



Easter / Spring, 2010

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things I love about the ordained ministry is that I never know what is going to happen, but each day I get up, say my prayers, and go to work knowing that SOMETHING is likely to happen, and with that introduction, allow me to tell you about a very interesting morning I had last week.

On the morning after Ash Wednesday, I arrived in my office to hear the phone ringing. It was Francie Hubbard, asking if I had a few minutes to talk. Twenty minutes later, Francie arrived and said that she had a letter she wanted to leave with me, so that I could read it and think about it. I could see that she was quite upset, so I asked her to sit, and we talked about the letter instead. The letter was addressed to the entire congregation, so I have decided to include her letter in this newsletter. Every new Rector keeps an eye open for signs of life, spiritual life, in a congregation. Francie's letter says some hard things, and I have felt some of the things she is expressing, but her letter actually strikes me as a sign of life and a call to action and thus makes me hopeful.

Then immediately following my talk with Francie, George Peckham and Everett Borghesani arrived for a meeting about the next steps to take with the findings from the Every Member Conversation last Autumn. As we looked through the three pages of great ideas and suggestions, I couldn't help but feel that God had placed these two meetings together for a reason. In this newsletter you will also see a report from George on the next steps for our Parish Development ministry, and I ask you to read that as well.

Yes, it is time to gather our strength and commitment and get to work. And yes, the path is already before us in the findings of that report. Every parish needs a wake-up call from time to time, and every priest needs to keep their spiritual ear to the ground to see where the Spirit is leading. I believe that those meetings happened on the same morning for a reason, thus I am sharing both the letter and George's report with you. Please read them and know that they both come from love; love of God and love of church.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to respond in some way. And pray that God will guide us as to how we can be a faith community that is alive in the Spirit, and growing.

God bless,

Kevin

Letter to the Parish:

February 17, 2010

My fellow parishioners and friends,

It is with a heavy and sad heart I write to you. Allow me to share with you some of what I have been experiencing at our church recently.

Last month the Members' Task Force Meeting was attended by 4 out of 16 members.

The Valentine's Musical Program on Sunday, February 14th presented by our choir, was attended by only 16 people: 4 vestry members, 4 who were families of the choir, 2 vestry member spouses, 4 parish members and 2 visitors. The choir gave a beautiful concert.

Tonight the Ash Wednesday Service was attended by 4 people. One who was taking care of the altar, one a choir member's friend, a gentleman who attends the early service and me. The choir was lovely, the organ was played beautifully, and Fr. Kevin's homily excellent.

I ask you to think about how much you care for this church and how lucky we are to have Fr. Kevin as our new minister. I fully realize we have busy and demanding schedules, but if we seriously want our church to continue to be a living community, and for it to be there for us when we need it, we must support it with our presence not only on Sundays (and not just when we are there serving in some capacity), but also at the functions and programs we have said we want as indicated in our fall survey.

My worst fear is that our precious Church will die.

There are so many needs....the rectory renovations...repairs to the leaking bell tower...outreach which we have had to discontinue for lack of funds ...and the list goes on.

Who will help if we do not? Where will we go if we need to close the doors due to lack of funds and attendance? What will happen to this lovely family we have come to treasure?

Think about what times of services you might want? Do we want one service on Sunday for awhile until we build the congregation? What programs would you honestly attend? Do you love the choir and want to support their efforts? Are you willing to come to church a bit early to listen to Fr. Kevin's lessons on prayer? Can you spare the time to come to all the Holy Week Services and really feel the meaning of Easter?

Again, my heart is heavy and I am sorry that I feel the need to write such a letter. I pray you will receive it with the intentions with which I have written it: for the love of God and the hope for a healthy and active church in the future.

May the Lord Bless us with His presence.

Fondly,

Francie Hubbard

Parish Development (From Annual Meeting)

This has been a big year in the life of Christ Church Ithan, culminating with the smooth transition of rectors. In support of this change, planning for the future development of the parish has also been on a large scale with the canvassing of all of the parishioners for their insights, ideas and suggestions. About 100 individuals or couples were contacted and about 75% responded with very good feedback about our parish and its past, present and future.

There is a very positive and loving attitude toward Christ Church, Ithan on the part of the parishioners. People choose Christ Church and about one-half come from more than a five mile radius of the church. Most parishioners enthusiastically talk about the "coziness" of the parish where most people know and

care about each other. There is a universal fondness for Father Parker and very positive expectations for Father Moroney.

However, there is also a recognition that more needs to be done if the parish is going to continue to survive and thrive. There were hundreds of general and specific suggestions for the future development of the parish in the following areas:

This overwhelming response of the parishioners of Christ Church, Ithan has been presented to the Vestry for its consideration and development of an action plan that will involve the time and talent of us all. We as a parish have made a great start on envisioning and creating the future of this very special spiritual community in the service of God and his beloved.



