



Late Fall, 2010

A Newsletter of
Christ Church Ithan
Villanova, PA

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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.



The Rector's Desk

Discerning the Spirit of God

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recall back in April when our Stewardship Chair, Pete Hubbard, presented the idea that for our Fall Stewardship Campaign we might hold gatherings in parishioners homes, invite every member to attend one of the gatherings, and have fellowship and conversation as we shared with everyone our stewardship needs for 2011. I knew from the outset that it was a creative idea, but I had no idea how you, the parishioners, would respond. I know now. While it is true that not everyone was able to attend, it is also true that more people attended these gatherings than attend church on a 'normal' Sunday. They were remarkable events, with great hosts and conversation, a report on finances and parish development, and a few words from me about the direction of the parish. But, as your spiritual leader, I really saw my role as that of a listener, trying to discern the Spirit's activity when I had an opportunity to connect with more of you than I am normally able to do.

I believe that the task of spiritual discernment has a lot to do with listening with an open mind and an active imagination. And so I thought I'd present back to you what I was 'hearing' in those gatherings. First, I heard that people loved getting together and would like to do so a bit more often. There seems to be a desire for more fellowship events within the parish. I heard that people have especially loved welcoming visitors and new members both in church and at these gatherings, and take the newcomers among us as a good sign for our parish. I heard that there are concerns about the conflicts pertaining to the bishop, and about the fact that we have to fund new ministries like "Wednesday Rocks" by asking participants to contribute \$10.00 a week because we do not have money in the budget to pay for program expenses. I heard that some are concerned about what is called the 20/80 rule in parishes; that 20% of the people end up doing 80% of the work of ministry. This is a universal challenge in parish ministry that is best addressed if everyone has a ministry so that no one person or family has to take on ten!

I want to thank Pete for his great idea and organizational skills in pulling these events together, and I also want to thank those members who graciously invited us into their homes. These were phenomenal events, not only as a creative approach to Stewardship, but as opportunities to spend time together and, for me, to hear your hopes and concerns. I will always try to discern the Spirit by listening to you; the next step is to creatively discern how these themes can be transformed into ministries.

Peace,

Kevin

October 7, 2010

Dear Friends of Christ Church, Father Kevin and Father Ron,

Needless to say I was shocked on Sunday, September 19. It was such a lovely thing to do, so nice in every way. Special thanks to all of you for your expressions of support and appreciation during my combined twenty years on the Vestry and as Rector's Warden.

Let me express my appreciation for the many ways Christ Church influenced and enriched my life. It gave me great satisfaction to help assure a unique church experience for all who attended.

I rejoice and deeply appreciate the tree that will always remind me of your friendships. You're appreciated more than you'll ever know for everything you've done.

God Bless,

Everett Borghesani

Greeters & Ushers Join Forces

Christ Church's Ushers and Welcoming Hosts (or Greeters) soon will be combined into a single group, in line with a recommendation from the Ministries Commission. Greeters Chair Anne Churchman and Ushers Chair Frank Tatnall readily agreed to the upcoming realignment of duties. The change will become effective on Sunday, December 5. Because there is some obvious overlapping between the two ministries, it was felt that the new arrangement will be easier to administer and give all Ushers and Greeters an opportunity to expand their service to Christ Church.

Some of our present Greeters already serve as Ushers on other Sundays, but those who do not are being asked to step into the role of full-fledged Ushers. Initially, they will be assigned to work with an experienced Usher until they "learn the ropes." Three Ushers will serve regularly on Sundays at 10:30 (perhaps four on unusually busy holidays), with a "captain" assigned to each service. If any of the former Welcoming Hosts wish to retain only their greeting function, they still will be listed as Ushers but their actual duties can be worked out with the captain prior to the service. Of course, we hope that many of our Greeters will want to broaden their Church experience by volunteering as Ushers.

Greeters who would like to take part in the new Ushering ministry are asked to contact Nancy in the office at (610) 688-1110 or to respond by e-mail at guardianangel720@hotmail.com. In addition, new Ushers always are being sought, so others in the congregation who do not now participate are urged to join in this important ministry.



Fall Stewardship Campaign



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

This is the time of year when we talk about Stewardship at Christ Church. During the month of October we have had a series of get-togethers at various parishioners' homes. I want to thank those hosts who graciously opened their homes: Francie and Pete Hubbard, Bonnie and Roger Hamm on October 10th; Nina and Pat Gauthron on October 17th; Chris and David Williams on October 24th; and Pat and Joe Palumbo on October 30th.

