



Summer 2011

A Newsletter of
Christ Church Ithan
Villanova, PA

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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

Summer Worship at Christ Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

A few years ago I read an article that suggested doing some interesting things during the Summer which can keep worship vital and interesting, and perhaps even encourage parishioners to attend during the time of year when attendance normally drops. So this year will see the return of one thing we tried last year, as well as a few new new attempts (at least for me). First, we will have the return of the sermon box. Beginning on June 12th, the boxes will be in the rear of the church and members are asked to write suggested sermon topics on the index cards that will be provided and drop them in the box for their particular service. Then, beginning on July 10th, I will begin pulling out a card at sermon time each Sunday and preaching "on the spot." Second, also starting July 10th, we will begin using an Irish Eucharistic Prayer which I got to know quite well when I lived in Ireland. This prayer has a lot of congregational participation and it will be something new and different. Third, we will worship outdoors on the last Sundays of July and August in the Garden of Remembrance (next to the parish hall).

Lastly, I hope all of you get the opportunity to slow down a bit and take some nice trips this Summer, and I ask that you please keep up your pledge while you are away. During the Summer things can get very tight financially (the bills keep coming in while many of us are away), but if everyone keeps current with their pledges, we can get through the summer reasonably well.

Thank you, and God bless,

Kevin



New Ministries at Christ Church Ithan

Inspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These new ministries have been inspired by the ideas and insights of the members of this parish. They came from the parish survey interviews, the Ministries Task Force and spontaneously.
Aspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong hope of implementing these ideas was manifest by the active involvement of many parishioners in conjunction with Fr. Kevin
Perspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time, talent and treasure of many parishioners went into the active and ongoing success of these new ministries.

Thanks to Yoko Young!

For the last six and a half years, our Altar Guild has been led superbly by Yoko Young. This month Yoko will be stepping down from this important ministry, and we want to thank her for all her hardwork and dedication over the years! We also want to welcome Janette Davis, who will succeed Yoko as chair of the Altar Guild, and thank her for her willingness to do so.

On the use of Prayer Candles

Following up on my article in the last newsletter regarding the use of bells in church, someone suggested that I also write on the use of candles as a tool for prayer. A few months ago, a parishioner generously gave a stand of prayer candles (traditionally called "votive candles") which have been placed in the chapel. One of the ways my mother taught me to pray as a child was to arrive a little early to church, go to the votive candles and then she would ask me who I wanted to pray for. We then lit the candle together and went back to our pew. The practice has stayed with me all of my life, and I think there are two aspects to it that I find helpful. First, it is sacramental. The definition of a sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." To light a candle as a prayer gives a tangible, "outward," expression to a yearning that emanates from within. Second, I always have a sense that, as I leave the candle, my prayer continues. St. Paul wrote that we should pray unceasingly, and as I walk up and down the hall past the chapel each day, I remain mindful that the candle, and thus my prayer, is still lit.

Of course, candles have other uses in church as well. During Advent we count the four weeks leading to Christmas by lighting an additional candle each week on the Advent Wreath. During Eastertide we keep the Paschal Candle lit as a symbol of Christ's presence with his disciples for forty days following the resurrection. And while the candles on the altar were once needed in order to see the readings (thus they are called the Epistle candle on the right and the Gospel candle on the left), we now continue to use them as reminders that Christ is the light of the world and we are the light of the world. But I have also used candles as a tool for prayer ever since I was a little boy, and if you would like to do so, feel free to go into the chapel across from my office any time, light a candle, and say a prayer.

Alter Guild Wish List

- Holy Week Set, including Frontal, Burse & Veil
- Sterling Silver Ciborium (bread box)
- Two Fair Linens (altar cloths)
- Purple Burse or Veil

If you would like to make memorial donation for any items on the list, please contact Fr. Kevin or Janette Davis, our new Altar Guild chair.

Weekly Sunday Memorials

Would like to honor / remember someone on Sundays. You can do so by sponsoring the sanctuary candle (\$10) or alter flowers (\$60) by contacting Nancy in the church office.



