

THE PROPHET

FALL PENTECOST 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH

A Word from Jeff...

It is hard to believe that it has been ten years since Carolyn and George and I moved into the rectory, and I began serving as the Priest-in-Charge here at Christ Church. It was only eight months after the sudden death of the Rev. Dennis Jarry, who had been the new rector for just over a year, and the feelings of grief and loss were still very much in the air. Bit by bit, day by day, we began the process of moving forward and imagining what the future might bring.

Within a year we had set ourselves an agenda for a series of new initiatives that would both address some of the parish's pressing needs, and would also take us out into some new territory. We did a review of our "Sabbath experience" with a parish survey to hear what people liked about Sundays at Christ Church and what they would like to see changed. We began a "building needs assessment" that would eventually turn into a building project and capital campaign. And we began conversations about developing a new "signature outreach project" in the city of Lawrence. Ten years later, each of these initiatives has born significant fruit, which we will be celebrating this fall.

Our review of the Sunday experience told us just how much people felt that music was important to the growth and vitality of our parish. Our building needs assessment eventually focused on creating more welcoming spaces, more handicap accessibility, more flexibility in our liturgical space, developing a deeper sense of community, and more participatory worship. Replacing the old, failing organ and redesigning the chancel area became the cornerstones in meeting these goals as well as our goal of improving our musical possibilities. The dedication of our renovated church and new organ will take place in late September.

As for outreach, we began a process that

Jeff's 10th Anniversary

Please join us in celebration of Jeff's 10th anniversary on Sunday, September 9th. We plan to show our appreciation for the last ten years of leadership and harmony. Bishop Shaw appointed Jeff on September 1, 2002 as Priest-in-Charge, eight months after the death of Rev. Dennis Jarry. Jeff was installed as Rector of Christ Church on September 15, 2005. Let's all enjoy the gala event in the Parish Hall!

would see the opening of the Esperanza Academy in 2006. Together with our many partners in the Merrimack Valley and beyond, we are now having a significant impact on the lives of middle-school girls and their families in Lawrence.

A parish can do a lot in ten years! Our celebration on September 29-30 will be a wonderful opportunity for us to look back and reflect on what we have accomplished, and most importantly to envision the renewed possibilities in our life together moving forward. I hope every member of Christ Church will be here for that wonderful weekend, and will invite someone to join you as we dedicate our new organ and the renovated spaces in our church. Please also mark your calendars for November 28, when Bishop Shaw will be here to dedicate our new altar.

We are off to an exciting start to a new program year! Come and be a part of what's happening at Christ Church. Your presence and support mean everything!

See you in church!

Inaugural Weekend Dedication of New Organ & Chancel Renovation

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Organ Presentation & Demonstration
C. B. Fisk, Opus 137 at 5:30 p.m.
David Pike & Greg Bover of C. B. Fisk, Inc.

Inaugural Organ Recital at 7:00 p.m.
Barbara Bruns, Organist
Works by Marchand, Frescobaldi, Bruhns,
J. S. Bach, Widor, Franck, and Dupré
Gala Reception to follow

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 a.m.
Festival Holy Eucharist
Dedication of Organ & Chancel Renovation
Special music by the Combined Choirs of
Christ Church
"With pipes of tin and wood make known"
by Carol Doran & Thomas H. Troeger
Gala Reception to follow

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### Christ Church Yard Sale

**Saturday, September 15**

**8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Drop-Off Day**

**Friday, September 14**

**9 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

Go green at the parish Yard Sale! It's a great opportunity to declutter - and recycle - for a good cause. Shoppers will be looking for household items, small furniture, working appliances, clothing, toys, and just about anything else. (Please note that the Yard Sale cannot accept large metal items, TVs, computer equipment and/or skis). It's also a fun way to volunteer, and many hands are needed during the drop-off day at the sale, and especially for the post-sale cleanup, 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, September 15th, and drivers who are able to take a load of leftover merchandise to Lazarus House in Lawrence. Contact Karen English at 978-474-0633 if you can help.

**The Christ Church Fair  
A Celebration of Christmas  
Saturday, December 1st  
9 AM - 2 PM**

Picking up your Christmas greens, listening to the Christ Church carolers, gathering goodies from Gourmet, Country Kitchen and the bakery table, selecting hand-knitted scarves and mittens, sneaking a peak at Santa, stopping by the Parish Hall for a steaming bowl of homemade soup, exchanging Christmas cheer with fellow parishioners and all the while helping to support the parish...what a great way to spend a wintry Saturday!

The Christ Church Christmas Fair, "A Celebration of Christmas", is back! On Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Parish Hall and the Children's Center will be transformed as we create an old-fashioned Christmas fair as our parish had done for so many years.

Our plan is to have a seasoned table chair mentor a new table chair in an effort to keep the fair going for years to come. We welcome all interested to be a part of this wonderful tradition at Christ Church. Whether you want to bake some cookies or volunteer to team up as a new table chair, we would love to hear from you!

The Christmas Fair is a fun-filled, multigenerational event as we come together to kick off the Christmas Season and support our parish.

