

ISSUE

13

March 8, 2009

WEEKLY MESSENGER

CHRIST CHURCH IN SHORT HILLS

66 Highland Avenue, Box C
Short Hills, NJ 07078
973.379.2898

www.christchurchshorthills.org

CLERGY

The Rev. Scott T. Holcombe, *Rector*
scott.holcombe@ccshmail.org, ext. 205
(personal email: sthccsh@gmail.com)

+

The Rev. Lisa Green, *Assistant Rector*
lisa.green@ccshmail.org, ext. 204

+

The Rev. Elizabeth Wigg Maxwell
Parish Minister & Sunday School Dir.
elizabeth.wiggmaxwell@ccshmail.org
ext. 209

+

The Rev. Dr. Karen Rezach,
Assistant Minister
krezach@yahoo.com

STAFF

Andrea Hidalgo,
Administrative Assistant to the Rector
andrea.hidalgo@ccshmail.org, ext. 201

James Johnson, *Physical Plant Manager*
james.johnson@ccshmail.org, ext. 208

John Pivarnik, *Organist and Choirmaster*
johnpivarnik@optonline.net, ext. 211

Jennifer Schiffll, *Youth Advisor*
schiffllje@edu.elizabeth.k12.nj.us

Barbara Pepe,
Christ Church Nursery School
christchurchns@verizon.net
(973) 379-6549

Dear People of God,

Church Leadership transitions are opportunities to stretch and be stretched both for the individuals involved and for their respective institutions. Some of these transitions are timed by annual calendars, and some by life circumstances. Today we mark the latter. Douglas Boller has graciously and faithfully executed his ministry as Senior Warden of Christ Church in Short Hills (along with countless committee responsibilities, ministries, choir duties, etc.) Due to life circumstances Douglas and Lianne will be relocating to Williamsburg, VA, and Douglas has submitted his resignation as Senior Warden. This news was met with sadness and regret, as we are losing a colleague in ministry, a hard-working parishioner, as well as a beloved friend. Douglas and Lianne's absence will leave a huge hole in the choir as well as in our hearts, but we expect regular visits back to Short Hills and regular updates on the Boller family!

Today we will commission a new Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer. Duly-elected, committed leaders of the parish will step into new roles. **Cynthia McChesney** will assume leadership as the Senior Warden. **John Cooper** will take over reins as Junior Warden, and **Terry Finan** will step up to the plate as our new treasurer. This smooth transition was finalized at last week's vestry meeting, and each new leader is already up and functioning in their respective ministries. I am happy to be working with such a talented team on the executive committee and look forward to their strong, decisive leadership as together we chart the course for the continued health and revitalization of Christ Church.

This transition in leadership is also a call for each one of us to look at the gifts, skills and talents of every parishioner. Christ Church has a long and proud history, many vital ministries and ministry needs and standards of excellence that are an integral part of our legacy. You and I are building on that foundation that has been laid by God and the foundation and leadership gifts that have come before us. God has placed each of us here and equipped us for his service. Our baptismal covenant affirms our participatory functioning in the Church and in the world. Is God calling you to step forward and use the gifts, talents, skills and energies given to you for his honor and glory? If so, please step forward and not only congratulate Cynthia, John and Terry on their new ministries, **but agree to assist them** with whatever work or ministry that the Lord places in our path.

Faithfully,



PRAYER STICKS

When you entered church this morning you may have noticed that there is a bowl in the back of the church filled with tongue depressors! On each of these "prayer sticks" there is a name of someone on our prayer list. You are asked to take a prayer stick each worship service and to be in special intercession for that person during the worship service (and hopefully during the coming week.) During the prayers of the people when encouraged to pray for those who are sick, for safe travel, or prayers of thanksgiving, simply offer aloud the name on your prayer stick (all at one time!) The intercessions will truly become the prayers of the people! You may even want to give that person a call or an email to let them know that they are in your prayers. When the offering plate is passed around, please put your prayer stick back in the offering- that way the prayer sticks will be symbolically offered along with the offering and the sticks will be removed and placed back in the bowl to be prayed for at the next service. You will also note that there are blank prayer sticks and markers for adding new names. You are welcome to take a blank stick and write "Mary Smith" -healing- and then put the date 03.08.09.



VESTRY UPDATE

As Scott has reported in his Weekly Letter, the Vestry of Christ Church met, for their regular monthly meeting, on February 24 in Room 206 of the church. In addition to regular business, the Vestry discussed a number of special topics.

First and foremost were changes to leadership of the group precipitated by the impending move of Douglas and Lianne Boller from Short Hills. The Vestry accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Douglas, and thanked him for his leadership and faithfulness to CSH. In related business, the Vestry unanimously elected John Cooper as junior warden, working with Cynthia McChesney, who, as the longest standing warden, now becomes senior warden. John has been serving the Vestry and church as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee for 3 years. To replace John as Treasurer, the Vestry unanimously elected Terry Finan, who has been working with John as Assistant Treasurer and has been a member of the Vestry since 2007.

