

THE PROPHET

October 2011

Volume 52 Issue 8

It is the Vision of Christ Church to be an open, welcoming Episcopal congregation living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to nurture our spiritual growth through worship and prayer, learning and teaching, support and service. We aspire to put God's love into action within our own lives, in our congregation and in our world.

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

"... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Matthew 13:45, 46)

Some of you will remember a talk that Karen Swenson gave in church one Sunday morning last year (or was it two years ago?). She talked about how much it meant to her when she was driving by the church one day with her young son, Ryan, and he looked out the window and said, with pride, "That's MY church!"

As I was driving by the church today, it certainly caught my eye – with a certain amount of pride, and also, yes, some small amount of anxiety, as I looked at the scaffolding, the fenced-in area out front, and the granite stones coming down from the side of the bell tower. I'm really, really happy that we're taking care of a major problem that we uncovered during the course of our interior building renovation. I'm also a little anxious about how we'll pay for it! But it had to be done – which is the case with so many things in an aging building like ours.

We love these beautiful, old buildings, and I've heard many people say that's part of what drew them here – our beautiful space, which in some mysterious way helps to draw us more deeply into God's presence. Sometimes that's the hook, and then only later do we find something even deeper and richer, which is the profound sense of community and connection, with God and with one another, that we find in this place. It is the pearl of great value.

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BISHOP CEDERHOLM TO MAKE VISITATION TO CHRIST CHURCH ON OCTOBER 23RD

The Rt. Rev. Roy F. (Bud) Cederholm will make his final visitation to Christ Church as the Suffragan Bishop of our diocese on October 23rd. Bishop Bud will be the celebrant and preacher at our 10 a.m. service that day. There will also be a reception for him after the service, followed by a lunch meeting with our Vestry. Come and show your appreciation for the ten years he has spent as a bishop in our diocese and for all he has meant to us right here at Christ Church in Andover. Bishop Bud's personal warmth and pastoral support, as well as his prophetic voice on the importance of our care for the creation have been hallmarks of his ministry. We will miss him! We also wish him and his wife, Ruth Ann, a fruitful new time in their lives as they begin retirement, and as they uncover new and wonderful joys and opportunities.

CHRIST CHURCH LANDSCAPE

DESIGN

COMMITTEE FORMING

Now that interior beautification of the church has begun, it is timely to consider planning to enhance the exterior. It is hoped to submit a landscaping plan to the Vestry by this time next year.

We seek members to think about changes that would enhance the church landscape. Are you interested in discovering what trees or shrubs might work? What lighting and signage would be appropriate? How handicapped access could be better accomplished? How ideas would look on the ground or in elevation?

First meeting will be Wednesday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor. If you have questions, comments or suggestions beyond those above (which are only to suggest a scope of discussion), talk with Oliver Chamberlain after the 10 a.m. service, or call at home 978-250-0173.

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LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, COMMITMENT

You won't want to miss our weekly **CCC Moment** during each of our Sunday services in October! These brief talks are planned by our new Stewardship Team to remind us just how much Christ Church means to all of us. Come and be inspired throughout the month of October!

The week of October 9th, each household at Christ Church will receive a mailing with a letter from our Stewardship Team asking you to join in making a financial commitment to Christ Church for 2012.

The more committed we are, the more we can do together – to support our vibrant programs for children and youth, pastoral ministries, fellowship and spiritual formation, beautiful and inspiring worship and music. And so much more. Your commitment will help us care for our buildings and do outreach into the wider community.

Talk with your spouse or other members of your household about what Christ Church means to you. Pray about it. And then decide what your commitment will be for the coming year. If you've never pledged before, let this be the time to take the plunge! Your commitment will benefit Christ Church and it will benefit you!

Our goal is to have **300 pledges in 2012**. That's a big increase from last year, so be sure to help the team out! They're counting on you! Pledges of all sizes are welcome, but they all must be given with gratitude to God for the blessings in your life, and for what Christ Church means to you.

RECYCLE YOUR CFL BULBS

Today's compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's - the curly ones!) are great for conservation. The downside is that they contain mercury. The amount of mercury in a bulb is small but, simply tossed into a landfill, these bulbs can shatter and the mercury will leach into the ground. It is important that these bulbs not be disposed of in your household trash. In a continuing effort to encourage recycling here at Christ Church, you will find a box in the Parish Hall closet clearly labeled CFL's next to the blue paper recycling bin. Please continue to recycle - it is important for our planet!