**This Year's Fair Chairs**

Nancy Haak  
[nwhaak@gmail.com](mailto:nwhaak@gmail.com)  
Sarah Buck  
[bsarah@comcast.net](mailto:bsarah@comcast.net)  
Linda Borland  
[l.e.borland@gmail.com](mailto:l.e.borland@gmail.com)  
Sarah Doran  
[sarah.delcuze@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.delcuze@gmail.com)  
Connie Molinar  
[molinaroconnie@gmail.com](mailto:molinaroconnie@gmail.com)  
Hannah Whitlock  
[hannahwh@comcast.net](mailto:hannahwh@comcast.net)

**Healing the Heart of Democracy**

Parker Palmer is one of our generation's wisest and most profoundly spiritual guides. In the coming re-election season we will use his book by this title to help us reflect on the state of our public life and how we think about our roles as citizens of a democracy. Participants are asked to buy and to read the book throughout the course of our four-week discussion.

**Dates:**

Wednesdays in October beginning 10/10.

**Time:**

7:30 p.m. in the Parlor

**Sign-up:**

Jeff Gill

**Choir Rehearsals Resume**

**Parish Choir** (Begins September 6)  
Rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:30 -9:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Open to adults and high school singers.

**Schola** (Begins September 11)  
Rehearses Tuesday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Open to young singers with unchanged voices, grades 6-12. Auditions required.

**St. Cecilia Choristers** (Begins September 13)  
Rehearses Thursday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Open to girls and boys with unchanged voices, grades 3-8.

**Angel Choir** (Begins September 13)  
Rehearses Thursday afternoons from 3:45-4:30 p.m. Open to boys and girls, grades K-2.

**Bell Choir** (TBA)  
Contact Barbara Bruns if interested. A minimum of 8 ringers are needed to form a choir.

For further information or to become involved in the Music Ministry at Christ Church, please contact Barbara Bruns, Minister of Music at Christ Church at 978-475-0529, Ext. 14 or e-mail [bbruns@christchurchandover.org](mailto:bbruns@christchurchandover.org)

**Music at Christ Church Andover  
Inaugural Season Featuring  
C. B. Fisk Organ, Opus 137**

Many special musical events are planned for the 2012-2013 season that features our new C. B. Fisk organ. Beginning with the inaugural recital and festive dedication service on September 29 -30, Christ Church Parishioners and Friends will have the opportunity to hear the organ in festive services for Advent, Christmas, and Easter, Evensongs for All Saints' and Lent, as well as concerts and solo recitals. Organ recitalists are John Skelton, Carolyn Skelton, Carol Doran, Douglas Major, and Susanna Valleau, "Rising Star" of the American Guild of Organists. A brass and organ concert in January features James Thompson & Richard Given, trumpets, Kevin Owen, French Horn, Philip Swanson, trombone, and Gabriel Langfur, bass trombone. In May, guest conductor Donald Teeeters, newly retired conductor of the Boston Cecilia, leads the choir in a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Franz Joseph Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*, popularly known as the "Little Organ Mass". In addition, a new anthem for choir and organ by Peter Bell will be premiered at the concert.

You will find a *Music at Christ Church Andover* season brochure included in the Fall Prophet which gives further details. If you would like to help support the 2012-13 music series, please fill out the attached form and return with your donation to:

Music at Christ Church  
25 Central Street  
Andover, MA 01810

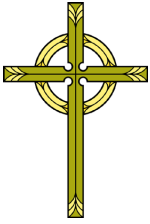
With gratitude,  
Barbara A. Bruns  
Minister of Music

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Harvest of Hope*

Esperanza Academy's annual dinner/  
auction event  
October 12 at the  
Andover Country Club  
Watch for more details soon!



Seeking the Holy

Perhaps it's because I have been on an academic schedule for most of my life, but September often feels like a true 'new year' for me. The relative quiet of summers spent with family and friends gives way to a renewed bustle—perhaps more chaotic than bustling for some! For me this summer, it's been an amalgam of moving, planning a wedding, and catching up on all that 'stuff' which lays fallow at the end of a program year, so that it can be new and fresh for September. When things are bustling/ chaotic, the challenge even for me is to find time to 'be spiritual'.

And therein lies the rub. Sometimes even I forget that to divide our faith and spiritual life from the chaos is to divide ourselves, our beings. And we can't do that. The challenge is to go through our lives with eyes, ears and hearts willing to engage the holy in all that we do. Barbara Brown Taylor writes this in our summer book group book, *An Altar in the World*. "Anything can become a spiritual practice once you are willing to approach it that way - once you let it bring you to your knees and show you what is real, including who you really are, who other people are, and how near God can be when you have lost your way."

The busyness will never really end. We will always find things to occupy our time and talent so that we can push the tough parts, our own vulnerability and truths, to the side. The invitation that we are given though is to seek the holy in all that we do, and all that we say, and even in who we ourselves are. We seek to find the holy in the minutiae, and all of a sudden we realize that we are immersed in it. There is nowhere we can go and nothing that we do which is divorced from the abundance of God's presence and grace.

So go. Be busy. But know that you are about God's work in all that you do, and all that you are.

