

ISSUE

19b

April 19, 2009

# WEEKLY MESSENGER

## CHRIST CHURCH IN SHORT HILLS

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Dear People of God,

I must confess that the Holcombe family are big decorators: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's day, and most holidays sacred and secular (except Halloween.) This is a family tradition handed down from the Hazelwood family (La Nora's side.) This always means dragging boxes and bins from the attic to be unpacked and then packed away again. It is an endless ritual, but an important tradition that provides plenty of reflection time about the true meaning of such holy-days. Now that Easter Sunday is over the repacking time has arrived.

In a strange way, our post-Easter task is not that dissimilar from that of the 11 remaining disciples of Jesus and the women who were the first witnesses of the empty tomb. How do we process the events of the past and live our lives reflective of the resurrection? How do we take that one watershed event - the resurrection of Jesus Christ- and rethink our lives, our attitudes, our behaviors, our hopes, our dreams, our plans and even our fears - and re-examine the impact of Easter? Such tasks make the simple repacking of boxes and bins seem like a walk in the park!

For me, Easter is the defining act of God that shows the power and provision of God who knows no boundaries. The Roman army, a powerful political machine, religious leaders and even a horrendously excruciating death could not deter God's triumphant act of resurrection. What God said he would do, he accomplished. The ultimate power of sin and death are now defeated. He who was Jesus of Nazareth miraculously became for all eternity the Risen and exalted Christ. My Easter faith stands as an unalterable reminder that God will always have the last word. No matter what the situation, no matter how bleak an outcome, no matter how bad the news, nor the cost of the consequences - the Resurrection is God's reminder that even after the darkest night- there is hope, there is life, there is a new beginning. May this Easter faith grow in all of us - beyond mere decoration and candy eggs, to an abiding faith and resurrection hope that are unquenchable!

Faithfully,



The Rev. Scott T. Holcombe, *Rector*

### FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

To the men of CCSH - over the past 20+ years I have been a part of a small group of men who meet on a weekly basis to disciple, pray, hold accountable, and to "sharpen" one another. While I understand with hectic schedules and over-busy lives such a group (or groups) might be difficult, I was wondering if there are other men who have a similar need? Some of my preliminary thoughts include:

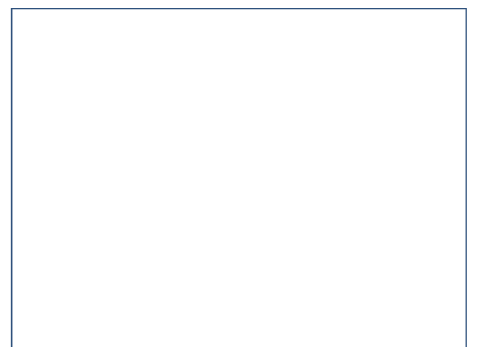
- ♦ An early morning meeting at 6:00 a.m.
- ♦ A commitment to a 6 week trial run
- ♦ Use of the Cursillo Group reunion format with prayer and sharing
- ♦ Limit the group to the 5-6 guys at a time.

If you are interested speak with me or email me at [sthccsh@gmail.com](mailto:sthccsh@gmail.com)



# Holy Week and Easter

Many thanks to TERRY FINAN + LISA GREEN for these great photos!



## THANK YOU ELIZABETH WIGG MAXWELL



On **Sunday, April 19 at the 9:30 a.m.** service and coffee hour, we will thank Elizabeth Wigg Maxwell for her ministry with us as Sunday School director and parish minister. As Scott announced on March 22, he and the lay leadership are restructuring the staff in order to more efficiently implement Christ Church's mission in difficult economic times. Returning the Sunday School to its previous all-volunteer status seemed an appropriate step, as did reducing the total number of clergy from four to two full time positions, rector and assistant rector, and one part-time assisting priest. During her time at CCSH, Elizabeth's primary ministry with our young people and families expanded to include preaching, worship leadership, and pastoral care to the wider congregation. We hope you will join us in thanking her for four and a half years of faithful service to Christ Church. *Contributions to her purse may be dropped off or mailed to the parish office.*

## SPECIAL ADULT FORUMS APRIL 19 + 26

What happens when you die?  
What plans should be made in advance?  
Cremation or earthen burial?  
Planning my funeral  
Living wills, Advance directives  
Good grief

These and many other related topics will be covered in our mini-series during the adult forums on **April 19 and 26** dealing with death and death education. In the post-Easter setting it seems somehow fitting to get our plans in order and approach death well informed and faithful. We will also be providing a new form that we will be using among the pastoral staff to assist with your funeral wishes. Bring your questions!