Chime In News about our Parish Family

Pixie Dodge

Pixie joined Christ Church in the last year and remembers fondly the first sermon she heard Father Kevin give. It was during the summer and he took a topic out of a shoebox, the subject was the integration of psychotherapy and religion. Pixie remembers the way in which he approached the topic from many angles in a short period of time. She felt spellbound. She also remembers the friendliness of the congregation, that she and a friend felt welcomed before they even left their pew. It is through Pixie's relationship with Woody Sheetz Willard of Heartland Hospice that Christ Church will look to form a bereavement support group supportive to our church members and hopefully to the outside community.

Woody was an enormous help to Pixie and her late husband, Murray, at the end of his extended illness.

Pixie enjoys reading, she keeps in close touch with good friends and family, she walks regularly in rain or shine and attends a bible study at The Quadrangle where she lives as well as at Christ Church on Wednesday mornings.

Noel Farley

Noel has belonged to Christ Church for one and a half years and has known Father Kevin for many years. He is Dublin born and came to the United States to study economics at Yale University. He retired from teaching at the college level, most recently at Bryn Mawr College where he taught economics since 1971.

Although retired from teaching, Noel is an active researcher and writer. His research interests include the philosophical, social and economic underpinnings of the Irish economy. He is also interested in Irish Americans who have settled in the Philadelphia area. Currently he is looking to publish a manuscript about 19th century Irish immigrants and banks established by churches aimed at helping immigrants save their money. Noel was widowed in 1989 and has two grown children, both of whom live in Colorado.

David and Larissa Wietlisbach

David is working this summer in the bag room at Overbrook Golf Club. Larissa is working in Wayne at Beethoven Wraps, as well as babysitting! If you are shopping in Wayne, please stop by and say hello to Larissa!

May is Music A Musical Success



All those who attended our first music festival, May is Music, agree that our first ever music festival was a success. From the first recital to the last, the level of musicianship was extremely high.

Many commented that such performances would be seen at the Kimmel Center.

Members of the Rittenhouse String Quartet joined Louis L. Perazza to open the festival with a performance of BACH'S Concerto for Harpsichord and strings. A flawless reading of Schubert's Piano Trio in Bb followed. Our choir performed Cabaret Tunes that everyone enjoyed singing along with after having a delicious dinner.

A very impressive recital followed with Mr. Perazza playing music for flute and various instruments in an intimate chamber setting. A standing ovation brought

this memorable recital to a close with many asking for Mr. Perazza to continue playing the flute in recital in the future.

The closing concert took place in church with our organ being put through a major work out. There has not been an organ recital in Christ Church in nearly ten years and Mr. Perazza vows to change that. Every stop in the organ was used and it sounded from a whisper to a thunderous crescendo.

Mr. Perazza will be putting together a music committee to re-visit May Is Music to assist him in making the Festival more attractive to our parishioners and community. If you wish to help Mr. Perazza with your ideas simply watch our Sunday bulletin and listen to announcements for our starting date.

Ardmore Food Pantry



Food Pantry Outreach Closes First Year

It has been just a little more than a year that Christ Church has teemed up with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ardmore and the pantry continues to grow and serve more and more people. Word travels fast that a well-stocked food pantry (most of the time) resides on Ardmore Avenue in Ardmore. There are now many people from Chester, Sharon Hill, Philadelphia and Upper Darby. It has been great to see it grow but actually means the pantry requires more and more food. There are other pantries in the area and the volunteers at Ardmore have informed their guests of this. Several people that come are new residents of the country, speak very little English, and don't read well. The only way to figure this out is by stating that we may not have "Raisin Bran" to the client, and would they like another cereal. At this point, when the person says he/she doesn't like "Raisin Bran", one realizes that the client checked everything on the menu not necessarily because he/she needed it but because the person could not read. It is shocking to see the need but amazingly gratifying to be able to help. There has obviously been a greater need of food stuffs.

