

# THE PROPHET

September 2011

Volume 52 Issue 7

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

I'm excited about this fall at Christ Church! I'll also admit that I'm just a little bit nervous about whether everyone will show up this fall, knowing that we're not yet back in the big church. But if you've stayed away this summer, you just might not realize what a great time we've been having in the Parish Hall!

Yes, it's a little different – but in a good way. There's something about gathering “in the round” where we can all see each other that adds an important dimension to the whole experience of worship. (And if you're one of the shy types, you can always find a place in the corner.) I take heart from the fact that our summer attendance has been strong – perhaps even stronger than some years in the past.

With the end of our building project now in sight, this is a very important time in the life of our parish. We will soon (we're still hoping November) be back in the church, where we'll begin to live into the new opportunities provided by the greatly enhanced flexibility and accessibility of our space. And we will begin to prepare ourselves for the enhanced opportunities for musical expression we will soon have with our new organ, new piano, and expanded space for a variety of other musical experiences. So many new possibilities are now open to us, and we can begin to imagine together what creative new opportunities God might have for us in this place.

It is clearly a time for new beginnings! And not only with our physical spaces. We have also just welcomed the Rev. Kit Lonergan as our new Assistant Rector. Kit is already proving to be a wonderful blessing to us, with her thought-provoking sermons, her sensitive liturgical leadership, and her eagerness to

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## ANNOUNCING THE NEW “E-PROPHET”!

Beginning the second week of September, we will begin e-mailing a weekly “e-Prophet” to all Christ Church members and newcomers. We have signed on with *Constant Contact*, a Waltham-based company specializing in e-newsletters, in order to better communicate with you!

In each *e-Prophet*, we'll let you know what's happening the following Sunday at Christ Church, and we'll also include links to that Sunday's Bible readings and the church calendar. *The Parent Weekly*, which in the past has been a weekly e-mail to parents of children and teens at Christ Church, will be included as a link from the new Christ Church *e-Prophet*. We'll also let you know about upcoming happenings at Christ Church, similar to what's in the *Sunday Prophet* insert in the service bulletins, and we'll also include a Prayer of the Week.

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## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

### KICK-OFF SEPTEMBER 11TH

September 11th and September 18th mark the first two Sundays of our regular Sunday School year! All children are invited to attend Children's Chapel in the North Chapel on September 11th at 9:45 a.m. Parents are welcome to stay with their younger ones. This service just for children will include music, child-led readings and prayers and a homily from our new Assistant Rector, Kit Lonergan. This will be a great opportunity for the children to meet her up close!

The following Sunday, September 18th begins our Church School year. Children will begin their classes at 9:45 a.m. Instead of coming back into church at the Peace, parents can join their children in the North Chapel where they can participate in an Instructional Eucharist led by Kit. An Instructional Eucharist is a regular Holy Communion but at appropriate times Kit will pause the service and wonder with the children about what is happening or about to happen and why we do it. This will be a great learning experience!

We are very excited to see the children and their families on September 11th!

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### RWANDA MEETING - SEPTEMBER 7

Last year at this time we began our Goats for Rwanda campaign and eventually raised over \$9,000 to assist families living in deep poverty. Those goats (over 300 of them) have helped us build a relationship with people who are working for reconciliation in the aftermath of Rwanda's genocide.

And now, a group of people from Christ Church is planning to go to Rwanda in 2012.

Would you like to learn more about this? The Rev. Philbert Kalisa, founder and Director of REACH Rwanda, will be here to meet with members of Christ Church Andover and Epiphany Church in Winchester, who plan to join together in a shared experience next year. Join us in the Meeting Room on September 7 at 7:30 p.m. to learn more. Everyone is welcome!

### SUMMER 2011 YOUTH MISSION TRIP

In early August, eight of us - six Christ Church teens and two adult chaperones - went on a week-long mission trip to work with homeless and disadvantaged people in Washington, DC. It was a rewarding and eye-opening experience for all of us.

