



Easter – Spring 2008
*One Community –
 One Calling*

A Newsletter of
 Christ Church Ithan
 Villanova, PA

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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.

**FROM THE RECTOR’S
 DESK**

EASTERTIDE SPRING

**THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE
 YO-YO**



It was the spring of 1950; I had just turned twelve and was the Yo-Yo champ of Oakmont Street. The neighborhood was abuzz. The Duncan Yo-Yo Company was sending a representative to scout out the best of the best Yo-Yo-ists in the city. I knew I wasn’t the best but in my neighborhood I was king. (At least I thought so.)

There we were, all lined up, ready with our tricks and techniques. We started with a simple “Walk The Dog.” It became more intense as we processed to “Baby in the Cradle.” Each time someone was eliminated until it was just me and another kid I had never seen before. I wondered if he was a skill. But, try my best he made me look like the amateur of amateurs.

After it was all over I did get the second place prize, which was a tournament mahogany Yo-Yo.

It sometimes seems to be the theme of my life to be “second best.” Now that I’ve reached the ripe old age of, (I’ll let you figure that out), I’ve realized that’s not so bad.

It just means, as the ad for the car rental goes, I have to try harder.

I’ll probably never get my name on the church calendar among the most revered saints of the Christian faith but that shouldn’t stop me from trying, because to God I am never second best and neither are you. And so, as it is written in the letter to the Hebrews: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Come join us as we “try harder” to be the best we can be in God’s eyes. Join us for Holy Week and Easter services. Be the best you can be.

Fr. Parker

Holy Week Services

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Follow in the steps of our Lord as He walked via the Delorosa. This liturgy is taken from the Book of Occasional Services of the Episcopal Church.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 7:30 P.M., Thursday, March 20, 2008

This was the evening that Jesus instituted the sacrament of presence and remembrance. The moving service concludes with the stripping of the altar and the singing of the Reproaches by the choir.

GOOD FRIDAY: FRIDAY, March 21, 2008

11:45 A.M. - Walk with the faithful of Wayne as we carry the Cross from Wayne Presbyterian Church to St. Mary's Episcopal Church for a service at 12:15 pm. If walking is a problem, meet us at St. Mary's Church.

7:30 P.M. - Good Friday Liturgy - Jesus opened the way of eternal life by His offering of Himself on the Cross. The Liturgy is based on the veneration of the Cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated on this night but people are communicated from the reserved sacrament.

EASTER VIGIL: 7:30 P.M., Saturday, March 22, 2008

This is the principle service of the Christian year. We read of the saving events of the history of the people of God. We renew our baptismal covenant with God as we baptize a new member into this portion of Christ's Body. In a burst of light and alleluias, we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

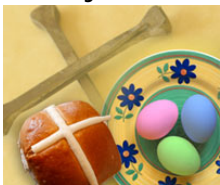
EASTER DAY SERVICES: SUNDAY, March 23, 2008

8:30 A.M. - We offer to God our finest in praise and worship. On this Sunday, there are hymns.

10:30 A.M. - This is our principal Sunday worship. Join us in a Sung Eucharist. A traditional Easter egg hunt follows

Easter - History & Traditions

History



Easter, also called Pascha, is the most important religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which Christians believe occurred on the third day after his crucifixion some time in the period AD 27 to 33.

Easter also refers to the season of the church year called Eastertide or the Easter Season. Traditionally the Easter Season lasted for the forty days from Easter Day until Ascension Day but now officially lasts for the fifty days until Pentecost. The first week of the Easter Season is

known as Easter Week or the Octave of Easter.

Easter Celebrations around the World

It's always interesting to see how other countries around the world celebrate the same holiday.

In **New Zealand**, people attend Church Services over the weekend to celebrate both the death and resurrection of Christ and to mark the end of the season of Lent. The stores all carry Hot Cross Buns and stock chocolate Easter eggs for the Easter Bunny to fill his basket in anticipation of his delivery rounds on Easter Sunday morning. This usually results in Easter egg hunts for the children.

France has held on to its traditions by giving eggs (chocolate nowadays) on Easter day, which is related to the renewal of nature in springtime. It has also been related to the end of fast period, a period during which no eggs could be eaten, creating abundance thereafter. Louis XIV gave eggs gilded with gold to his sycophants. They were filled with "surprises" and the tradition remains until today. It is also the symbol of resurrection in Christian religions.

For **Ireland**, Easter-time is rich with traditions, the overlapping and commingling of centuries of ritual celebrating rebirth, resurrection, salvation and everlasting life. Many of the traditions surrounding Easter in Ireland are universal to the Christian world. Others – such as the dawn dance, the herring funeral, and the cake dance – are distinctly Celtic, and many hark back to the traditions of pre-Christian times.