### PRAYER MINISTRY

If you are interested in being involved in a Prayer Ministry at Christ Church there will be a meeting Tuesday, **April 21 at 10:00 a.m.** in St. Mark's room. If you have any questions please call La Nora Holcombe at 973.467.0232.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO PENTECOST

The Canterbury and Children's Choirs will be singing 'Spirit of the Living God' by Daniel Iverson on The Day of Pentecost, May 31, to illustrate the 'Holy Spirit' melting, molding, filling, and using us. Our main rehearsal for that Sunday will be held May 17 at 10:45 a.m. Sue Bovan will be working with the Canterbury children during Godly Play in the meantime.



### BETTY F. WHITE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Application forms for the college year beginning in the fall of 2009 are available. A total of approximately \$5,000 is available each year to provide scholarships for members of Christ Church or individuals who have contributed to the life of Christ Church. Both the names of all applicants and the deliberations by the committee are kept confidential. Application forms are available on the table outside Parish Hall and on our website [HERE](#).

### THE 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PLANT SALE BOY SCOUT TROOP 15

Spring is here and it is time to place your orders for the Boy Scout Troop 15 Plant Sale! There is a link on the Church website which you can use to print an order form, and to find instructions on sending it and picking up your plants. We require no payment in advance - you pay when you pick up your plants. Pick up is in the church parking lot on **Sunday, May 9** between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you prefer, you can have your order delivered to your home for a delivery fee of \$10. This plant sale is the only fundraiser for the boys of Boy Scout Troop 15. Please come out and support their efforts. If you have any questions, you can stop one of our Patrol Leaders - Charlie Hill or Petey Lurie - or you can call Thornton Lurie at 973.379.6623

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 04/11 Anne + Freeman Bunn
- 04/15 Kimberly + Michael Vapenik
- 04/19 Katherine + Mike Sankovich
- 04/20 Julie + Jason Nortillo
- 04/23 Glenda + James Johnson
- 04/27 Jane + David Houston
- 04/27 Esther + John Pivarnik
- 04/28 Shirley + William Horbatt
- 04/29 Kimberly + Stephen Fritz
- 04/30 Douglas + Lianne Boller

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 04/19 Pamela Hulshizer
- 04/19 Isabella Hidalgo
- 04/20 Jim Fowler
- 04/20 Richard Estes
- 04/20 Olenka Speaker
- 04/20 Gillian Syracuse
- 04/21 Cynthia McChesney
- 04/21 Alexandra Stathis
- 04/22 Frederick Hill
- 04/22 Heather Cundey
- 04/22 Henry Gadsden
- 04/23 John O'Fee
- 04/25 Helene Reinhardt
- 04/26 Michael Vapenik
- 04/26 Wendy Berg
- 04/26 Haley Richardson
- 04/26 Olivia Estes
- 04/27 Joyce MacCoy
- 04/27 Laure Fischer
- 04/28 Clint Richards
- 04/29 Dorothy Leslie
- 04/29 Charlotte Boyle



# Sunday SCHOOL

**PRIMARY**

Matthew 18:2-5; "Agnes of Rome" is devoted to Agnes, a teenage girl of Rome in the third century. She chose a life of service to Christ, having decided to forego marriage. Faced with condemnation and certain death, Agnes bravely refused to give up her faith and devotion to the Lord. Her day on the church Calendar is January 21.

**INTERMEDIATE**

I Corinthians 12:12-13; "Two Great Sacraments" focuses on the meaning of the word "sacrament" and introduces the three dimensions of a sacramental celebration: outward signs, inward grace, and requirements. Although many students have studied Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist in previous years, it is essential to explore why these are called "great" above all other sacramental actions. Instituted by Jesus Christ himself, they remind us of our initiation into his Body and sustain us with spiritual food at his Holy Table.

**ARE YOU GREEN?** If you would like to receive the Weekly Messenger by email only, please email Andi.

**MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

April 19  
To the Glory of God

April 26  
William Leslie, Jr.  
Irene and Hans Voigt  
Ruth and Harold Stults  
E. Richard Erickson  
Helene P. Lanston

May 3  
Alfred W. Harris  
Arthur Bennett Kouwenhoven  
Mary Merrick Wichman  
William Charles Wichman

May 10  
Elizabeth S. Baiter  
Audrey F Erickson  
JoAnne Graziano  
Rosemary H. Garrison  
Elizabeth M. Hulten

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:00am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery Care + Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>10:45am - Coffee Hour in celebration for Elizabeth's Ministry</p> <p>11:00am - Adult Forum</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>7:00 pm - Buildings + Grounds</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>10:00am - Prayer Ministry meeting</p> <p>10:30am - Staff meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Education of Ministry</p> <p>8:00pm - Vestry meeting</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:30am - Education for Ministry</p> <p>7:00pm - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:45pm - The Holy Longing class</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:00am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery Care + Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>10:45am - Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00am - Adult Forum</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>10:30am - Staff meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Education for Ministry</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30am - Education for Ministry</p> <p>7:00pm - Holy Eucharist</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>8:30am - Careers in Transition</p>