We participated in a program organized by YSOP - Youth Service Opportunities Project - and run out of the Church of the Epiphany in downtown DC, just three blocks from the White House. YSOP sent us out each day to a different service organization around the city. One day, we worked for Thrive DC preparing and serving breakfast to about 120 homeless people in the basement of a local church. Another day, we worked at DC Central Kitchen chopping and slicing more vegetables than you can possibly imagine for the 5000+ meals they provide *every day* for local shelters, schools, drop-in centers, etc.

We worked hard during the week, but we also had fun. In the evenings after our work was done, we explored monuments and played Frisbee on the Mall, visited the world-class Smithsonian museums, and explored the city.

We would like to share more of our experiences with you at an upcoming Sunday Forum some time in September. Read the weekly e-Prophet and Sunday Prophets for the date and time.

Matt Lennon

### HAITI MISSION COMMITTEE

Interested in what we're doing in Haiti? Members of our (growing) Haiti Mission Committee, together with representatives from St. Anne's Church in Lincoln, met over the summer to hear about an exciting new venture in vocational education in the Central Plateau area being initiated by Partners in Health and Fr. Fritz Lafontant, a Haitian Episcopal priest. We think there just might be a way for us to be involved! If you're interested in learning more, please contact Clarkson Williams or any of the members of the committee. And keep your eyes open for an upcoming meeting.

### JOIN US FOR 12TH ANNUAL *HIKE FOR HOPE* OCTOBER 2ND

We all have stories of hope to tell. They are the places we go to in tough times, which can energize and nourish us, which keep us looking towards the future. The story of hope that Dania Guadalupe tells is one that starts off with the death of her mother in Puerto Rico, her move to the United States only to be kicked out of her father's apartment, and to be left with friends of friends in Lawrence, MA. Ill-treated and underfed at 16 years old, she was removed with a police escort from that situation only when her guidance counselor discovered the extent of the abuse. This is not an easy story to find hope in.

Where Dania started to encounter hope is when she found the community of Lazarus House, a shelter in Lawrence for families encountering homelessness. Instead of adding 'homeless' to the list of challenges she faced, she found community and support so that she could get her life back on track. Because of this change, she, like many of the youth at Christ Church, will be attending college this fall.

We are looking to gather a group of youth, teens and adults to walk in Lazarus House's October 2nd *Hike for Hope*! It is a 5-mile walk starting at Merrimack College, and what better way to proclaim our belief in the power of resurrection hope than to join together and walk to support this ministry. We are looking for all types of walkers: social ones, hardy ones, fitness-oriented and stroll-friendly! Festivities, BBQ, music and fellowship are part of the experience. Join the Rev. Kit Lonergan as she learns her way around Andover and support this integral and life-changing ministry! Interested? Please email [Klonergan@christchurchandover.org](mailto:Klonergan@christchurchandover.org).

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### GREETINGS!

It is a blessing and a challenge to write an introductory article for *The Prophet* when I have only been at Christ Church a week - but when I look back on my first week here, especially in the dog days of August, I breathe a thankful THANK YOU to the Almighty, and to my new church family!

I have witnessed children and youth (at church?! In August?!), singing, laughter, breakfasts, introductions, hugs, welcome emails and notes, and last but certainly not least, a warm welcome from not only the congregation, but an incredible staff at Glebe House. I have the slightly overwhelmed feeling that John Kinsella and his son Ray so aptly demonstrated in *Field of Dreams*: “Is this heaven?” “No. It’s Iowa.”

I have come to Iowa/ Heaven/ Christ Church, Andover by way of the Diocese of Massachusetts Office of Youth Ministries, where I served as Director of Youth Ministry for the past three years. During that time I was ordained deacon and priest through St. James’s Church in Cambridge, and sponsored by St. John’s in Beverly Farms. Though I am a Massachusetts-born priest, I am originally a New Yorker, born and raised in Manhattan until I absconded to Tufts University (for college) and Harvard Divinity School, and never really left New England since then. And to put your minds at ease immediately, no, I am not a Yankees fan.

