

The Grateful Heart

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
September 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Sunday, September 11 marked the tenth anniversary of the attacks of 9/11. Like almost all of us, I remember the day distinctly...the clear sky; where I was when I heard the news; what I did that day, almost to the minute; the sense of disbelief; the fragmented communication; the sadness and the anger.

As the tenth anniversary comes upon us, I've been reading the paper but not, quite frankly, watching much television about it. For myself, I don't need to revisit the images. They are already imprinted powerfully.

Our world changed. We experienced a vulnerability that we didn't know we could experience. And some of us were touched more directly. Our children grow up with the understanding that it takes a long time to go through security at the airport and that your bag will be checked before you go into a baseball game. It's just the way it is. But it was all new to us.

We kept the sanctuary open for prayer and sitting that first September 11. (This was back before the space was always open.) And the following evening, we worshiped. We gathered, and sang, and came to the table to receive some solace and comfort in our confusion; we walked into the world, holding on to one another, doing our best to trust in God, and recognizing that whatever "normal" looked like, it looked different than it once did.

Well, there's a story about the aftermath of that first September 11th; maybe you've heard it...that hospitals and birthing centers saw a spike in childbirths beginning about nine months afterwards; that it seems we did what human beings do after events so tragic, and yearn for life.

Now there are plenty of articles out there stating that the "birth spike" after 9/11 is a myth; that the evidence does not support the assertion. Maybe it doesn't.

But as revealing as the facts is the truth that we tell this story at all; that we maintain that after loss we desire life; that after disaster we look for signs of hope.

Hope is the great gift given to humanity by our Hebrew forebears. The classical world understood history to be static. But God revealed to the Jewish people of the ancient world—the prophets, in particular—that history moved forward; and that despite appearances to the contrary, God was moving deeply in the human story; that out of slavery in Egypt came freedom; that out of bondage in Babylon would come a new day; that in the words of Jeremiah, God has a plan for our future, a plan for good and not for evil.

Ten years out we still hold on to one another, hold on to God, and maintain that hope. We pray for the peace God promises. We look for Jesus in one another, regardless of what they believe. We yearn and pray for justice and righteousness among the nations. We believe it is possible, and the promises true. In a fearful world we declare the words of the angel: "Fear not." We gather to worship, and then are sent out to be the answer to someone else's prayer and dedicate our hands, and feet, and backs to doing our part to bring about what we pray for. It may be that none of us have the power to bring peace to the entire world. But we each have the power to bring peace to where we live. So we do. We preach the power of God's Kingdom, not our own; and love, not hate. We manifest our hope for the world in how we live in our own neighborhood.

This Sunday evening we will worship together at 5:30 PM...a quiet service of hope and remembrance on the occasion of September 11. We hope you will join this community for worship, and invite a friend. We will also mark the day in our prayers that morning.

Also that morning we'll give God thanks for the eighteen years of life and ministry and service and love God has given Christ Church. And we will baptize. We'll be reminded of our own baptisms; that we are kingdom people, given responsibilities, and graced with the purpose of restoration, transformation, and healing. We'll hear of new birth, experience in the water of baptism the promise of renewal and restoration, and hear those most golden of words..."you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever." God reminds us that we are a claimed people; that nothing...nothing any time or anywhere, not death nor life, not anything else in all creation...can erase that claim and separate us from God's love; and that while we live in today, there is a good tomorrow before us because it's a good God we worship.

We mourn with those who mourn; sit with those who grieve; show up where we need to show up because the people of God do that. And we celebrate life...life now and always...and keep looking forward. Sometimes through tears, sometimes touched deeply by the pain of the world. But still, looking forward, remembering that the world's suffering is what Jesus carried on the cross and that in doing so, turned a symbol of death into a sign that what the Lord promises, always, is life.

And hope.

Blessings, and see you this weekend.

Paul

...from Hillary

September 8, 2011

Dear Friends:

When you receive this message, memories will be the focus of word written and spoken. Saturday is the tenth anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11 which changed our world forever. Stories of heroes, silent sufferers, and survivors will rightfully take the spotlight over these next days, along with prayers of remembrance. This weekend is also the birthday of Christ Church, celebrating with baptisms, its 18th birthday. Whether new, or not so new with Christ Church, many will have sweet memories of your first days with Christ Church. This time of year will hold additional memories for me as I remember always, with deep gratitude the most glorious send off you gave me last Sunday. Thank you for your overwhelming display of affection and love. Needless to say, your generous spirit will rest in my heart forever.

I have arrived in Philadelphia and I can tell you the Episcopal Church is thriving at St. Thomas White-marsh, with the same vibrant spirit of Christ Church. There is much excitement in the air as St. Thomas plans to put to best use 10 acres; as it launches a nation wide, and soon to be global wide, Center for Biblical Studies (www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org); and as it enters into a discovery of spiritual gifts and how best to put them to good use through time, talent and treasure. As with Christ Church, people love being the church and are happy to give and share and grow and learn who Christ is in their lives and how best to respond. I am blessed to once again serve with such loving and faithful people.