Over 100 of our parishioners will have attended one of these get-togethers where Pete Hubbard, Stewardship Chair, made the following comments:

"Stewardship goes on all year long with the time and talent that you all give to our church whether it be Altar Guild, hospitality, ushering, welcoming hosts, choir, Sunday school etc. and we thank you for that.

"But this is the time we need to talk about the finances of the church so we can continue to pay our rector, our musicians, our sexton, our secretary and to fund the maintenance of our physical plant and as well as do outreach.

"In November of last year, our treasurer, Bruce Wietlisbach, started to prepare a preliminary budget for the year 2010. He came up with a deficit of \$57,000. This was due to increases in expenses and to a drop in pledge income of \$19,000 from the previous year with 10 fewer pledges. (69 vs. 79 for 2009) The economy was in tough shape and it affected many of us.

"A budget committee was formed from a few members of the Vestry to see where we could cut expenses. By a combination of a special appeal for more funds, drastic cuts in the budget, freezing spending, and deferring some expenses, we were able to get the deficit down to \$7,000 which the Vestry reluctantly approved. I talked with Bruce recently and he feels that the deficit for 2010 will be very close to the \$7,000 deficit.

"So what I am asking is for everyone to think about what you can give for 2011 and ask if you could possibly increase your pledge by at least 5%. I realize not everyone will be able to make an increase, but if there are others who might be able to increase their pledge by more than 5% I believe we can eliminate the deficit we have.

"Pledge Sunday is November 21st. but before you leave I want to save a little postage by handing you your pledge card. So please turn your pledge card into the office or put it in the collection plate on or before November 21st. We would appreciate it and thank you so much for supporting Christ Church, Ithan.

Pete's comments were followed by remarks made by Fr. Kevin and George Peckham regarding the future aspirations of our church derived from the many comments received from you, our parishioners, over the past year. They gave specific examples of how we are putting your ideas into action. The floor was then opened up for comments, ideas and questions.

For those of you who were not able to attend these get-togethers we missed you. We received many favorable comments about having this kind of a pledge drive in an informal setting in parishioners' homes.

A pledge card will be mailed to you shortly and we would appreciate you being as generous as you can.

Thank you so much for your support, both in time, talent and treasure.

Pete Hubbard, Stewardship Chair

Music Program



So much to do in so little time..... We've all said it but I am delighted to say our music department has accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time. So much has happened since the start of our choir season I can't wait to spill the beans.

My first order of business was to update and create a more informative music link on our parish web site. Now when you visit Christ Church on line you will be able to read a bio about our music director, and learn all about our choir program. There is also a new link explaining the history of our pipe organ and a stop list for all the organ enthusiasts in our congregation. In addition, we are now on FACEBOOK and I've uploaded two videos to YOUTUBE for your viewing pleasure.

I am pleased to announce the formation of our newest program which I am calling our "Choral Scholar" program. We are instituting four positions in our choir for extremely talented high school students who wish to test their pipes in a professional atmosphere. The students will be responsible for attending all Sunday morning rehearsals and church services and in exchange they will receive a small stipend. With our music conservatory's in the dilemma they are today with less and less young people majoring in music, I hope to pave the way for some lucky and gifted students to choose the path to a career in music. If you wish to donate funds toward this program and sponsor a student please feel free to talk to me after church.

But wait, there's more.....

I've invited the UGANDA CHILDREN'S CHOIR to perform at Christ Church on December 12, 2010 at our 10:30 AM sung Eucharist. The Uganda Children's Choir is currently on tour in the United States and will pass through our area during the month of December. These twelve children are representing their orphanage where many sick and unwanted children are being treated for sickness and broken hearts. The choir is working hard to raise funds to buy medicine and much needed medical supplies. These twelve little singers will wear traditional costumes and play a variety of instruments. I've asked the children to sing our prelude music, during the offertory and communion and then following our worship the children will provide a short

program with music and dance in our parish hall during our coffee hour.

I am in need of three (3) host families. Each family is being asked to take in 3 children and one chaperone. The children have their own sleeping bags/air mattresses. They will arrive Friday, December 10 and leave after church on Sunday, December 12. What a wonderful opportunity to learn from and reach out to these very special children. Imagine the stories they can exchange with you and your family. If you are interested in hosting, please feel free to contact me through the parish office.

The feast of Christ the King is just around the corner and our choir is pulling out all the stops. Major organ works will be performed before and after mass and the choir is preparing "The Lord Has Gone Up" by Gerald Finzi.