It was during my time in the Office of Youth Ministries when I noticed that I missed being in a consistent community. One of the blessings of the job was being able to visit with many of the parishes within the diocese, and as I visited, I realized that I felt called to be in a community myself - not just on Sundays, or when I was dressed up neatly on The Bishop’s Business, but to gather together around the table and offer ourselves, our souls and bodies to the Living God. To be changed in community takes guts, and I wanted to try it out as a priest.

I have been a newcomer in many places and ways during my life (I have just completed my tenth move in seven years this past week), and even as I planned my move to Christ Church, I was worried about starting in a new place. But with the welcome already, I have in some ways already started to realize what community might look like here at Christ Church: one which is funny and real and wounded and hopeful all at the same time. And it makes me hope that all kids starting in new schools could feel that way too; all those beginning new phases in their lives; all those who will

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### VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS

One of the ways that people can feel more connected at Christ Church is by getting involved in a committee or ministry within the church. We have many from which to choose! Your gifts and talents can be used and appreciated in a wide variety of ways, from landscape gardening to leading an adult forum on a particular topic to working with fellow parishioners on building a house for *Habitat for Humanity*.

Due to our limited space during our church renovations, we will not be having our annual Ministry Fair this year. However, that doesn’t mean that you can’t get involved and sign up for different committees and ministries at Christ Church!

We will have a table out on September 11, 18 and 25 with sign-up sheets for you to check off the committees and ministries that you are interested in learning more about. Then someone from that committee will be in touch with you, tell you more about the group, and answer any questions you might have. You can also read more about the various ways you can get involved by looking throughout our website, particularly on the [“Ways to Serve”](#) page.

We hope you’ll find something that spurs your interest and helps you to connect more with fellow parishioners!

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*Greetings continued.*

come into the doors of our parish hall sanctuary looking for something they may not even be able to articulate yet. It made me think of Jesus welcoming all to sit and listen and be fed by him and his disciples during his ministry. Most of all, it made me think of God’s welcome to each one of us—whether we be old hats or newcomers to faith or religion or the Episcopal Church—God is still there, ready to welcome each one of us, and hold all of us in God’s ever-expansive hands.

In *Field of Dreams*, Dr. Archibald “Moonlight” Graham said: “This is my most special place in all the world, Ray. Once a place touches you like this, the wind never blows so cold again.” I am so excited and blessed to be here, with you, in this pilgrimage of transformation and faith. I hope to work with you to continue this tradition of welcome, of gathering and of service, so that all those who enter into our doors may feel that the wind never blows so cold again on them either.

Blessings,  
Kit

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### 2011-2012 CHURCH SCHOOL

**W**elcome back! I hope that you and your families have had a long, restful summer and that you have spent a lot of time running around outside. We did!

We have spent the summer here at Christ Church preparing for a new year of Church School. This year will be an exciting one for our children and families with several changes from last year. Church School will begin on September 11<sup>th</sup> with our Children's Chapel in the North Chapel at 9:45 am. Children's Chapel will be held once a month throughout the year. This is a special children's service designed to give our youngest members of Christ Church the opportunity to participate in the service as ushers, readers and acolytes. The homily is given by one of our clergy and music is provided. Please contact Kathleen Bates at [kathleenb@isotope.com](mailto:kathleenb@isotope.com) if your child would like to participate in any capacity- we will help them learn the 'ropes' if they are unsure! Church School registration will be held that day after this service.

Several grades will have a new Church School curriculum this year. We offer the "Weaving God's Promises" program to our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. This new curriculum was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. The great stories of the Old and New Testaments are the core of the lessons with special emphasis on the life and teachings of Jesus. This program also covers topics on church history, liturgy and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

We have expanded our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to two atria! This program is new this year for our first and second graders. They will attend a Level 1 atrium in Room 110. Our third and fourth graders will continue with this program in a Level 2 atrium in Room 24. The Catechesis (CGS) is a Montessori approach to the religious education and spiritual development of children that respects the pre-existent relationship between God and the child, and nurtures its continual maturation in an age-appropriate way. The atrium is a holy place set up just for them where together with their adult catechist they can meditate and wonder on Scripture and liturgy in community. This program provides our children with a deep religious foundation. We are grateful to the many parishioners who participated in the Materials-Making Workshop held

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### THANKS FOR HELP WITH CATECHESIS MATERIALS

**T**hank you to all those who dropped in for our weekly materials-making sessions this summer! The summer is a busy time so it was wonderful that so many were able to come throughout the summer months. There was lively conversation as the work was getting done. We have such a talented parish and we got a lot accomplished!