In other business, Fred Hill, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, made a presentation to the Vestry on plans underway to enhance the livability of the Rectory by updating the kitchen and master bath. Two alternatives were discussed in detail, one of which requires a slight "bump out" and a variance, but which will result in a much enhanced kitchen.

In other business, the Vestry voted:

- in support of the Christ Church Nursery School Director's recommendation to make some minor modifications to classroom space so the school will be able to offer an additional class for 4 year olds in September. The Director has received numerous requests for additional slots for this age group;
- in support of necessary painting and maintenance at the Nursery School;
- in support of work to be done to the Rectory to the kitchen and master bathroom, as presented, and to be overseen by the Building and Grounds Committee.

The next Vestry Meeting will be held on March 17 at 8:00 p.m. In addition to regular business, the major topic at that meeting will be the CSH Annual Budget.

-Cynthia McChesney



THE SECRETS OF THE WINDOWS

Did you miss the wonderful presentation of our stained glass windows on 02.28.09? You can now watch videos of the presentation on our website! The web address is:

www.christchurchshorthills.org/Windows.htm

Many thanks to TERRY FINAN for the videos!

WISE WOMEN

Ladies of the Parish! Plan to join us for dessert in the choir room on

March 10 at 6:15 p.m.

and to welcome guest speaker, The Rev. Lisa Green who will give a talk entitled, "God's Names and Faces."

Lisa writes: "Scripture and Tradition provide a treasure trove of

different images of the Holy, only a few of which may make it into our prayer and worship. Discover this rich diversity and some simple ways to practice expanding our vocabulary for the mystery of God, who "transcends all categories of knowing, including those of masculine and feminine." (*Enriching Our Worship*). Before coming to Christ Church this past June, Lisa Green was the Associate Director of Interweave, a community learning center in Summit for wellness, spirituality, and the common good. She is a graduate of Drew Theological School and a co-founder of Women of Sacred Story, a Jewish/ Christian/Muslim gathering, and Wisdom's Well, a worship service exploring the feminine face of God. Those who wish may stay afterwards for a worship service using some of these images.



EVENSONG AT GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

On **Thursday, March 26, 2009**, Wise Women will sponsor a trip to NYC to attend a late afternoon Sung Evensong at General Theological Seminary. Arrangement details are in the works. As space is somewhat limited, please email Jane Houston in the near future (jhouston@comcast.net) to let her know you would be interested in going.

3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENTEN LEARNING

Each class will be at 7:45 p.m. (after the Wednesday evening Eucharist)

March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 Come for any or all classes!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CLASS - FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES

Join Scott and La Nora Holcombe in Parish Hall as they co-lead this wonderful class!

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY CLASS

"Spirituality is about what we do with the fire inside of us," writes Ronald Rolheiser, "the disciplines and habits we choose to live by . . . the way we are related to God, others, and the cosmic world." Join Lisa Green and Karen Rezach in the St. Mark room for a Lenten journey through Rolheiser's book *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*. To purchase a copy for \$15, call 973-379-2898 or email lisa.green@ccshmail.org



HAVE A NEW KID BY FRIDAY

"Have a new kid by Friday," by Kevin Leman. One of our new rector's favorite authors and books! "How to change your child's attitude, behavior, and character in 5 days." Join Elizabeth Wigg Maxwell in room 206. To purchase a copy for \$12, call 973-379-2898 or email elizabeth.wiggmaxwell@ccshmail.org

Sunday SCHOOL

Kudos to our 7th & 8th graders for their Winter Warmth drive. On February 22, they visited Apostles House in Newark, a ministry of the Diocese of Newark, and donated the following: 35 Coats, 17 Sweaters, 18 Sweatshirts, over 75 scarves, hats, and gloves, and 3 blankets. Thanks to class members, parents, parishioners, and a BIG thank you to Dan Graves for his leadership!

MARCH SUNDAY NURSERY FAMILY HELPERS:

March 1 :: Everline

March 8 :: McDonald

March 15 :: Nwachuku

March 22 :: Reilley

March 29 :: Amarante



CHRIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN PROJECT 2009

Malaria Kills A Child Every 30 Seconds, But It Doesn't Have To...

Christ Church Sunday School is raising money for *NetsforLife*. During Lent, children will be decorating their own coin boxes to collect money. They will take home their boxes, along with a booklet entitled "How do I thank you? Let me count the ways." Each day, families can read the brief devotion and make a donation in the coin box in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. On Easter Sunday, children will bring their coin boxes to church as an offering to God for the important work of *NetsforLife*!