The Unofficial CC Recycling Committee

SOME CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP FACTS

- Christ Church has had a balanced budget for the past nine years!
- New clergy and program staff (Kit and Carolyn) are helping us continue to develop our focus on the spiritual formation of our children and youth
- Our new Director of Children's Ministries position is being paid this year by a special fund outside of the parish budget. We need to fund it in the budget next year!
- Our recent Capital Campaign raised pledges of over \$2.3 million – five times our annual giving, in spite of difficult economic times.
- Our aging buildings require a lot of planning and funding for the proper care. We are committed to putting \$30K per year into a new reserve fund so that funds are available when we have a major expense.
- The recent Bell Tower repairs had to be done on an emergency basis, requiring us to take on some debt of about \$150K. Payments on that debt will put an extra strain on our budget for the coming year.
- Our parish is noted throughout our diocese for its strong music, children's and youth programs. We want to keep it that way!
- Oh yes, and did we already mention that Christ Church has had a balanced budget for the past nine years?! We want to keep it that way, too!

Some pledge statistics (annual giving only – not including capital campaign):

- Total pledged in 2011: \$517,000 (our highest year ever!)
- Pledge range: \$20 -- \$28,000 per year (pledges large and small are all important! Just give according to how you have been blessed, and it will be enough!)
- Average household pledge in 2011: \$2,168
- Median pledge in 2011: \$1,140 (half were larger, half were smaller)
- Number of pledges in 2011: 237

Our goal for number of pledges in 2012: 300! We can get there if all of our new members make a pledge, and if those who regularly give but do not fill out a pledge card will take the plunge this year! Help us reach our goal!

Your commitment to making a pledge is deeply appreciated! Bring it to church on October 23 for our in-gathering!

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

One of my favorite pastimes is cooking. Never anything fancy, just something that will require me to chop, stir, and sit in my kitchen and listen to Frank Sinatra of an afternoon or evening. I don't have a stock of recipes to use, so my go-to guy for finding recipes for in-season foods has been the New York Times' food columnist Mark Bittman. It was his recipes which first brought me to read his columns, but it was his personality and approach to cooking which invited me to stay as a faithful reader. He writes about himself on his blog/ website:

I'm not a chef, and I never have been. And though I've cooked with some of the best-known chefs in the world, I've never had formal training, and I've never worked in a restaurant. None of which has gotten in the way of my mission to get people cooking simply, comfortably, and well.

Bittman's recipes are known for their flexibility and openness. He'll give a recipe which reads a lot like a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' book. It's never didactic; it's never written in stone; what you cook is what you cook, and he just stirs the pot to offer inspiration and to tell you to be brave and try something new that you have never eaten before.

I have found that some people approach their faith life as they would their professional lives—that if they don't know that they can do it well and succeed in it, they won't even bother. We often search fruitlessly for the perfect recipe, sure that we can't start the cooking process without knowing exactly where we want to end up, and having exactly the right ingredients for that particular dish. We set the goal, and then try to find ways to make our way there, thinking that if we don't eventually get to that specific place, we will have failed. Faith, we often posit to ourselves, is the destination, the win, the prize at the end of the road.

Bittman offers a different way, one that challenges me, but one which ultimately has been more fun and more fruitful to engage in. He assumes that everyone can cook, and his mission (I love that word!) is to invite others to take ownership of their own experience: to dig in and see what they can do themselves. It isn't about the final dish—it isn't about setting a goal and making orderly progress to get there. It is about the journey itself, about making decisions about our own encounters with the food, the process, with whatever we already have on the shelf in our pantry. And, he says, we probably already have the makings for a great meal from what we have stocked away in that pantry—we

Continued...

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER GROUP IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The church dinner group is beginning its 3rd year with about 80 members. We meet four or five times a year in groups ranging from six to 10 at the homes of parishioners. The host develops the menu and provides the entrée. The guests are assigned a food item to bring (e.g. salad, dessert, appetizers, etc) and also bring a bottle of wine.

The dinners have been fun and interesting and are a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with people in the parish. We are hoping that more people will decide to become members of the group this year.

If you are interested, please contact either Carol Reid at carolreid@comcast.net or Meg Walker at meg-walker@comcast.net

The first dinner of this fall season will be held on Saturday, November 5. We will also be holding a full group Christmas cocktail party on Sunday, December 4. The schedule for the January through May dinners will come out later this fall.