*Church School continued.*

weekly during the summer to prepare the materials the children will use this year. If this is a ministry that you think that you might like to participate in as well, please let us know!

Our fifth and sixth grade class marks the transition from Church School to Youth Group. During regular Church School this age group can choose to be assistants in a classroom. The fifth and sixth graders will also have a chance to begin a youth group experience. They will meet monthly with adult leaders after church in Room 116 for fun fellowship activities to build deeper relationships with each other in a relaxed environment.

Besides Church School, we will continue to offer Communion Enrichment to the second graders and their families. This is a four-week program given during Lent to explore what it means to live into a Christian community. Each week, both parents and children reflect on some of Jesus' parables that speak directly to our need to remain in a healthy and balanced relationship with God and one another. The class culminates with a children's Communion Enrichment retreat on Saturday, March 17, 2012. The retreat is a fun day for the children with crafts, bread making, writing prayers and celebrating their unity with God and one another. Communion Enrichment Celebration with the whole parish is during the 10 a.m. service the following day.

We have a full, exciting year in store for our children and their families this year!

Please contact me if you have any questions at [chughes-cuozzo@christchurchandover.org](mailto:chughes-cuozzo@christchurchandover.org), or you can contact any of the following Christian Education Board Members: Jayne Miller, Steve Taylor, Hope Wallace, Kathy Serrano, Kathleen Bates and Diane Huntress.

Carolyn Hughes Cuozzo

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### SALLY SLADE WARNER MEMORIAL CONCERT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 8 P.M.

METHUEN MEMORIAL MUSIC HALL  
192 BROADWAY (ROUTE 28), METHUEN

Organists Leo Abbott, Barbara Bruns, Mark Dwyer, Carolyn Skelton and John Skelton, tenor Allen Combs, and pianist Christopher Walter perform a concert in loving memory of Sally Slade Warner (1932-2009), organist, and former carillonneur and record librarian at Phillips Academy, Andover. Free admission. Reception following. For further details visit the Methuen Memorial Music Hall website at [www.mmmh.org](http://www.mmmh.org).



### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

*Christy Harvey, Director of Children's Center*

After a busy summer, our teachers have come back to the Children's Center rested and ready to welcome a new school year! The school has been a bustle of activity as our teachers prepare the classrooms and look forward to meeting this year's families. We welcome all of you to come in and take a peek around at the wonderful things that are happening here! If you know of a young family that has children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years old, please encourage them to come and learn about our program. We are currently fully enrolled through December 2011, but are planning on opening a Playgroup classroom in January 2012 for children who turn 3 years of age in the fall and winter months.

The success of last May's Parent Advisory Group's Spring Social allowed us to plan many enrichment activities for the children including a children's fitness program, monthly music classes, French classes, and activities such as family events and parent-focused workshops. We are very grateful to all who supported the Spring Social.

The beginning of a new school year means that at Christ Church Children's Center we start planning for the following school year. The enrollment process for 2012-13 school year begins this fall when we start accepting application forms from currently enrolled students, their siblings and church members. Pledging church members receive preference in enrollment for the three-year-old classes and Playgroup. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call us at 978-475-4037.



### CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR PRACTICES RESUME

If you love to sing or ring bells, consider joining one of the following five choirs:

- Angel Choir (grades K-2)  
Thursdays, 3:45- 4:30 p.m.  
Beginning September 22  
Registration: Sunday, September 11 at 11:30 a.m.
- St. Cecilia Choristers (grades 3-8, unchanged voices)  
Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Beginning September 15  
Registration: Sunday, September 11 at 11:30 a.m.
- Schola (grades 6-8, unchanged voices)  
Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Beginning October 4  
Auditions required: Tuesday, September 27,  
4:30 – 6 p.m.
- Parish Choir (adults and high school singers)  
Thursdays, 7:30 – 9 p.m.  
Beginning September 8
- Bell Choir (adults and high school ringers)  
Thursdays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.  
Beginning October 6

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

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

embrace life in all its fullness with us here at Christ Church. If you have not met Kit yet, you will quickly discover what an asset she is going to be to the work God is doing among us here at Christ Church.