CHILDREN'S AND CANTERBURY CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

March 8 + 29 - rehearsal at 10:45 a.m. to prepare music for Palm and Easter Sunday

To all Canterbury Parents,
The children sang beautifully on Sunday - many people complimented them! I'll be stopping into their Godly Play class every week for the first 10-15 minutes so that there is more practice time. But we will need some good rehearsal time this Sunday 3/8 after church at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. We have 2 songs to learn since we'll be singing on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. I will have song sheets available for you to take home on Sunday morning. Hope you can make arrangements for your children to stay. Thanks as always for your help!
Sue

Children's Choir Singing at 9:30 a.m. Eucharist:

Please note: Children should arrive in the choir room by 9:05 a.m. to get robed and rehearsed. Thanks so much for your support!

Sunday, March 15 singing
'*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*'

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday, singing
'*Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord*'

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday, singing
'*Now the Green Blade Riseth*'

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 15 – rehearsal at 10:45 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

- 03/08 Deborah Hill
- 03/09 Jacob Cherian
- 03/11 Ian Larson
- 03/11 Kevin Near
- 03/12 John Clemence
- 03/12 Douglas Cundey
- 03/12 Cole Woerner
- 03/13 Anne Hansen
- 03/14 James Morrison
- 03/14 Blake Udland
- 03/14 Lauren Graves
- 03/15 Scott Kernen
- 03/16 Scott Wright
- 03/16 Madison Reilley
- 03/17 Herbert Peterson
- 03/17 Mary Roberts
- 03/17 Gage Seeger
- 03/18 Ken Udland
- 03/18 Tyler Udland
- 03/19 Julia Draper
- 03/20 Jennie Graves
- 03/20 Gary Busacca
- 03/20 Ridley Lindstrom
- 03/22 John Sogliuzzo
- 03/22 Sophie Wang
- 03/23 Amy Schott
- 03/24 Alex Pelham-Webb
- 03/24 Katie McChesney
- 03/26 Peter Hansen
- 03/26 Robert Arnold
- 03/26 Caroline Richardson
- 03/27 Patrick Haggerty
- 03/28 Valerie Boyle
- 03/30 David Graziano



ANNIVERSARIES

- 03/06 Kathleen + Rupert Zimmerer
- 03/13 Penelope + Joe Kernen
- 03/14 Virginia + George Freund
- 03/16 La Nora + Scott Holcombe
- 03/26 Anne + Peter Hansen
- 03/27 Peggy + Robert Arnold
- 03/29 Eileen + James Paduano

WHY DO WE HAVE AN ALTAR RAIL?

Altar rails came into being early in the fourth century when Christianity came out of the catacombs and became the official religion of the Holy Roman Empire after Constantine. The church had been underground for so long, new churches were built and as a sign of openness and welcome were built without any doors. Fortunately the people entered unobstructed but so did the animals and livestock! Altar rails were originally built with supports close enough together so that the head of an animal could not get into the altar area. These altar rails kept animals from chewing on the altar cloths and vestments worn by the clergy!

The traditional posture of coming forward and kneeling at the altar rail to receive communion is a relatively late invention. There was actually a time when one could be excommunicated if communion was received while kneeling!

In today's church many new buildings are being built without altar rails. Standing for receiving communion is widely accepted, the clergy have been doing so for centuries! At Christ Church people are most welcome to stand or kneel to receive communion, as your custom or tradition leads.

WHY IS THE ALTAR RAIL BEING LEFT OPEN DURING COMMUNION?

There are actually two reasons - one practical and one symbolic. The practical reason is that it allows clergy and acolytes passage in and out of the chancel area during the communion time. There are times when folks need to leave the altar area to go to the sacristy or to take communion to someone in the pews. At CCSH having no other exit from the altar area, one must wait until everyone has received communion before this need may be addressed. The symbolic reason is that it signifies openness and welcome to all. Since the first Good Friday when according to Matthew 27:61.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

This symbolized that the Holy of holies (the most sacred place) was now opened and granted access to by all, not just the chief priests. This inclusion, welcome and openness to all is negated by the closed gate. The few places that are lost at the communion rail may be filled with folks who prefer standing to receive communion. Now you know . . . the rest of the story!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8</p> <p>8:00am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School + Nursery Care</p> <p>9:30am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>10:45am -Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00am - Adult Forum</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am - Yoga</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30am - Staff meeting</p> <p>6:15pm - Wise Women</p> <p>7:00pm - Buildings + Grounds</p> <p>7:30pm - Education for Ministry</p> <p>8:00pm - Wisdom's Well Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 - Altar Guild</p> <p>9:30am - Education for Ministry</p> <p>7:00pm - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:45pm - Lenten Classes</p> <p>8:00pm - CCNS Governing Board</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am - Interweave Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15am - Sunday School + Nursery Care</p> <p>9:30am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>10:45am -Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00am - Adult Forum - YPF</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00am - Yoga</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30am - Staff meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Education for Ministry</p> <p>8:00pm - Vestry meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am - Education for Ministry</p> <p>7:00pm - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:45pm - Lenten Classes</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am - Interweave Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30am - Careers in Transition</p>