



**Lenten/Easter 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**

**Another New Ministry!**

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things we learned last autumn during our stewardship gatherings is that people enjoyed spending time with their fellow parishioners so much that we began to hear calls for more frequent get togethers. A few parishioners came forward with a desire to organize such gatherings, so the next step in our parish development is the introduction of fellowship gatherings that will take place periodically during the year. We're calling them Koinonia (koy-noh-ne'-ah) Gatherings, which is the biblical (Greek) word for "fellowship," and they will work like this: we will organize four "Koinonia Gatherings" a year on Sunday evenings, held at parishioner's homes, and each parishioner will be invited to one each year. The intention is to get to know each other better and strengthen our sense of Christian community; these are NOT for stewardship/fundraising purposes (the leaders wanted me to be clear about that).

The first Koinonia gathering will be on Sunday, April 10th at the home of Susie and Michael Lastowski. For this first gathering, we are going to particularly focus on those who have joined the parish in the last few years, and invitations will be out in the very near future. While the dates for the other three gatherings have not been set, there will be one more before summer and then two in the autumn.

I am excited by this new ministry because it joins a list of other new developments in our Music Ministry, Youth Ministry, Food Pantry Ministry and the Flower Show, all of which show how our vision to expand our ministries here at Christ Church is beginning to take shape. Thanks to all those who have brought this initiative to life, and I look forward to seeing each of you at a Koinonia Gathering!

Peace,

Kevin

## Holy Week Services

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 7:30am.** 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, and the vigil at the altar of repose which represents the Garden of Gethsemane.

**GOOD FRIDAY - Friday, April 22, 2011 at 7:30 am.** 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 day but people are communicated from the reserved sacrament.

**EASTER VIGIL - Saturday, April 23, 2011 at 7:30 am.** 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 any 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 24, 2011 at 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.

### Church School News



Calling all kids! Please join us for our Lenten showing of the movie, "Jesus" starring Jeremy Sisto and Debra Messing. The story takes us through the life of Jesus from his early days as a carpenter until the triumph of the resurrection. Starting on March 13th, we will be showing the movie in segments during Church school, ending on Easter Sunday. And, don't forget! The next Youth Sunday is March 6th.

E-mail Chris Soutendijk at [soutendijk@verizon.net](mailto:soutendijk@verizon.net) if you can participate!

### Lenten Adult Education "Prayer Book Spirituality"

These sessions will be held on Sunday mornings during Lent, beginning on March 13th, from 9:30-10:15. The purpose will be to explore the riches of the Books of Common Prayer through history, so we Episcopalians can better appreciate the treasures which we have been given.

## Confirmation is Coming!

The Rt. Rev. Edward Lee, retired bishop of Western Michigan now resident at St. Mary's in Ardmore, will be with us for the 10:30 Eucharist on September 25th. At this service he will offer confirmation and reaffirmation, so let me say a little about those two rites. Confirmation is for baptized Christians who have reached the point in their lives where they are ready to make a public affirmation of their faith in the presence of the faithful and a bishop. Reaffirmation is for a confirmed Christian who, for whatever reason, has experienced a deepening of their faith and who wishes to reaffirm their commitment to Christ in the presence of the faithful and a bishop. Both emanate from our baptismal promises, and require some preparation. First, allow me to address confirmation.

I do not have an age requirement for confirmation, although sometime during adolescence is the most common time. I do have three requirements for those who seek to be confirmed:

1. Each candidate must write me a one page letter expressing why they would like to be confirmed (Due by April 1<sup>st</sup>).
2. Each candidate must have an ongoing ministry here at Christ Church, such as acolyting, ushering, etc., which they promise to continue after they are confirmed (options can be discussed with Fr. Kevin).

3. Each candidate must attend the classes which are held in preparation for confirmation (7 sessions in all).

Reaffirmation is for anyone who, at any time in their Christian journey, feel they would like to give public expression to the deepening of their faith. Anyone interested in reaffirmation should schedule an appointment with Fr. Kevin to discuss this, and those interested in reaffirmation are encouraged to attend the classes with the confirmands.

The classes will be on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 a.m. on the following dates:

May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and September 18<sup>th</sup>

Please feel free to contact Fr. Kevin with any questions.

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## On the use of Bells in Church

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In recent months a few people have asked about the ringing of bells during the Eucharistic Prayer, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to write a bit about the use of bells in general and sanctus bells in particular. I'm really going to give three responses: historical, practical and personal.

First the historical. Bells have long been used as a means of getting people's attention. There is an old legend that St. Patrick used a cow bell to call the ancient Irish to worship. We ring the tower bell at 10:30 each Sunday morning to inform our neighbors that divine worship is about to begin (and wake a few of them up, no doubt). The extension of bell ringing into the service itself dates back to the Middle Ages as a means of drawing people's attention to the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer when the service was in Latin and some, if not most of the people, did not understand the language. For that matter, the prayer was whispered in the Middle Ages, and if it were not for the bells the congregation would not know that we had reached such an important part of the service. While Latin and whispering are no long issues, the continued use of sanctus bells in some churches is to call people's attention to the altar and the gifts at key moments of the prayer.