Yes, there's still a bit more transition this fall, but we're not letting that stand in the way of our usual plans for another exciting program year! Come and be a part of it with us. You won't want to miss a thing!

See you in church!

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### THANK YOU LAURIE BOTTIGER FOUNDING HEAD OF ESPERANZA

*Tom Maber*

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank Laurie for the incredible job she has done as the founding Head of School for Esperanza Academy. Has it been seven years? Wow, time goes fast when you are having fun!

When we began looking for a Head of School in those early, scary, but exciting days as we held many meetings in the Christ Church meeting rooms, we knew we had to get this school going. The middle school girls of Lawrence needed and deserved a school like we were dreaming of. But we needed a dynamic leader, someone who would not only make this school a reality but more importantly give the girls of Lawrence hope and opportunity to reach their potential. Dreams sometimes come true, especially when you work exceptionally hard and have faith (you need both!), as we found that leader of a lifetime, Laurie Bottiger.

Laurie had the passion, the love, the drive, to not only make this school happen but to make sure it thrived—for each girl, each family and the greater Lawrence and Merrimack Valley. "NO" was, and is, not a word I have heard Laurie utter. Most often, it was and is, "yes we will".

Laurie joined hands with trustees and the community to get this school off the ground. I don't think I have to remind the veteran trustees that this was not easy! We raised a few million dollars in advance of a school being there—how's that for confidence! People gave money to Esperanza because they knew it was the right thing to do, they believed in the people asking for money but mostly because they believed Laurie would do whatever it took to pull it off! We renovated two buildings, full of all sorts of challenges and complications and created a beautiful campus for the Esperanza girls to thrive.

Laurie started from scratch, in a new community, in an inner city she only visited twice before accepting the job. She needed to hire a team of teachers and administrators and gain the confidence of the parents and the Lawrence community. There were growing pains given the demands of educating these girls 11 hours a day, 11 months a year. This involved fine tuning the curriculum, adding new teachers and sometimes tossing out old ideas and starting new ones. Laurie had to demonstrate to each teacher, administrator and trustee the necessity of differentiation when teaching an inner city child and she educated us and the girls beautifully!

Laurie's focus was, and is, on what is best for the girls—not just today but what are the skills necessary to attain and

*Thank you Laurie continued.*

maintain over time so the Esperanza girls could in fact reach their potential and become true leaders, not only in Lawrence, but throughout our country and the wider world.

There were skeptics who said this wasn't going to work, that this was another nice idea to help inner city children. Yet the naysayers of this idea quickly dissipated as the register rang with accomplishment after accomplishment: Reading levels double and triple jumped; Confidence levels of (and in!) the girls rose off the charts; Arts and music were introduced and flourished; Awards in other school competitions both academic and extracurricular piled up; Dreams of being hairdressers and singers turned to thoughts of scholarships at Pingree, KUA, Exeter, NDA, Notre Dame, Austin Prep and others. And yes, these scholarships became reality through non-stop hard work by the girls, Laurie, her faculty and the girls' families! And yes, college became a requisite part of the girls' vocabulary.

Most importantly, each girl not only has the chance, but also now has the game plan to reach her potential. Thanks to Laurie, each and every Esperanza girl is on her way to realizing her potential, her dreams and making a meaningful contribution to the world.