Greater Presence in Community

- Articles and stories in local media
- Reach out to new residents, neighbors and friends

Improve Communications

- Knowledge about each others interests and needs
- More opportunities for fellowship

Program for Young People

- Increase Sunday School enrollment
- Activities for teens and young adults
- Attract college students and young couples

The Philosophy of Parish Development

The development of a parish, such as Christ Church, Ithan, is a process of enhancement of what is special about our own spiritual community and, at the same time, extending its gifts and talents to the broader community. We proceed ahead on this path to the future by dedicating our time and talents, as we see fit, in an ongoing process of rejuvenating existing activities and creatively designing and implementing new programs. We see this as a joining together of parishioners with similar interests and talents to infuse their gifts into one or more of the areas of parish development that were derived from the large number of recommendations of more that 75% of the parishioners. Rather than committees, we see each of these groups as balloons lifting up the parish from the spirit, energy and fellowship infused into them by the very special people in this very special parish. Each is different, but together there is a great uplifting power.

Education Programs for Adults

- Adult educational series
- Enhance Sunday educational forum
- Advice and support program for parents

Enhancement of Musical Program

- Create Rock band program for youth
- CCI musicians entertaining at senior facilities and other community events

Active Outreach Programs

- More direct outreach by CCI
- Better communication of outreach volunteer opportunities

Stewardship Campaign 2010



Our Stewardship Campaign was an ambitious program for 2010. We decided to combine the campaign with a process of envisioning the future of Christ Church, Ithan. With this in mind, we attempted to pay a personal visit or telephone call to every member of our parish to hear about your hopes and aspirations for CCI and to ask for your financial support.

Of the 100 couples or individuals to be contacted, 75% were interviewed and/or sent in responses to the questionnaire about our church. Much useful information was gathered and is in the process of being collated and analyzed.

The financial part of the Stewardship Campaign reflects the state of our economy as a nation. The total amount of pledges for 2010 is down \$19,059 from last year. While a few more parishioners increased their pledge, the amount did not make up for the decreases in pledges. The schedule below is a summary of the pledges received for 2010 versus the pledges received for 2009:

	# pledges	2010	2009	Increase/ (Decrease)
Decrease	19	\$50,935	\$72,946	(\$22,011)
Increase	23	91,934	81,696	10,238
New	5		8,300	8,300
Pledges not renewed	(10)	15,586	(15,586)	
No Change	22	69,710	69,710	
Totals	69*	\$220,879	\$239,938	(\$19,059)

*79 pledges were received in 2009

Based on these results, the budget for 2010 has been pared down to a minimum leaving us with a deficit for the year. The Vestry will be working on ways to bring in additional income to make up for this shortfall. As the year progresses if you can see to increase the pledge you have already made, we will be able to reinstate some of the painful cuts that were made, especially to our outreach program.

I want to thank every parishioner who contributed this year as well to the Vestry members and others who helped me and George Peckham with our Stewardship Campaign.

Respectfully submitted

Peter S. Hubbard, Stewardship Chairman

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)



IHN is committed to helping homeless families in our community achieve lasting independence. Christ Church members volunteer to provide dinners and support in the evenings and overnight when families are staying at

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Christ Church Ithan is scheduled for IHN on Monday March 1st and Wednesday March 3rd.

Contact Chris Williams (christine.williams1@verizon.net) if you are available to help now or would like to participate in the future. Everyone is welcome!

Lenten Lecture Series

“Forty Days of Prayer”

Sunday Feb. 21 through Palm Sunday, Mar. 28

9:30 - 10:15 am, Parker Library

Lent is a time to deepen our spiritual life, and so each Sunday in Lent we will be meeting for a series titled “Forty Days of Prayer”. At each session we will look at a different way of praying, which participants will then use during the week. Then the following week we will talk about how our week of prayer went before learning a new method. Our first meeting focused on the psalms with a terrific turnout. The coffee will be on, so join the group!

Ministries Task Force

To get the leaders of our various and wonderful ministries together and communicating, the Ministries Task Force was established by Fr. Kevin. It provides a time to discuss and reflect upon all our ongoing ministries as well as ponder and plan for the future. It met for the first time in November and again in January.

Please Mark Your Calendars!
March Ministries Task Force Meeting
7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 10, 2010.
We look forward to see you there.

Jazz / Rock Vespers 2010



SAVE THE DATE
Jazz Vespers
7:00 pm, Sunday, March 14, 2010
The Ithan Chamber Jazz Society
Presents Suzanne Cloud, Vocalist
\$5.00/person free will offering

Rock Vespers for Easter

On Sunday, April 18th, at 7:00pm we will be holding our second Rock Vespers with our own band, Divine Intervention. Easter "hymns" will include songs by John Lennon, Elvis Costello, The Police and others!

