you would like me to speak.

Here's how it works. Next to the boxes will be index cards. All you have to do is write a topic on a card and put it in the box for the service which you attend. Then, at the sermon time each Sunday, I will put my hand in the box and pull out a card. I will then preach on that topic for ten minutes "off the cuff."

The intent is to take the more relaxed atmosphere of Summer and have some fun while speaking to topics that are of interest to you. It is also a lot of fun because both you and I will show up each Sunday not knowing what is going to happen.

So put your thinking caps on, please remember that the topics should be religious in nature, and start filling the box!

God bless,

Kevin

A Word of Thanks

Rose and I would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of prayer, love and support these past few months, first following Rose’s accident and then following the death of my father. You have been an anchor for me in a very tempestuous storm, and I love you all for it.

Sincerely,
Kevin



*To Father Kevin:
The Vestry
and the Members of Christ Church Ithan
Are having a tree planted in memory of your father
Outside your office window.
It is a holly tree
whose branches remain ever green standing for
Eternity,
The red berries for the
Blood of Christ,
The prickles for
His Crown of Thorns.
May Your Father rest in eternal Peace
Knowing that Christ died for us that we may all
Have that Peace.*

The Life

Poem by: Henry Burke* (3/2/2009)

people, full with memories
young kids, with energy
middle aged men, struggling over money
old men, wise with time
all talking of life what they did yesterday and today and what they will do tomorrow
young kids, thinking of the present
middle aged men, thinking of the future
old men, speaking of the past
all have a purpose
the young, have fun
the men, provide
the old men, tell of their times
all contribute to
the society

* 13 Year Old Grandson of Peter & Francie Hubbard

United Thank Offering

Jo Parker is now Chairperson for the United Thank Offering. You will soon be receiving in the mail a letter, the United Thank Offering Everyday blue box and the UTO envelope. Please upon receiving these items set up the blue box and each time you feel blessed put a coin or a dollar in.

Christ Church will have a United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering on October 10 at the 8:30 and 10:30 AM services. Each family will receive a letter, a UTO blue box and a UTO envelope in the next few weeks. Please utilize the boxes right away so in we will be able to contribute to this very worthwhile outreach project. You can visit their web site at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto to find out more.

UTO Prayer

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering; and keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way; through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Christ Church went to the Phillies!



On Monday, June 7th, Christ Church joined the other Episcopal Churches of the Merion Deanery for a fun night at the Phillies.

Music Sunday, June 13, 2010



Our Choir along with Mr. Louis Perazza, our interim music director would like to invite you to a very special "Music Sunday" which will take place during our 10:30 AM worship on Sunday, June 13, 2010. Our choir will end this years season with a performance of Mozart's Missa Brevis in C Major, K. 258 and Mr. Perazza will present some extraordinary organ works. Raise your voices in song along with Mozart, Bach and Handel.

Wayne Career Transition Coffee Meet-up

Are you in a career transition? Contemplating a career change? Meetings consist of informal discussions, networking and coffee!

If you or your friend(s) in the Philadelphia area/burbs would like to join us for future (monthly) meetings or just would like more information, please contact CCI member Katharine Woodhouse-Beyer.

KWoodhouseBeyer@gmail.com

Jazz Vespers At Christ Church



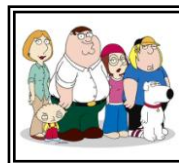
Jazz was born in the gospel churches of New Orleans by a merge of the classically trained musicians of the British West Indies and the folk music of African slaves. It is the only indigenous American art form.

The syncopated music of the 30s and 40s was a product of this early music. Given the denigration of today's popular music Jazz has sought refuge and sanctuary in many of today's churches.

Christ Church has been one of these sanctuaries for the last ten years.

Our season finale in May featured two of the best proponents of this art in America today. Neil Wetzel, saxophone, has played with the Phila Pops, Bernadette Peters, Johnny Mathis, and was featured with Patti Page at Carnegie Hall.

Family Photos



We want to update our Parish Photo Wall. Please take a family picture over the summer holiday, and either e-mail an electronic file, drop a copy at the church office, or bring a copy to the church on Family Photo Sunday, September 12, 2010. Photo should be 4 x 6.