With Christmas just around the corner our choir room is busier than Santa's workshop. This year, look forward to hearing the choir and organ perform Camille Saint Saens "Christmas Oratorio" as a special prelude to our Christmas Eve Mass. You will want to arrive early and get a seat for this lovely musical setting of the Christmas Proclamation. In addition, the choir will sing a mass setting of Marc Charpontier entitled "Mass for Christmas Eve".

All of us in the music department thank the members of our congregation for their continued support and encouraging comments. Ever onward and upward for the greater Glory of God.

Louis Lawrence Perazza
Organist & Choir Director



Christ Church Calendar

Saturday, November 6 th	Memorial Service for Jane Gruen Swan
Sunday, November 7 th	"Youth Sunday" / Acolyte Recognition Sunday All Souls Service in Garden of Remembrance
Sunday, November 14 th	Rock Vespers - Divine Intervention 7:00 pm
Thursday, November 18 th	Vestry 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 21 st	Commitment Sunday / Food Pantry Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9:30 am
Thursday, November 25 th	Thanksgiving Day Eucharist w/ Hymns 10:00 am
Sunday, November 28 th	The Sermon Box
Sunday, December 5 th	"Youth Sunday"
Sunday, December 12 th	"Uganda Children's Choir" at 10:30 Service Jazz Vespers - Pierce Eckhart 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 16 th	Vestry 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 19 th	Food Pantry Sunday "Children's Christmas Program" 10:30 Service
Christmas Eve Services	5:00 pm - Family Service 8:00 pm - Midnight Service
Christmas Day Services	10:00 am Eucharist
Sunday, December 26 th	The Sermon Box
Monday, December 27 th	Church Office Closed

Rock Vespers



Sunday, November 14th at 7:00 pm
Divine Intervention, with some of our youth performing with the band.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist



Thursday, November 25th at 10:00 am
Come to Christ Church Ithan on Thanksgiving Day to celebrate Eucharist with Hymns.

Jazz Vespers



Sunday December 12th at 7:00 pm
Pierce Eckhart will be our featured artist singing some of his favorite Christmas songs.

Bible Study Groups



Wednesday Bible Study and Eucharist Group
Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Wednesday's Bible Study explores the readings for the upcoming Sunday and gives Fr. Kevin lots of good ideas for his sermons! Bible Study is then followed by the Eucharist at 12:15 in the chapel. ALL are welcome!

Women of Christ Church Bible Study

Saturdays, 9:30 am to 11:00 am

The Women of Christ Church (WOCC) hold their weekly Bible Study gatherings on Saturdays in the Parker Library. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mary Tatnall at (610) 688-5623, or e-mail her at mknuxtatnall@verizon.net.

Men's Fellowship

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the Men's Fellowship Program. First order of business is a Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 am on Sunday November 21, 2010.

Please contact Ev Borghesani at 484-437-4882, or Nancy, email: Nancy@christchurchithan.org

UTO - Thank You!



Christ Church has contributed a total of \$1,288.50 to the United Thank Offering. This very generous donation, along with many other churches, will enable UTO to continue the important work they do. Major funding for overseas missionary work, building loan funds and training and appointing women workers are just an example of what they do. UTO has been out in front in funding new work which was eventually embraced, and funded, as the work of the whole church.

Jo Parker, UTO Coordinator

Adult Ed Lecture Series: Those Perplexing Parables!

Sundays, October 24th to November 21st

Have you ever sat in church listening to the Gospel only to find that instead of being comforted you instead found yourself wanting to scream out "That's not fair!?" Our Autumn lecture series will focus on certain parables of Jesus which have been known to evoke such a response. This series will be held on five Sundays prior to Thanksgiving, from October 24th to November 21st, and will be facilitated by Fr. Kevin and our Seminarian, Ben Wallis. Adult Ed is held from 9:30am-10:15am in the Fellowship Hall so members from both services can attend.

Ardmore Food Pantry



The Ardmore Food Pantry has welcomed Christ Church into their fold. They are delighted to have help and have eagerly accepted any and all donations of time, money and food for this endeavor.

Their specific need is participation on Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, but other times would be welcomed.

The third Sunday of the each month is "Food Pantry Sunday", where goods can be brought to church and taken down to St. Mary's on that day or the following Monday. Please check the list on the bulletin board.

Call Dode Tague at 610-527-0393 to become an active volunteer.

Hospitality

We want to thank everyone for contributing to our wonderful coffee hours. It is especially nice to see so many new people hosting. There will always be some one there to help you set up. People new to hosting coffee hour need not be afraid to make the leap.