The early mornings (3 and 4 a.m.), the late nights (midnight+), weekends, the tireless pursuit of funds for operations—whether at auctions, dinners, coffees, churches or downtown Boston office buildings, plus the full-time job of running this wonderful school, meant tremendous sacrifice by Laurie and her family. Sometimes when one person in a family pursues her/his passion with such intensity, it can be a challenge for the rest of the family. Yet, often when such a passion is driven by a conviction on "doing the right thing", it can inspire and unify a family. Laurie's family, husband Craig, and children Elya and Andrew, joined Laurie in the Esperanza mission from day one to the present day! Whether through Craig's exceptional carpentry skills only to be outdone by his amazing talents in directing musical numbers, Elya and Andrew's volunteering from the first car wash to helping out throughout the seven years in so many ways, waiting and working with families, setting up for and cleaning up after events, this family was united, albeit I am sure weary at times, in their love for Esperanza and the Esperanza girls and their families.

Most of us yearn to "make a difference in the world", to make a meaningful impact on someone's life. Laurie, you have taken this several steps further. You have changed the

*[Continued on p. 8...](#)*

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### UPDATE ON THE CHURCH RENOVATIONS

*Alison Novello, Sr. Warden*

If you haven't yet walked into the space, please do so the next time you're in church and I imagine you'll be delighted to see the changes. The five original windows have been opened up – shedding beautiful light into the chancel. The newly shaped chancel area is spacious and will allow for some wonderfully new opportunities for worship, as well as performances. Most importantly, the communion rail is handicapped accessible. The balcony is shaping up nicely; the cement floor was poured. The existing light fixtures are being retrofitted with many more bulbs and much less energy use.

Over the summer the Vestry met and approved a revised budget of the work for \$806,000 which now includes lighting and new chancel design. Until there is additional funding for an enhanced audio/video system we will continue with the one we currently have, with slight modifications of a small camera to enable the organist to see what is happening below and behind her.

*Please remember to keep up your payments to our capital campaign so that we can continue to do this work without borrowing any money.*

#### The Tower

Upon the start of breaking through the tower to create the new doorway to the balcony, there was some concern over the integrity of the tower wall. Upon consultation with two structural engineers, Channel Construction has been advised to do the necessary repairs to the tower prior to cutting through the wall. Although there was some concern 18 months ago when we experienced the water damage from those back-to-back rain storms, there is no way anyone could have anticipated the interior condition of the tower. The inside wall is 20" thick; the outside wall is the stone veneer. In between was originally 1½" of space to accommodate the mortar used. This space has been pushed in some places as far as 7" through water infiltration, decomposing mortar, and the resulting freezing and contraction of the remaining sand over the years. Consequently the exterior side of the tower closest to the church needs to be rebuilt. This cost is estimated to be in the \$200,000 range. As of this writing, we are waiting for bids on this from Channel. Some of you may remember that one of the four tower walls was rebuilt in 2000. We have asked for a second bid to redo the three remaining walls and thereby determine if it

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### YARD SALE MOVES TO SPRING

Our parish Yard Sale is usually held in the fall. But this year, with the Parish Hall fully booked as our place of worship, the Yard Sale is going to strategically regroup in the spring. Watch for news of the Big Spring Yard Sale in future issues of the *Prophet*.

*Renovations continued*

is something we can consider restoring at this point in time.

The funding for this project is outside the scope of the 'Renew and Rejoice' building fund which is being used for the current work. While it is clear to the Vestry that this work also cannot be avoided, there currently is no funding for it. While we are looking at this as a funding opportunity for parishioners who perhaps have not supported the capital campaign, we realize the necessity of taking out a loan. The Vestry discussed this issue at great length in August.

#### Long-Range Financial Planning

We need to continually take a fresh look at all aspects of our financial plan to assist in fostering a healthy debate on strategic as well as tactical or short-term intermediate needs. We have come a long way in the past four or five years with balanced budgets and maintaining principal in our investments. We have also been very successful with lowering expenses in recent years. Any long-term financial plan at this point would need to center around an increase in revenue. To this end, the Vestry will be appointing a committee that includes people with a wide range of backgrounds and experience to work on a strategic initiative. This is the lubrication that helps grease the vibrant engine of Christ Church! If this is something that appeals to you, please contact the Senior Warden, Alison Novello, or the Junior Warden, Jim Walker.