Thank you for all my days with Christ Church and thank you especially for the beautiful farewell you gave me last Sunday. So many of you carved out time from your holiday weekend to be present and to say goodbye. I'm forever grateful and hold those memories dear to my heart. Many thanks also, for your very generous financial offering which will make such a difference in getting us settled in Philadelphia. I'm touched beyond measure by your kindness.

Please, stay in touch, as I love hearing from you and the news of Christ Church. My email is up and running. In fact, I'm already hearing from many of you, especially about the faith challenge I spoke of several weeks ago, asking that you give prayerfully and generously of your time, talent and treasure as a sign of God's spirit working thanksgiving in you. Let me know of your actions and practices. Christ Church, you are the church at its best. Thank you for teaching me what it means to be the church making a difference laying the foundation for God's world.

Much love and blessings to you all,

Hillary

Hwest@stthomaswhitemarsh.org

St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh

Bethlehem Pike and Camp Hill Road, P.O. Box 247, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Phone (215)233-3970 ext. 125; (804)467-4212

Missions & Outreach



110 backpacks (filled with school supplies) were delivered to George Mason Elementary School to help students get ready for the school year.

Thank you Christ Church for your generosity !

Roman Familyvolunteer opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to assist with parking at the Italian Festival on **October 1st and 2nd** at Richmond International Raceway. \$500 will be donated to Christ Church – Roman Fund if we can fulfill this opportunity. Volunteers are needed to work a 3 hour shift on Saturday between 11:00 am – 8:00 pm and/or Sunday 11:00 am-6:00 pm. (Volunteers must be at least 16 years old).

For more information please contact: Jenni Pandak

pandakjs@aol.com

357-2174

Youth Choir

Come check it out!

Youth Choir begins September 18

**It's time to begin the new season of Youth Choir and we need you!
All 6th—12th graders are invited**

On Sunday, September 18 (5:00—6:15) we will have our first gathering in the Music Room, just off the Worship Space. We'll be talking about the new year, getting to know each other and singing a few songs, under the leadership of our new director, Aaron Todd.

So help us spread the word - invite your friends and come have fun with us!

Interested? Questions? Contact Aaron at ajtodd1004@gmail.com or
Missy at m.jennings@christchurchrichmond.com

Consignment Sale



Christ Church Consignment Sale

(kids clothes, toys, bikes, baby equipment, books, Holiday dresses, cotillion clothes, dance clothes, shoes, games, DVDs, electronics, strollers, and so much more for ages 0-14)

Saturday, September 24

7:30am-2:00pm (1/2 price sale 12:00-2:00)

www.christchurchsale.org

All proceeds support Missions and Outreach

Thank you to all who braved the early stages of Hurricane Irene to attend the end of summer **ADULT CHOIR WORKSHOP**. We shared fellowship and food. We also were introduced to some fun and challenging new music.

This is the time of year when things “start up” again. This includes the various choirs at Christ Church. Here is some information on each:

Adult Choir - The Christ Church Choir leads worship each Sunday at the 10:45 am service and once a month at the 9:00 service. It is open to all individuals, 16 years and older. We meet every Thursday evening from 7:30 – 9:15. Rehearsals have already started for the year.

Youth Choir - The Youth Choir is for youths between the 6th and 12th grades. This group meets on Sunday afternoons, from 5:30 – 6:45 in the Music Room of the worship space. Rehearsal begins on Sunday, September 18th. (Aaron Todd, Director)

Children’s Choirs –

Angel Wing – 4 year olds through 6 year olds

Kids4Him – 2nd and 3rd Graders

Jubilee – 4th through 6th Graders

Children in these choirs learn basic music theory and good singing habits, as well as learning Christ-like character through Bible stories, teaching, and prayer. They learn to engage God and His Word through music. These groups meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:20. Rehearsal begins on Wednesday, September 14th

The groups are open to new members at any time during the year.

Contact us to learn more and to get involved!

Keith Tan, Music Minister

k.tan@christchurchrichmond.com

Missy Jennings, Asst. Music Minister

m.jennings@christchurchrichmond.com

Find us on

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

<http://www.facebook.com/christchurchrichmond>

Year To Date Financial Results As Of 7-31-11

P & L Summary

	Actual Results Through July	Budgeted Through July	Difference	Full Year 2011 Budget
Pledge Income	\$578,923	\$582,125	-\$3,202	\$1,049,024
Non-Pledge Income	\$138,962	\$76,413	\$62,549	\$173,500
Total Income	\$717,885	\$658,538	\$59,347	\$1,222,524
Total Expenses	\$707,385	\$731,178	-\$23,793	\$1,274,428
Surplus/Deficit	\$10,500	-\$72,640	\$83,140	-\$51,904
Total Cash on Hand	\$1,129,233			
Construction Loan Balance	\$396,455			

Total income through July 31st is \$59,346 more than the budget. This positive performance is due to non-pledge income being consistently higher than the budgeted amount all year (Non pledge income is all gifts received not associated with a pledge). Expenses are under budget by \$23,793 primarily because some ministry teams will spend their allocations later in the year than anticipated in the budget.