A reminder that hosts really need to be there by 10:00 to set up. Thanks again!

Hospitality Committee

ECS 2010 Christmas Giving Program

Christ Church will participate in ECS 2010 Christmas giving program benefiting the ECS Foster/Kinship Care. Thirty Gift tags with children's name, race and age will be hung on the Parish Bulletin Board November 14, 2010. Instructions for gift giving are on the back of the tags. Gifts need to be returned to the parish office no later than Sunday, Nov 28th.

ECS's Foster/Kinship Care operates under a contract with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS), the ECS Foster/Kinship Care program fills a vital need for children who have been adjudicated into out-of-home placements due to abuse, neglect, or a parent's temporary inability to care for them. ECS is also one of a handful of agencies in the region to specialize in services for children with serious medical conditions and disabilities.

Each year, ECS provides safe, caring homes to more than 125 children. When a child is placed into foster or kinship (with a family member) care, ECS' goal is to achieve a permanent outcome for that child as quickly as possible. Sometimes that means working to solve the problems at home to allow for a safe reunification with a birth family. In other situations, adoption or another long-term custody arrangement is a better option. Either way, the best interests of the child and speed in achieving a permanent placement are top priorities.

Chime In - News about our Parish Family

Congratulations Missy!

Missy Wietlisbach has been named by Barron's as a member of their Top 100 Women Financial Advisors. She is the second highest-ranked individual in the Philadelphia region and ranked 14th in the country.

Memorials



Jennifer Kay Richardson

Jennifer Kay Richardson, age 52, died on Oct. 2, 2010 at Neighborhood Hospice. Beloved daughter of Winfield W. and Diana (nee Woodall) Richardson. Dear sister of Susan Lynn Richardson (John Moore) and Nancy Hauschildt (Kevin).

In lieu of flowers contributions in her name may be made to the American Cancer Society , 1626 Locust St. , Philadelphia, PA 19103.



Winfield W. Richardson

Winfield "Win" W. Richardson, 80, of King of Prussia, devoted husband, beloved father, grandfather, and brother, died unexpectedly from a hemorrhagic stroke on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby.

Mr. Richardson was born in New York City in 1930, attended primary and secondary school in Arlington, Virginia, and graduated from Washington-Lee High School in 1948. He married his sweetheart, Diana Woodall, in 1952 in Arlington, Va.

Rev. Richardson was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church in 1985. From 1985 to 1989, he served as a deacon at Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, N.J.; from 1989 to 1994, he served as a deacon at Trinity Church, Gulph Mills, in King of Prussia; from 1994 to 2010, he served as a deacon at Christ Church, Ithan, in Villanova, and most recently, he served as a deacon at Trinity Church, Gulph Mills.

Rev. Richardson is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Diana, his daughters Susan Richardson and her husband Jon Moore, of Vero Beach, Fla., and Nancy Hauschildt and her husband Kevin, of Acworth, Ga., four grandchildren, and his sister Jeannette Webb and her husband William, of Devon, Pa. Rev. Richardson was predeceased by his daughter Jennifer on Oct. 2, 2010.

Rev. Richardson's devout faith, compassion, and sense of humor inspired all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Episcopal Community Services, 225 South Third Street, Philadelphia, 19106.



Jane Gruen Swan

On Friday, Oct. 15, Jane Ballard Swan, 84, a West Chester University history teacher from 1965 to 1995, died of complications of Alzheimer's disease at her Atlanta home.

Born in Chester, Jane Ballard earned a bachelor's degree at Swarthmore College and a doctorate in Russian history at the University of Pennsylvania in 1949. She taught history first at the Agnes Irwin School and then at Moore College of Art.

Besides her son Alexis, Dr. Swan is survived by two grandchildren.

A memorial service is set for 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at Christ Church Ithan, 536 Conestoga Rd., Villanova.

SAVE THE DATE April 2, 2011!



Our Flower Guild is sponsoring THE WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL FLOWER GUILD

To lead a program of flower arranging, open to Churches and Garden Clubs of the area.

Everyone's help is needed. Volunteers are need for Underwriters, Food Preparation, Flower Committee, Mailings, Reservations, Dinners for the Cathedral Ladies, Publicity, Set-up, Clean-up, and Music.

This is new for us, and we are counting on the entire church's participation. It is not only a way for our church to become better known in the area but also give us a chance to form bonds with each other. It will also be fun!!!!

More will be coming your way in the next news letter!

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

SPIRE COLORING PAGE