On Sunday morning in **Poland**, beautifully laid tables are covered with colored eggs, cold meats, coils of sausages, ham, yeast cakes, pound cakes, poppy-seed cakes, and in the middle of it all, a lamb made of sugar, commemorating the resurrected Christ. No smoke is permitted; therefore, no warm meals are served. Sharing a boiled egg with one’s relatives is a national tradition. A piece of egg with salt and pepper, consecrated by priest, is an inseparable accessory in the good wishes we extend to each other at Easter.

Traditions for the people of the **U.K.** include eating hot cross buns – meant to symbolize the Cross, exchange chocolate eggs or bunnies (symbols of new life) on Easter Sunday and often small eggs are hidden around house and garden for children to find. Children paint decorations on egg shells and simnel cakes are baked – a rich fruit cake with a layer of marzipan in the middle and 11 balls of marzipan on top symbolizing 11 true apostles (excluding Judas). This is less common now except in a very traditional Easter.

Announcements

Healing Service

There is a healing service on the first Sunday of every month immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. It is held in the Chapel.

Jazz Vespers

Jazz Vespers are held on the first Sunday of every month (September through June) at 7:00 p.m. The service of Evening Prayer features a homily and Jazz music performed by some of the finest artists in the greater Philadelphia area. The lead jazz guitarist is our own Father Ron Parker. The service lasts approximately one hour and followed by a hospitality hour.


Upcoming Guest Artists

- ❖ April 6th, 2008 - Pierce Vincent (vocals)
- ❖ May 4th, 2008 - Joanna Pascale (vocals)
- ❖ June 1st, 2008 - Neil Wetzel (sax) and Rob Stoneback (trombone)

**Daemion Counseling Center
Goes Bowling!!!**

Bowl with friends and family
March 30th 3pm-5pm
at **Devon Bowling Lanes**
RT. 30 in Devon

Adults \$20
Kids (12 & under) \$10
Teams (6 adults) \$100



Price includes bowling, shoes, food & drink!

Prizes!!!! Raffles!!!

RSVP by March 25th
Call 610-647-1431 or email
sarah@daemioncounseling.org
to reserve your spot!

Sponsorships available.

Daemion Counseling Center "A Place To Be Heard"
www.daemioncounseling.org

Save The Date

Saturday, April 19th, 2008

Demonstration on Flower Arranging

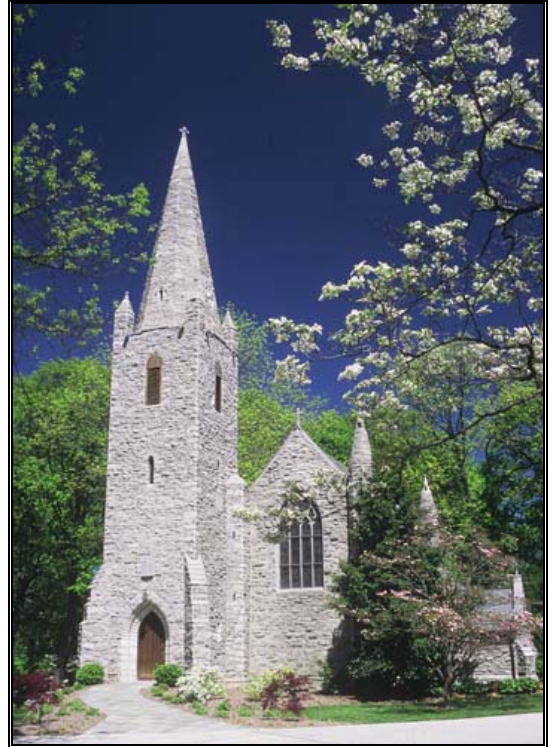
By Linda Roeckelein,
Chair of the Flower Guild at The National
Cathedral

Hosted by:

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Committee for The
Washington National Cathedral

Church of the Redeemer
New Gulph & Pennswood Roads
Bryn Mawr

Reception 9:00 am Lecture 10:00 am
\$5.00 Admission



Can you make a place in your family for a foster child?

Many children need the love and support of a foster family.

Catholic Social Services is seeking married or single adults to become foster parents to children of all ages, races and religions.

Homes are also needed for children with special medical or emotional conditions and siblings who wish to live together in the same home.

Catholic Social Services provides professional training, support and financial reimbursement to foster parents.

For more information about foster family case, please call Melissa or Pat at 215-587-3960!

Please remember your pledge!
The cost of running the church never stops....