#### Strategic Planning

The staff and Vestry met with Alice Mann for a strategic planning discussion. We talked about our hopes and dreams for Christ Church. What are our new opportunities, and where do we see ourselves in the future? This type of discussion eight years ago is what sowed the seeds for Esperanza Academy, initiated our building needs assessment, and created the position which brought our Minister of Music, Barbara Bruns to us. We are looking for your input in the strategic planning process. If this is something that appeals to you, please contact the Rector, Jeff Gill.

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### WOMEN'S GROUP 2011-12 SCHEDULE

*Louise Valleau*

**W**omen'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. This coming year we have a fine program planned, thanks to a small group that met in June to share ideas. Mostly we meet **one Monday night each month, from 7:30-9 p.m.**, but you will see that there are a couple of additions to our schedule.

Here is the line up:

**September 19:** "Where I met God this summer," or "How I spent my summer vacation." Bring a photo (or two), a story, or something that was meaningful to you, to share about your summer as a way to reconnect with each other after our two-month hiatus.

**October 17:** A conversation with Kit Lonergan, our new Assistant Rector.

**November 7:** Helen Newell will lead a discussion based on the PBS 5-part series "Women - War and Peace" on Tuesdays Oct. 11-Nov. 8. (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/>; <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/screenings/>)

**November 17: (THURSDAY)** 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 for 3 dozen cookies. We will bake, chat, and take

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### PARISHIONERS' OFFERINGS AT ANDOVER SENIOR CENTER

**T**hree of our parishioners are offering classes and recitals at the Andover Senior Center this fall. Beginning Thursday, September 15th at 2:30 p.m., Cheryl Cronin will offer Serenity Yoga. This is a 50-minute class suitable for all levels (not chair yoga). The cost for 10 weeks is \$55. On October 28th at 1:30 p.m., Carolyn Skelton and Wendy Heckman will present a concert with refreshments to follow. The cost for the event is \$3. And in the spring, our own soprano soloist Anney Gillotte will present a concert with her four-part a cappella group, Anthology. Stay tuned for more details!

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

**F**or most of us, summer flew by much too fast but - thanks largely to Kathleen and Adam Bates, and Peg Gardner who painted shelves - all was bright and shiny when we re-opened our doors at the beginning of August. We wish Adam well as he moves on to UNH. Our beloved volunteers and returning customers told us how much they had missed us during July. Once again we've received exceptional donations - many people are simplifying or downsizing or just plain "letting go" of stuff!

We want to acknowledge two special volunteers over the summer. Jen Garvin helped us out on an almost daily basis but she has now returned for her sophomore year at Skidmore. Jen has promised to be back during her winter vacation in January. Eliza Bowen (granddaughter of Lucy and Richard) spent several hours with us during August and we hope she will come back as school permits. For the record, Ruth Fisk, Rita Hunter and Justine Graham are so enthusiastic about the Shop that they each volunteer three afternoons a week!

Our reputation is spreading. We are active on Facebook, and we look forward to the launch of our own website in the near future. The downside is that we are busier than ever and frequently do not have enough people to staff the front counter. Thursday mornings are particularly difficult - so we appeal to anyone who can help out for at least a couple of hours - or come with a friend, grab a cup of coffee, and feel good about supporting us in what we are trying to do.

Shop hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday openings will begin after Labor Day from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will be open Saturdays, September 10, 17 and 24. Saturday is usually our busiest day, and is an opportunity to bring in new customers and welcome those who work during the week. Call or leave a message at 978-475-0957 or at [fjenn@comcast.net](mailto:fjenn@comcast.net) if you can help.

*[Thank you Laurie continued from p. 6.](#)*

world for each of the Esperanza girls. You have brought brilliant sunshine to their lives and have given them a wonderful gift of hope with the concrete path to reach their potential. In doing this, you have enriched us all and have brightened the light of faith in each of us.

Thank you Laurie.

Tom Maher

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

**W**hile young people are returning to school, adults often think of exploring their own educational path. Perhaps this is the year to add a new avenue for expanding your knowledge of scripture and exploring your own life as ministry. There is a potential for an evening Education for Ministry Group that will meet on Tuesday nights; currently, there are five people who are interested in either starting or continuing the program, but we need at least six members to begin a group. It would be wonderful to have the opportunity to offer this program to members of Christ Church and other local churches.