Christ Church School Report

First - many, many thanks to Father Kevin and THE band for another fantastic Rock Vespers in April. A great time was had by all, especially the guest guitarist, Tyler Soutendijk! Tyler was thrilled to join the pros for "Calling all Angels." The audience was entertained with classic and new rock songs and inspirational readings from Blake Gauthron, Elizabeth Peckham, and Will and Tyler Soutendijk.

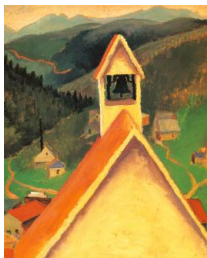
Second - we are winding down another fun Church School year, and looking forward to the grand finale - Church School Recognition Sunday!!! The big event will be on June 6th at the 10:30 service. It is an opportunity for us to recognize all of the dedication shown by our students and teachers this year. The celebration is also an opportunity to usher in our new "Youth Service." On the first Sunday of every month, our youth will assume the roles of ushers, greeters, readers and acolytes, and our choir will perform kid-friendly hymns. It should be a great way for our kids to get more involved in the service!

Our terrific students this year have been: Sebastian and Lorenzo Clarke, Blake Gauthron, Emme Healy, Elsa and Maggie Moroney, Jack and Will McPherson, Elizabeth Palumbo, Caralyn and Lilia Sawyer, Tyler and Will Soutendijk, Cameron, Justin and Lauren Williams. Our outstanding and dedicated teaching staff this year: Nina Gauthron, Nancy Healy, Rosi McPherson, Elizabeth Peckham, David and Larissa Wietlisbach, and Chris Williams. Please join us on June 6th to thank them for all of their dedication.

Finally - planning for next year is underway! Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions!

Chris Soutendijk
soutendijk@verizon.net

Chime In - News about our Parish Family



THE PARKERS AND BEYOND

From Fr. Ron +

Just to let you know what the Parkers have been doing since retirement.

F.P. has been quite busy filling in for vacations and sick leaves in other Episcopal parishes in the diocese. He has celebrated at St. Aidens in Roxboro, Holy Apostles in West Philadelphia, St. George and St. Barnabas also in West Philadelphia, eight months at Annunciation in

Mount Airy, and one Sunday at St. Faith's in Havertown.

He also produced a Vesper's concert in April at Annunciation that was met with great success.

He taught a course on the Apocrypha during Advent at Dunwoody Village.

Jo has had a third surgery to mend what is known as a non-union of her right femur. The surgeon who performed this surgery is well known as one of the top traumatologists in the area. It appears she is on her way to recovery.

Jo is the parish receptionist, so the friendly voice you will here when you call is my lovely wife. It is her hope that later in the year we will be able to do what most retired people do, take a few trips.

We still consider Christ Church to be our home church and will return whenever we can. God's love and Peace be with you all. Fr. Ron+

Steve Parker (Father Ron's son)

I'll be studying Latin this summer for three weeks at the University of Bologna, Italy, which is the oldest university in the Western world and the alma mater of Dante, Petrarch, and Copernicus, among many others. That's providing the volcano in Iceland cooperates, of course.

Hope you have a great summer!

Conaway leads Radnor Softball Team

Charlotte Conaway has become a centerpiece of the Radnor Softball squad, fighting for a Central League crown and a second straight trip to the post-season. Next year, she is heading to the University of Rhode Island to play softball.

Charlotte was very involved at Christ Church and served as an acolyte for many years.

Congratulations Alexandra!

Nancy Frazier's Granddaughter, Alexandra Woodward, is graduating on June 11th, 2010 from Owen J. Roberts High School. Alexandra is a member of the National Honor Society, the World Language Society, and a trumpeter. She is a concert leader and member of the concert, marching and jazz bands. Alexandra will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Her parents are Nanciann & Stephen Woodward, former CCI parishioners.

Food Pantry Takes Off!

Literally! The Christ Church Food Pantry, only used by a few over the last few years, has taken a leap of faith. It has landed at the Ardmore Food Pantry, located in St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Athens Avenue in Ardmore. This pantry is a huge, thriving, and centrally located ministry who is happy to have us join with them in attempting to supply food for those who need it. It is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors".

Ruth Johnson, the Director of the endeavor, is a most energetic woman whose passion is food and food-insecure families. She has this outreach project going at full speed and serving some thirty families each week. Being in the town of Ardmore, the Pantry is easily accessible close to all forms of transportation. There is a large area of the Parish Hall devoted to this and consequently lots of storage space.