Second, the practical. Many of you know that I came to Christ Church with nearly 30 years of experience in youth ministry, and over those years I have learned this: young people need to be engaged in the worship or they will understandably become bored and we will lose them. So I give them lots of jobs. After my arrival, I took the ringing of the tower bell from the ushers and gave it to the acolytes. I also took some of the jobs away from the crucifer and gave them to the acolytes. Trust me, it is a lot more 'cool' to the kid ringing the tower bell than it was for the usher. Prior to my arrival the sanctus bells were used during Lent only, but I found that the kids were just beginning to get the hang of ringing them by the end of Lent, so I have continued the use, at least in part, for the practical reason of giving a kid another task and doing it all the time so they learn to do it properly (we're still working on that!).

Third, a personal explanation. I do know that those of us who grew up with sanctus bells, which includes a lot of Episcopal as well as Roman Catholic parishes, love to have them and find the service lacking something if they are not there. I also know that if you did not grow up with them, they seem foreign. So let me be honest enough to say that I grew up with them, they represent a holy moment when my attention is drawn to the bread and the wine on the altar and, well, I like them.

My last comment is that, while I don't view bells as essential in any way, I liken them to the hangings on the altar or any other way we adorn the church. The altar works just fine without any color on it, but we like to beautify the house of the Lord by marking the seasons with different altar hangings. In the same way, the Eucharistic Prayer works just fine without the bells, but it can become a bit more beautiful by adorning the prayer with a sound that draws us more deeply into the prayer, centering our attention as we prepare to come forward and commune with our Lord.

God Bless, Kevin

## Choral Scholarship Program is a Huge Success

Our Choral Scholarship Program is a huge success and continues to grow. We have now filled three of our four positions. Because of the generosity of anonymous parishioners apprentice positions have been awarded to Jeanne Barbrussia, Soprano, Kate Young, mezzo-soprano and Daniel Romano, baritone.

Any parishioner who wishes to fund a scholarship can speak with Louis Perazza after church on any given Sunday or contact him through our rectory office.

## 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!

## 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.

## "The Little Hill"

From Edna St. Vincent Millay, Collected Lyrics

Oh, the here is sweet and still,  
And soft's the grass to lie on;  
And far away's the little hill  
"They took for Christ to die on.

And there's a hill across the brook,  
And down the brook's another;  
But oh the little hill they took,--  
I think I am its mother!

The moon that saw Gethsemane,  
I watch it rise and set;  
It has so many things to see,  
They help it to forget.

But little hills that sit at home  
So many hundred years,  
Remember Greece, remember Rome,  
Remember Mary's tears.

And far away in Palestine,  
Sadder than any other,  
Grieves still the hill that I call mine,--  
I think I am its Mother

Submitted by Jo Parker

## Save the Date! Monday, May 23, 2011



The parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania are going to have another night out with the Philadelphia Phillies!

The Phillies will be playing the Cincinnati Reds on May 23rd at 7:05 PM and it's a Phillies dollar dog night!

Tickets can be purchased for \$28 each on-line at [www.phillies.com/episcopal](http://www.phillies.com/episcopal). Enter the promotion code **EDOP**. Please place your orders before April 23rd in order to ensure that your seats are with our ticket block.

Proceeds from tickets will help support the publication **Where It All Began**, our quarterly magazine that features parish programs from all across the Diocese. Because demand for tickets is high, order early so that tickets will be available for you, your friends and family.

## The Washington Cathedral Flower Guild



**Saturday, 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.

The program will be as follows:

### The Morning Session

9:00 - 9:30 am	Coffee and bagels/ Danish
9:30 -11:30 am	Flower lecture and arranging
11:30 am-1:00 pm	View morning arrangements

### The Afternoon Session

12:00 -1:00 pm	Box Lunch with music
1:00 -3:00 pm	Design your own arrangement

## What could be better than an "Afternoon in Paris"?

Chef Patrick Gauthron, on behalf of Aux Petits Delices, will be participating in the Maternity Care Coalition fundraiser on Saturday, March 12th at the Loews Hotel. He will be providing chocolate samples along side appetizers from Jean-Marie Lacroix, a wine tasting from Savona's sommelier, and Doe Run Dairy cheese.

## Family Forum

**SPRING 2011**

### One Night Seminars

Fee: \$25/person \$40/couple

#### SIBLING RIVALRY

Mar. 23 7:30 = 9:00 PM

#### 5 MISTAKES GOOD

#### PARENTS MAKE

Apr. 13 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Presenter: Lisa Corcoran

#### MARRIAGE

#### THAT THRIVES

May 11 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Presenter: Stephen Treat, PhD



For more information  
Call 610-688-7979

Or visit our website:  
[www.FamilyForumInc.org](http://www.FamilyForumInc.org)

Email us:  
[Joe.tatta@verizon.net](mailto:Joe.tatta@verizon.net)



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Occasionally, it is necessary for Family Forum to cancel class due to inclement weather or other unforeseen reasons. You will be notified as soon as possible if this occurs. If you are unable to attend a class, make-up classes can be arranged by calling the office 610-688-7979.

Family Forum appreciates referrals. Please tell others about our programs. We value your comments regarding benefits of the classes, as well as suggestions for improvement.

Family Forum welcomes the opportunity to speak at the location of your choice - business, synagogue, church or school. We offer a wide variety of topics from which to choose. Daytime and Evening hours are available.

Contributions are truly appreciated and are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Family Forum, Inc. Thank You!

These seminars will be held at Christ Church, Ithan. Church Members may attend for free.

If someone would like a registration form, please contact church office.

# SPIRE COLORING PAGE