Bear Rock Cafe features music every Wednesday evening, but did you know that Fr. Parker provides the music on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm. Bear Rock Cafe is located in the Valley Forge Shopping Center, King of Prussia, PA.

Christ Church goes to the Phillies!



On Monday, June 7th, Christ Church will be joining the other Episcopal Churches of the Merion Deanery for a fun night at the Phillies. The game is against the San Diego Padres and begins at 7:00 pm.

Ticket Price is \$16 each plus \$4 for handling an order. This means an order of 4 tickets will cost \$74 dollars plus \$4 handling total \$78 dollars.

Order tickets at: www.phillies.com/meriondeanery

Just click "buy tickets" and enter the promotion code "DEAN". The Phillies will then mail you the tickets. It couldn't be easier. So put the date in the book, go online and order those tickets, and let's have a great time together at Citizens Bank Park with the National League Champion Phillies!

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm, Thursday, April 1, 2010

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, April 2, 2010

11:45 am - 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 12:00 pm. If walking is a problem, please meet us at St. Mary's Church.

7:30 pm - 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.

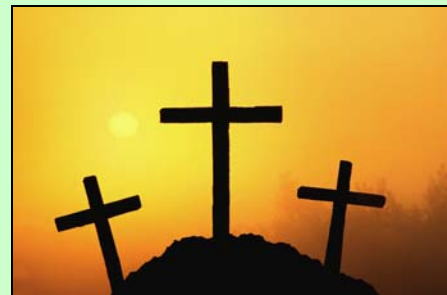
Easter Vigil - 7:30pm, Saturday, April 3, 2010

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, April 4, 2010

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

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



Update on Brooks Major

Our parish reporter had an opportunity to speak with Dick Major and learned that his son, Brooks, will return from Afghanistan on May 29, 2010 for a nine month training stint at Fort Bragg in Georgia. Brooks was recently promoted in the battlefield to Sergeant and has been based at Bagram Military Base where he serves in the combat infantry. He has been at Bagram since March 2009. He will likely be redeployed to Afghanistan for another full year in February 2011. Before enlisting, Brooks graduated from college with a major in political science and then spent one year with Americorp, where he worked as a firefighter with the forest service. He has the opportunity to call his family approximately every two weeks. He'd appreciate a card, so below is his address:

TF Gladius
B/82nd DSTB
APO, AE 09354

Chime In - News about our Parish Family



For fun, our parish reporter asked congregants to tell her something about themselves that their fellow parishioners might not know. Below are some of the responses. Will you chime in with your answer to this question? Please send email to jfstgould@aol.com

For the past four years **Lori Dugan** has ridden horses once or twice each week at a privately owned stable in Parkesburg and has competed in local dressage shows.

Rick Wheeler volunteers as chairman of the Philadelphia Committee on Foreign Relations where **Cecily Clark** is an active member. The Committee sponsors speakers eight or nine times each year and last year hosted David Kilculen, an expert in counter terrorism who served on the personal staff of U.S. Army General David Petraeus.

Gard Rogers likes to read adventure stories and his favorites are nautically themed.

In his 30 year career as a Middle School music teacher **David Clark** has directed 24 Middle School Musicals. He is currently directing *The Wiz* and last year directed *Annie*.

Jo Miller has enjoyed playing golf since age 11 and played the trombone in her high school band and afterwards in a trombone octet.

Sally Borghasani played bridge in college and five years ago began playing two times each week. She also stays busy heading the woman's golf committee

at her golf club, using her ever developing computer skills to facilitate communication among members and organize tournaments.

Phyllis Trickett cooks 20 gallons of soup each week for the homeless through The Bethesda Project (www.bethesdaproject.org), and is known in the organization for a southwestern turkey soup she created.

Gordon French has three grandchildren, all born in 2008 and he sees his twin grandsons in Narberth at least once each week.

Father Kevin held his daughter, **Elsa**, when he threw out the first pitch at a Phillies game in May 2008.

Vince Eckhart is currently taking guitar lessons from our own Emeritus minister, **Ron Parker**.

The Difference

I got up early one morning
And rushed into the day
I had so much to accomplish
I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me
And heavier came each task
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered
He answered, "You didn't ask".

I wanted to see joy and beauty
But the day toiled on gray and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me
He said, "But you didn't seek".

I tried to come into God's presence
I used all my keys at the lock
God gently and lovingly chided
"My child, you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day
I had so much to accomplish
I had to take time to pray.