We at Christ Church can help the incredible need to supply food by contributing our time, various food stuffs, and, of course money. Please look for the container at the back of the church with the label "Spare Change Spares Hunger" and give as you can. The hours of the food pantry are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9AM to 11AM and on Thursday evenings from 6PM to 8PM. A sign-up sheet will appear on the bulletin board shortly. We also plan to have specific Sundays designated to bringing in pantry foods.

A new project forming is a garden at St. Mary's Church to grow fresh produce. Food-insecure families cannot always afford fresh vegetables as canned are less expensive. If your gardening interests are just itching to help, let us know.

In conclusion, this is a new outreach project for us at Christ Church and a very important one. More and more people go without food each day. Feel free to call Dode Tague at 610-527-0393 for more information. A tour can be arranged if so desired.



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Office of Bishop Michel

TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is my joy and pleasure to announce that the Cathedral Chapter has elected the Rev. Judith Anne Sullivan to be the next Dean of Philadelphia Cathedral. Judith is the Associate Rector of the Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, and serves as Chair of the Liturgical Commission of the diocese. She was a Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral between 2004 and 2007.

Many thanks to all for the work that has gone on at the cathedral, including most recently, the ministry of Lloyd Casson, our Interim Dean. The Cathedral is well poised to move ahead into the next chapter of its life in the mission of Christ. We are fortunate to have Judy's gifts for taking the Cathedral forward and for her (forthcoming) leadership as a Dean in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Dean-elect Sullivan will begin her duties on July 1st. A liturgy of Installation and Celebration of New Ministry is contemplated for early Autumn. Your prayers are invited for Judith and the Cathedral Chapter and Congregation.

+Rodney R. Michel

Assisting Bishop of Pennsylvania

The Seamen’s Church Institute’s Holiday Ditty Bag Program

Founded in 1843, the Seamen’s Church Institute (SCI) serves the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of 65,000 visiting seafarers on 1,900 ships docking at terminals along the Delaware River in PA & NJ on a yearly basis. Last December SCI’s chaplains and ship visitors distributed around 4,200 Christmas Ditty Bags to the merchant mariners who were at sea during the Christmas Holidays. Our Ditty Bags bring real joy to these brave men who spend 9-10 months at sea bringing us the things we need for our everyday lives. For some, this is the only Christmas gift they receive. Imagine your Christmas morning...far away from your family, friends and familiar surroundings. Now, imagine how happy it would make you to find a bag of necessities, packed by people sharing in God’s love, on Christmas morning! We hope you will be able to participate in some way to help our seafarers.

St John’s Church, Concord in Glen Mills, PA surprised us by launching their own “Ditty Bag Campaign” for SCI. They created a poster and flyer (contact us for the PDF file) so families, companies or churches would be able to lend a hand. Here is some of the information we would like to pass on...

Plastic Bag Contacts: Uline - Ph: 800-958-5463, or website at www.uline.com
White, low density, bags 16" x 18" x 4" - 500 for \$135 (\$13 for shipping)
Or, Associated Bag Company - Ph: 800-926-6100 Ext. 233 Jane Becker. www.associatedbag.com
Red poly bags 16" x 18" x 4" @ \$76 per case of 500 (\$35 for shipping)


You can solicit monetary donations and sponsor an entire ship for \$150.00, or go to Dollardays.com and purchase some items from our wish list at wholesale prices. The wish list items are listed below or you can go to: <http://dollardays.com/sci/wishlist.html>. (Dollardays will ship directly to SCI)

- Wish List: Knitted Hat & Scarf
- Razor & Shave Cream
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Shampoo & Comb
- Heavy Socks & Work Gloves
- Deodorant
- Mini Sewing Kit
- Pen & Writing Tablet
- Please enclose a signed Christmas card from you.

We invite you to support our efforts in showing appreciation to the seafarers’ who bring us the items we use in our daily lives...fresh fruit, clothing, fuel and oil for our homes and vehicles, etc.

Please call if you would like to take part in this wonderful program 215-940-9900, Ext: 106 Ronnie

SAVE THE DATE: We will be packing a few thousand Ditty Bags on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 10am till 3pm. This is a fun, high energy day for all who participate. Breakfast treats and snacks are provided by SCI but we ask that you bring along your brown bag lunch and a friend! Be careful though, once you participate, you will want to come back every year!



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