Please consider joining us - we would love to have you.

Carol and Allen Townsend
Meg and Jim Walker

No experience continued.

just need the inspiration and motivation to dig those things out and use them.

My guess is that we never think those things in the pantry are good enough to use. Bittman says otherwise. I believe that God says otherwise as well. What we are invited to do is to use those pantry items as though they had immense possibility, to discover what we can do when we don't limit our expectations to win/lose; faith/doubt; success/failure. Our faith journeys will never look like anyone else's, and to judge the 'final product' against others' is a fruitless pursuit. And in the end, it's often not about the final dish on the table. I've found that the best things I've made are the ones which have required creativity, patience, a little Frank Sinatra, and willingness to sit in the kitchen and take a chance.

Blessings,
Kit

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

**SAVE THE DATE
VOICE RECITAL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
8 P.M. AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**ANNEY GILLOTTE, SOPRANO
MARK MCNEILL, PIANO**

Come hear our wonderful soprano soloist, Anney Gilotte, with pianist Mark McNeill performing on our fabulous Steinway grand piano.

**CHRIST CHURCH
CHILDREN'S CENTER
LOOKING FOR NEW
BOARD MEMBERS**



The Christ Church Children's Center is currently looking for members to join our Board of Directors. We meet once a month to discuss issues affecting the Children's Center. Topics discussed include financials, regulations, scholarships, and curriculum. We are looking for enthusiastic, creative members willing to give some of their time to this important church ministry. The board welcomes all church members, not just those who have young children. If you are interested please contact Deb Mellor at 978-475-1901.

[Rector's desk continued from p. 1.](#)

Since the summer, I've been meeting with a group of people to talk about what's most important in our life together at Christ Church. They came up with the theme of "Community, Connection, Commitment" for a series of talks we're hearing each Sunday morning from mid-September through October. The stories I've been hearing from them remind me of just how much we really do need one another, and how much our commitment to this place means in people's lives.

In just a couple of weeks Carolyn and I will make our annual pledge to Christ Church for 2012. We'll bring our pledge form to church on our ingathering Sunday, October 23rd, and offer it up with grateful hearts for what God and this church mean to us. Apart from our mortgage, it is the biggest financial commitment we make. We hope you'll join us in doing your part to insure that the work we all do here together continues.

"That's MY church!" We want every child, every teenager, every young adult and every older person to be filled with pride (and gratitude!) when they walk into this place or when they drive by and see what a lively church community we are, or hear the stories about how lives have been touched by the experience of community and connection and commitment. May that spirit grow among us, and feed us for the work God gives us all to do.

See you in church!



ALL SAINTS' DAY

November 1st is the feast day of all the saints in the life of the Church, past and present, great and small. It is our custom to read the names of all those who have died since last November 1st. Those who have been buried from this parish will automatically be on that list. You are also invited to telephone the Glebe House, 978-475-0529 with the names of your loved ones who have died. The names will be read at our All Saints' Day celebration on Sunday, November 6th at the 8 & 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

**WOMEN'S GROUP TO
MEET WITH
KIT LONERGAN IN
OCTOBER**



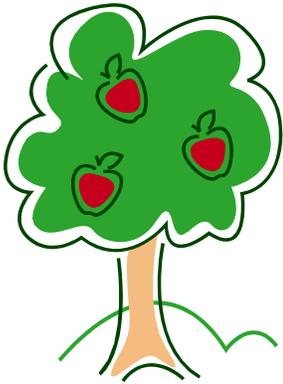
Come to Women's Group on Monday, October 17th for a conversation with our new Assistant Rector Kit Lonergan! All women in the parish are welcome. We'll meet in the Meeting Room from 7:30-9 p.m.

TRANSITION

Funeral

Richard Chase - September 17, 2011

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED CHRIST CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree. Martin Luther

Planting seeds for future fruit is both an act of hope and an expression of faith. We plant in hope that the small seeds will one day produce a tree whose fruit will bless future generations. We plant in faith by entrusting those who follow us to nurture our tree, harvest the fruit properly and use it for the best purposes.

Making a planned gift to Christ Church is a similar undertaking. A planned gift is a seed whose promised fruit will support the church well beyond your lifetime.