- Alan Grant

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

Altar Guild

Volunteers are always welcome and needed to help keep our brass shining bright. Polishing supplies are provided. No experience is necessary. If interested, please contact Nancy in the Church Office.

Christ Church Food Pantry

Donations can be dropped off to Parish Office Monday through Friday between 9am and 1pm, or brought to church on Sunday. To make a monetary donation, please mark your check "CCI Food Pantry".

Hospitality

The hospitality committee would like to thank all who have helped with the many functions this year, the latest being our annual meeting. The brunch was well attended with both services combined into one enabling us to be together.

There were many requests for both the French toast casserole and the Chicken salad. They are as follows:

Chicken Salad (Six servings)

- 4 cups cooked chicken diced
 - 1 cup drained unsweetened pineapple chunks
 - 2/3 cup water chestnuts drained & thinly slice (5 oz can)
 - 2 green onions sliced thinly
 - 1/2 cup of chopped celery
 - 1/2 cup yogurt
 - 1/2 cup Mayonnaise (Hellmann's please as it is GF)
 - 2 tsp. lemon juice
 - 1 T. honey
 - 1 tsp. ginger
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 1/4 tsp paprika 1/3 cup slivered almonds (toasted)
- In mixing bowl, combine chicken, pineapple, water chestnuts, celery, and green onions.
- Toss lightly.
- In small bowl, mix yogurt, mayo, lemon juice, ginger, salt and paprika.
- Blend together.
- Pour over Chicken mixture and toss gently but well.
- Serve chicken over crisp greens.

French Toast - Apple Recipe

- 1 Loaf French bread - Sliced
 - 8 Eggs
 - 3 1/2 Cups Milk
 - 1 tsp. Vanilla
 - 1 cup Sugar
 - 6 Granny Smith Apples
 - 3 tsp. Cinnamon
 - 1 tsp. Nutmeg (I DO NOT USE)
 - 3-4 tsp. Butter
- Coat a 13 X 9 Pan and arrange bread in pan.
- Stir together milk, eggs, 1/2 cup sugar, and vanilla.
- Pour 1/2 over bread.
- Core, peel and slice apples
- Arrange on top of bread
- Pour remaining milk mixture on top of apples
- Mix remaining sugar and cinnamon, spread on top of casserole.
- Put pats of butter on top.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.



If you have something you would like to share with your Christ Church Ithan family, please sent articles, stories, poems or pictures to Nancy in the Church office or to Porter Gould at blpgould@verizon.net.

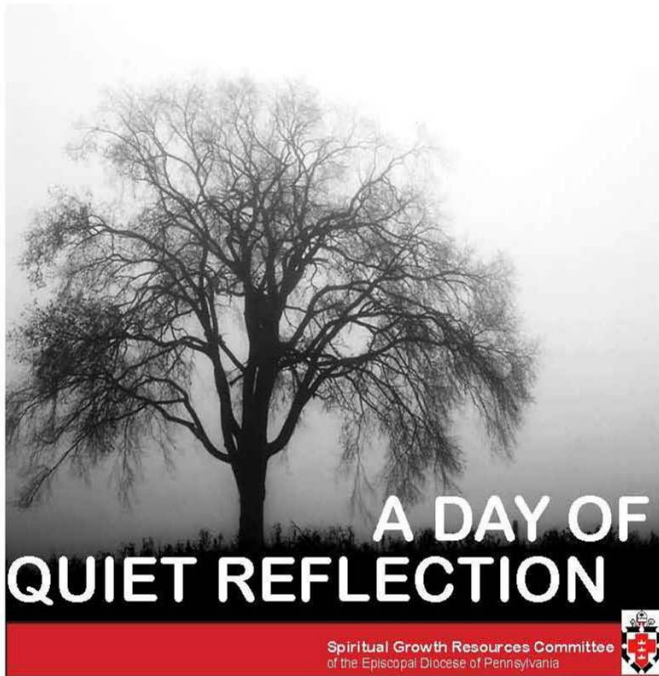
A Day of Quiet Reflection is offered by the Spiritual Growth Resources Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, Ambler, 708 Bethlehem Pike, Ambler PA 19002.

What is a day of quiet reflection? It is a gift of time which we give ourselves as we try to live at a sacred pace. Gentle guidance will be given during the morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning session, after a brief guided meditation and quiet reflection, we will use simple art materials to create images that are meaningful to us as we journey through Lent.

Bring a brown bag lunch. The suggested donation for the day is between \$10 and \$25 as able. Registration is through the Leadership Institute, online:

<https://diopa.wufoo.com/forms/a-day-of-quiet-reflection-03202010/>

E-mail jdlafrance@diopa.org or tel. 215-627-6434 x151



Children's Corner Coloring Corner