Total cash on hand includes proceeds from the sale of the land to the County of Henrico, temporarily restricted cash and unrestricted cash. Unrestricted cash available for operations is \$277,894. Temporarily restricted cash is gifts received where the donor has specified a specific purpose for the gift.

The construction loan is related to the Growing for the Generations Campaign. Gifts received to fulfill Growing for the Generations pledges are being used to make payments on this loan.

Food bank collection on July 2nd and 3rd was \$267

Thank you for your support of Christ Church and our ministries which allows all of us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.

David Latham, Treasurer david.latham@comcast.net

Youth Ministry



Sunday, September 18th 6:30 PM Youth Kickoff with the Keith Elgin Band

If you have not been to Youth group in a while or you have never been, this would be a great time for you to come and start the new school year with us.

Pizza, fun games and a great band. It couldn't get any better. To Listen to Keith Elgin Band click here : http://web.me.com/keithelgin/Keith_Elgin/Listen.html

SMALL GROUPS

If you are looking for a way to grow in your faith and make closer relationships with people your age this is the place for you.

Small Groups will begin **the week of September 18th**. We have a group for everyone and you can find more info here: <http://www.ccgargage.org/index.cfm/PageID/827/index.html>. If you have questions about getting involved with a small group please contact Joe.

J.torrence@christchurchrichmond.com

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir starts **September 18th 5:00-6:15pm**

CONFIRMATION INFO MEETING

If you have a student going into or is currently in high school that is interested in **the Journey**, our Confirmation program at Christ Church, there is an informational meeting on **September 25th after the 10:45am worship service** for youth and parents. Please RSVP to Joe.

j.torrence@christchurchrichmond.com

Womens Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study (Sept 14 and 21)

Would you like a safe place to discuss money issues within the context of your faith? Join the Wednesday Morning Bible Study for a brief two-session discussion! We will use **"Money Sanity Solutions: Linking Money & Meaning,"** by Nathan Dungan as the starting point for our discussions (purchasing the book will be not necessary.) We will explore a biblical view of our financial decisions and investigate how we might match our spending with our values. (Wednesday, September 14 and 21, 9:30-11:30, in the parlor). Participants are encouraged to attend either or both weeks. Child care may be possible if there is enough interest. Please contact [Jen Hoerrner](mailto:Jen.Hoerrner@christchurchrichmond.com) if have any questions or would like to join.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study (October 5 and continuing for 20 weeks)

We will be studying **"David: Seeking a Heart Like His,"** by Beth Moore. This study will last about 20 weeks and will include videos and homework. (We take twice the number of weeks to do the study to allow for extra discussion time and to make it easier to get homework done!) We will meet weekly from 9:30-11:30a in the parlor, and childcare may be possible with enough interest. (Please rsvp for childcare by 9/21/11.) Participants are welcome to join at any time. Workbooks will be available for purchase the first few weeks of the study. Please contact [Jen Hoerrner](mailto:Jen.Hoerrner@christchurchrichmond.com) if have any questions or would like to join.

Parents with Special Needs

Parents with Special Needs

Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 pm (in the Garage)

Sometimes it is that parents are so thorough in meeting the needs of their children who require special attention, they find it difficult to carve out time for themselves. Over the past several months, a group of parents with special needs have been meeting. When asked what they need, parents expressed that they need:

- To know they are not alone
- To have a safe place, a community to rely on
- To be with people who don't judge
- To laugh
- To ask how God understands special needs
- To explore what is "normal"

Who comes to Parents with Special Needs?

Parents who spend their days and nights caring for a child or children who require special attention because of a learning disability or a physical or emotional challenge. The parents attending spread the gamut, parenting young preschoolers to adult children with challenges. Either way, all parents have special needs, and these parents in particular have a unique set of challenges. They find support and comfort in this caring community and as is typical of loving parents, they first think how they can offer support to more parents with special needs.

It may be you are a Parent with Special Needs. Please accept this invitation extended by Parents with Special Needs and plan to gather Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 pm in the Garage at Christ Church. May you find this time healing and helpful. Question? Check with Rick Golembeski (sandrgolembeski@verizon.net) He and his wife, Stephanie are happy to welcome you to the group.