Planned giving is often part of an overall estate plan to distribute your assets and possessions to the people and causes most dear to you. Planned gifts come in several forms. The simplest planned gift is to make a bequest to the church in your will. Other options, such as charitable gift annuities through the Episcopal Church Foundation, provide a guaranteed income for life and substantial tax savings. For more information please contact Jim Walker at the Glebe House (978-475-0529).

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

Esperanza Academy, School of Hope

**6th Annual Dinner & Auction,
 Harvest of Dreams**

The *Harvest of Dreams Dinner & Auction* is Esperanza's largest fundraiser. Your help continues to provide an excellent, tuition-free independent school education to Esperanza's students. For more information on the auction or to donate auction items, please contact Maria Cora in the Esperanza development office at 978-686-4673, ext. 22.

THE THRIFT SHOP HAS A NEW WEBSITE



The Thrift shop is proud and pleased to announce the roll-out of our new Website!! Now when someone searches for the Andover Thrift Shop, we will pop up with a full description of our mission and our merchandise. Check us out at: <http://www.andoverthriftshop.com>. You can also reach us via the Christ Church website.

Fall is officially underway and what a terrific start with the Shop's presence at Andover Day on September 24th. We had a table of bric-a-brac on the sidewalk along with a rack of select clothing and a banner celebrating our 70th Anniversary serving our parish, the town and the wider community of Merrimack Valley. Traffic through the shop was brisk, especially in the afternoon, many people visiting for the first time.

We are in need of a few more volunteers - especially Thursday. If you have a few hours to spare, come in and check us out! One of our current volunteers, Evelyn A., said recently, *"My friend suggested I volunteer, which I did and had a great time, moved into cleaning the shop also for several years, gave that up and went back to marking which I thoroughly enjoy - the fellowship of the others. I have been here over 10 years and still enjoy coming in on Thursdays."*

Watch for notice of special sales in the *e-Prophet*, "friend" us on *Facebook*, and continue to follow our news here in the monthly *Prophet*.

Stop by and see for yourselves! The Thrift Shop is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and the first three Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will be closed on Monday, October 10th for Columbus Day.

SUMMER VACATION IN OCTOBER?!

You'll notice that Jeff and Carolyn Gill will be away from October 3-17. Both of their jobs kept them busy throughout the summer months, so they're taking their vacation in October this year! They're heading for Oregon to see their new grandson, Sebastian (oh yes, and his parents, too!). They will return with pictures!

Be assured that the Rev. Kit Lonergan will be available for pastoral needs in Jeff's absence.

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

RECTOR	JEFFREY SHILLING GILL – jgill@christchurchandover.org
ASSISTANT RECTOR	KIT LONERGAN – klonergan@christchurchandover.org
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HEAD VERGER	CATHERINE ROSEN
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DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN’S CENTER	CHRISTY HARVEY – charvey@christchurchandover.org
HEAD MANAGER, THRIFT SHOP	FRANCES J. DODSON – andoverthriftshop@comcast.net
SEXTON	MARK POMERLEAU – mpomerleau@christchurchandover.org
SUNDAY SEXTON	PETER NOVELLO
PARISH OFFICE (GLEBE HOUSE) - TUESDAYS– FRIDAYS	978/475-0529 - HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM
PARISH HALL	978/475-9707
FAX NUMBER	978/475-9557
ANDOVER THRIFT SHOP	978/475-0957
CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN’S CENTER	978/475-4037
EMERGENCY PASTORAL CALLS	978/807-4687

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the North Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the
 North Chapel
 followed by breakfast in the Parlor

THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH - 25 CENTRAL STREET - ANDOVER, MA 01810-3780
 WEB SITE ADDRESS – WWW.CHRISTCHURCHANDOVER.ORG
 DIOCESE OF MASSACHUSETTS - WEB SITE ADDRESS - WWW.DIOMASS.ORG
 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - WWW.EPISCOPALCHURCH.ORG

The Prophet
 The Parish of Christ Church
 25 Central Street
 Andover, MA 01810-3780
www.christchurchandover.org

The *Prophet* (604-860) is published monthly except for January, July and August by the Parish of Christ Church, 25 Central Street, Andover, MA 01810-3780. Periodicals postage paid at Andover, MA. Postmaster. Send address change to THE PROPHET, 25 Central Street, Andover, MA 01810-3780.

Periodical