Blessings  
Kit+

Women's Group Fall Meetings

Women's Group at Christ Church is a place to explore issues of spirituality, the world we live in, and draw closer together as friends in Christ. Mostly we meet **one Monday night each month, from 7:30-9 p.m.**, but you will see that there is an extra meeting scheduled in November. Here is the line-up for the fall. Check our website, in the eProphet and/or watch for the *Sunday Prophets* and Quarterly *Prophet* coming out in December to check on updates.

**September 17, 7:30-9 p.m. Coming Home**  
Sharing the joys and challenges, the gifts and God's grace of summer. Bring pictures or remembrances of your summer to share.

**October 15, 7:30-9 p.m. Nourishing Body and Soul** with our very own Dawn Oulton (Certified Wellness Coach). This meeting is for anyone who has eaten when she wasn't hungry, or who hasn't eaten when she was hungry. It's for anyone who has prepared a meal for someone in need, or who wonders about the sacrament of bread and wine that we share every Sunday morning. If you want to explore the spiritual thread connecting all of our practices and beliefs about food, then come join us!

**November 12, 7:30-9 p.m. Cookies for Christ!** (*Actually, for Bread and Roses...*) come and bake your favorite cookies with a group of like-minded cookie lovers! Bring your favorite holiday recipe, along with the makings of three dozen cookies. We will bake, chat, and take home a bag of freshly baked cookies! (Oh, and satisfy the sweet tooth of the guests at *Bread and Roses* soup kitchen.)

**November 16-18: (From Friday Dinner to Sunday Lunch): RETREAT!** At the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, in Cambridge. Before you jump into the busy-ness of the holidays, take time to get away. This is an introduction to silence. One of the brothers will gently usher us into the experience of silence and solitude, offering instructions and thoughtful meditations along the way, and suggesting ways you might experiment with prayer between sessions. The Brothers will welcome us to join them in worship and at meals. We offer this to both men and women in our parish. Cost: TBD

An Update on our Finances  
(as of July 31, 2012)

2012 Pledges -- \$551K  
2012 Pledge income YTD -- \$356K (4% over budget)  
2012 Budgeted expenses -- \$725K  
2012 Expenses YTD -- \$395K (10% under budget)

Thank you to all! And it's not too early to be thinking about your commitment for the coming year when we will have new challenges to meet!

Senior Warden's Report

There have been several property improvements that have taken place over the summer. Over at the **Park Street property** where our Thrift Shop received its new energy-efficient windows this summer, we also found replacements for the light fixtures for both entrances that we can connect to a timer. This is particularly important for the dance studio to provide outside lights for the kids waiting for their rides after evening classes. These fixtures have not worked for at least 10 years. In the **Chancel** of the church, we've painted the area between the wood paneling and the blue ceiling with an historical color that warms up the whole area. The **Parlor** is receiving the biggest renovation of all! The walls are getting a fresh, new coat of paint, new wood flooring is being installed, and new furniture is on order. We are hoping that we'll be able to use the Parlor again by late September.

In financial news, we've converted our **Tower Bank Loan** to a 10-year mortgage, and elected to reduce our credit line of \$450K to \$200K.

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★ **Registration for Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Choirs** ★  
★ Registration will take place on Sunday, ★  
★ September 9th after the 10 a.m. service. ★  
★ The first day of Sunday School and ★  
★ Youth Group classes will be Sunday, ★  
★ September 16th. ★  
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### Christ Church Staff

The Rev. Jeffrey Shilling Gill, Rector  
[jgill@christchurchandover.org](mailto:jgill@christchurchandover.org)

The Rev. Kit Lonergan, Assistant Rector  
[klonergan@christchurchandover.org](mailto:klonergan@christchurchandover.org)

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Frances Jennings Dodson, Head Manager at Thrift Shop  
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Maria L. Chan, Business Manager  
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Mark Pomerleau, Sexton  
[mpomerleau@christchurchandover.org](mailto:mpomerleau@christchurchandover.org)

Matt Tringali & Emily McDowell, Sunday Sextons  
Catherine Rosen, Head Verger

Parish Office (Glebe House) 978-475-0529

Andover Thrift Shop 978-475-0957

Christ Church Children's Center 978-475-4037

Christ Church - 25 Central Street, Andover, MA 01810

Website Address - [www.christchurchandover.org](http://www.christchurchandover.org)

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 9

Registration for Sunday School, Youth Groups & Children's Choirs

Saturday, September 15, 8 AM - 1 PM  
Parish Yard Sale

September 29, 7 PM  
Organ Dedication, Concert & Reception

October 6, 2:30 PM  
Chris' & Kit's wedding

October 7, 4 PM  
Blessing of the Animals/Courtyard

October 23, 5:30 - 7 PM  
*Taste & See* for Newcomers

November 1, 6:30 PM  
All Saints' Day Eucharist/North Chapel

November 4, 5 PM  
Choral Evensong

November 18, 5 PM  
Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service @  
Christ Church

December 1, 9 AM - 3 PM  
Christmas Fair

December 2, 5 PM  
Advent Lessons and Carols