Having said that, thank you for your amazing generosity during the past year and please remember the pantry in the summer as the need will not diminish but

increase as the children are out of school and will be eating more meals at home

The volunteers from our church have been few and that is something that needs improvement. You can always call Dode Tague at 610-527-0393 and she will gladly sign you up for a time convenient for you. As of June 20th until Labor Day, the hours will be Mondays from 9:30 Am til 11:30 AM and Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Wednesday mornings will resume in September.

Hospitality

Thank you all for the support over this past year. We have new people hosting coffee hour with the help of the Hospitality Committee. This seems to be working well. June is booked, but do not forget summer. We still provide coffee and a chance to catch up on the news of summer vacations, etc.

Joan Keator

UTO Ingathering Sunday

The UNITED THANK OFFERING is a ministry of the Episcopal Church and their mission is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this, the UTO program encourages daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. You will be receiving the UTO blue box and envelope in the mail soon and our UTO Ingathering Sunday will be on October 2nd at the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Thank you,

Jo Parker, UTO Coordinator

Ushers Meeting Set for September

Duties Are Further Explained

A meeting with all of CCI's ushers/greeters is planned for Sunday, September 18, to explain and further refine the Sunday morning duties of this ministry. All ushers/greeters are urged to attend as well as anyone who would be interested in joining this ministry. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please call or email Nancy at the church office or Frank at home (telephone 610-688-5623).

The Last Word on the Flower Workshop

The Flower workshop was a success on the three levels we wanted to accomplish:

1. The community at large was overwhelmingly impressed with the organization, friendliness of our members (especially with our young members who were opening car doors and giving directions to our visitors) as well as the presentation of the two women from The Washington National Cathedral.
2. Our church members worked together for a common goal for our church. We had time to get to know people who we only see on Sunday.
3. We raised money for the church; see the figures below.

At Fr. Kevin's request a questionnaire was given to the afternoon group with questions on their feelings about the day. All the responses, save one, were glowing. When asked if they would do it again and if so how soon, all wanted it anywhere from a week to two years with one wanting to return "tomorrow"!

Mary Simms and Louisa Rucker said they had never had so much help at any of the workshops they have given in the past. They want very much to return.

In talking to Mary and Louisa, we decided they would return October of 2012 to give a program on Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations for the Church as well as a large emphasis on decorations for the season in the home.

Thank you all for your willingness to help. You made this program the success it was!

Christ Church Ithan Flower Workshop Financial Statement

Revenues	
Donations from Parishioners	\$ 1,009.87
Cash donations	2,223.00
Workshop Reservations	6,180.00
Sale of Clippers, gloves & books	385.25

	\$9,798.12
Expenses	
	3,232.31
Net Profit	\$6,565.81



Flower Workshop Photos



Photos taken by: Martin McNeil

Thank you - From LTC Les Melnyk



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES - IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF



21 April 2011
Camp Victory
Baghdad, Iraq

Dear Reverend Maoney;

I just wanted to send you a brief note thanking you and the parishioners of Christ Church, Ithan, for the wonderful Easter care package you sent my way. It arrived two days ago and I have been dutifully showing the contents with my fellow soldiers up here on the 3rd floor of the Al Faw Palace here on Camp Victory.

Thank you also for your prayers, but please also allow me to ask you to pray for my family and all the other military families. Take my word for it - they have it harder, in many ways, and don't get anywhere near the same recognition.

I also would like to send out a special "Thank you" to Sean Rogers in your Sunday school. I loved his letter - his favorite

pursuits remind me very much of my own son's favorite things to do, especially playing computer games and building forts.

Please pass along my love to my cousin Judy and tell her I will see her soon.

The patch I am enclosing comes from my uniform and is the insignia for United States Forces - Iraq. I would appreciate it if you would give it to Sean with my compliments and thanks.

Wishing you and your church all the blessings our Lord brings us this Easter season.

Sincerely,

Les. M. M. M.

Lt. Col., U.S. Army
 U.S. Forces - Iraq
 Command Historian