Shalom Farms Family Work Day

September 24

Come and bring the family of all ages for a time of learning about and working on the farm. Bring work gloves, water, sunscreen, and bug spray. Meet at the farm at 9 am.

Please RSVP to Casey (caseytorrence@gmail.com) by Tuesday Sept 20!

Check out Shalom Farms at:
<http://shalomfarms.org/about.html>

www.christchurchrichmond.com

Men's Breakfast

The next gathering is Saturday, September 24.
We meet at 8:00 for lots of food and plenty of conversation.
At the September gathering Keving /Bunting will lead a discussion of the movie "Fireproof".

Centering Prayer Workshop

"As we consent to the movement of the Spirit in our inmost being, we connect at the deepest level with every member of the human race, and with the whole of creation." - Fr. Thomas Keating

This is an opportunity to explore the discipline of Centering Prayer as silent communion with God beyond concepts, words and images. The workshop will be led by trained facilitators from Contemplative Outreach of the Greater Richmond Area. We will have time to learn about the prayer form, practice it and to ask questions. Light refreshments and boxed lunches will be available. No previous experience is required.

Where: Christ Church House Garage

When: Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

What: A donation of \$15 is suggested to offset the cost of this and future offerings.

**You may register on the church website at:
www.christchurchrichmond.com**

**Optional follow up: If you would like to gain more experience with this prayer form, Rick Roland and Shawn Dunham will be hosting group sessions beginning October 19th. The group will meet for 5 Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Christ Church House Garage to study materials from the Contemplative Outreach organization and practice centering prayer.

About Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer — verbal, mental or affective prayer — into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

What Centering Prayer Is and Is Not

It is not a technique but a way of cultivating a deeper relationship with God.

It is not a relaxation exercise but it may be quite refreshing.

It is not a form of self-hypnosis but a way to quiet the mind while maintaining its alertness.

It is not limited to the "felt" presence of God but is rather a deepening of faith in God's abiding presence.

It is not reflective or spontaneous prayer, but simply resting in God beyond thoughts, words, and emotions.

Information adapted from: [Contemplative Outreach, Ltd.](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.com)

Saturday Server Schedule

	3-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep
rotation week	1	2	3	4
<i>1st Reading</i>	JD Dickinson	Mike Kennedy	Dan Summey	Paula Kyrios
<i>Prayers</i>	Wendy Dickinson	Susan Kennedy	Bill Vanderkloot	Linda Walton
<i>Chalicer 1</i>	Gerry Escalera	Mike Kennedy	Dan Summey	Linda Walton
<i>Chalicer 2</i>	JD Dickinson	Susan Kennedy	Pete Dysko	Susan Winks
<i>Chalicer 3</i>	Wendy Dickinson	Anne Hoey	Lynne Edwards	Chelley Watkins-Kennedy
<i>Chalicer 4</i>			Joann Bibb	
<i>Usher 1</i>	Margina Grow	Carole Harms	Ellie Bremmer	Carole Harms
<i>Usher 2</i>	Rich Stafford		David Bremmer	Tracey Presley
<i>Usher 3</i>			Chelley Watkins-Kennedy	Brandon Presley
<i>Usher 4</i>				
<i>Altar</i>	Joanne Cooper	Susan Kennedy	Joann Bibb	Joanne Cooper
<i>Bread</i>	Pat Balgie	Jane Levy	Pat Balgie	Jane Levy
<i>Offertory</i>	Pam Daffern Ellie Bremer	Tom Burton Will Kitchen	Matt Schultz	Matt Schultz
<i>Captain</i>	Gerry Escalera	Mike Kennedy	Chelley Watkins-Kennedy	Chelley Watkins-Kennedy

Note: the new Captain role is to ensure we have the right number of volunteers before each service starts

If you cannot make a certain week, leverage the roster to find a replacement and contact the Captain when the replacement is known.

Kids Quest

Kids' Quest Sign-ups

Kids' Quest Participant and Volunteer sign up is now available.

Go to www.christchurchrichmond.com/children or scan the code to the side to get more information about Kids' Quest and to sign up as either a volunteer or a participant.



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Growing for the Generations JULY Update:

Total Pledges paid through July 31 \$1,268,508

Total Campaign Pledges \$1,607,052

Percent Complete 79%

JULY COLLECTIONS \$18,725

- If you have a pledge that has not been fulfilled, please consider fulfilling that pledge as soon as possible (but not later than the end of the year).
- If you did not pledge but witness the value that our new buildings bring to our community, please consider making a contribution.
Checks should be made out to Christ Church with G4G (Growing for the Generations) in the memo line. If you would like to donate stock or have other questions, please contact Kathy Nunn (k.nunn@christchurchrichmond.com) or Kathy Rogers (k.rogers@christchurchrichmond.com) in the church office

www.christchurchrichmond.com

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