Education for Ministry (EFM) groups meet once a week over the course of a nine-month academic year to study, pray, and reflect on their own beliefs in relationship to our culture and the traditions of our Christian faith. EFM is a worldwide program developed by the School of Theology of The University of the South. The program is not specific to the Episcopal Church so all are welcome to explore this program of theological reflection. Our current group consists of members from Christ Church and South Church and meets at South Church.

There are four EFM courses offered over four years, with participants committing to participate one year at a time. Participants can earn 18 CEU per year.

Year 1: Old Testament - Year 2: New Testament  
Year 3: Church History - Year 4: Theological Choices

If you are interested in joining us for this opportunity in Christian education, formation, and spirituality, contact Rosemarie Buxton at [rosebuxton@yahoo.com](mailto:rosebuxton@yahoo.com) or 978-683-7055.

*[E-Prophet continued from p. 1.](#)*

Obviously, we will only be able to send the *e-Prophet* to individuals and families for whom we have a valid e-mail address. To make sure we have your preferred e-mail address, please contact Mary Ann Lennon at the Glebe House at 978-475-0529, ext. 17 or [mlennon@christchurchandover.org](mailto:mlennon@christchurchandover.org).

We will continue to e-mail and mail out a monthly *Prophet* for the next few months. After that, we will mail out a more streamlined version of *The Prophet* to those parishioners who don't have e-mail.

We hope this change in the way you get *The Prophet* will help you get more timely and useful information! Please let us know how you like it!

### ACOLYTES



### TRY A LITTLE HANDS-ON WORSHIP!

**T**he word 'acolyte' means to assist or to help in ancient Greek, and we love having interested youth join in the Sunday services and assist with Christ Church's worship! This is a great way to not only 'go' to church, but to really make it happen!

If you are entering the 6th-12th grade and would like to be a part of what happens at the altar each Sunday and are not already serving as an acolyte, please consider joining the St. Matthew's Guild of Acolytes! The commitment, depending on the number of acolytes, is generally about once a month, and the schedule is published 2-3 months at a time. A training session will be announced for all new and continuing acolytes.

Acolytes in 6th - 8th grade serve as torchbearers, carrying one of the two candles. From 9th grade on, acolytes serve at the altar helping to prepare the Eucharist and process as crucifer (holding one of the large crosses in the procession). Any children who are younger than 6th grade, but interested in serving as an acolyte, should speak with Kit.

If you have any questions, please contact Kit at 978-475-0529 ext. 18 or at [klonergan@christchurchandover.org](mailto:klonergan@christchurchandover.org).

### ESPERANZA'S NEW HEAD TO SPEAK AT CHRIST CHURCH



**C**hristopher (Chris) Wilson arrived from Baltimore with his wife and new baby girl this summer to begin as our new Head of School at the Esperanza Academy. And Chris has hit the ground running! He has spent the past eight years working as the Principal of Saint Ignatius Loyola School in Baltimore, also a Nativity-Miguel model school, like Esperanza. He comes to us with a wealth of experience, vision, and innovative ideas!

Chris will be our guest preacher on September 25th at both services. He is eager to meet people who care about Esperanza – and those who do not yet know that they care about it! Come and help us welcome Chris to the Greater Lawrence area and to the school we care so much about.

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### SEPTEMBER 11 OBSERVANCE

The Andover Interfaith Religious Leaders are sponsoring a silent vigil in The Park at the corner of Bartlett and Chestnut Streets at 6 p.m. on September 11th to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the attacks on our country. It will be a quiet time for gathering, remembering those who died, and praying for our country and our world. There will be contemplative music, but no speaking. More details will be announced in church on the two Sundays prior to the event. This is a separate event from the one being held by the town on the morning of September 9th. Everyone is welcome.

*Women continued from p. 8.*

home a bag of freshly baked cookies! (Oh, and satisfy the sweet tooth of the guests at *Bread and Roses*.)

**December 4 (Sunday) 4-6 p.m.:** Women's Group is sponsoring an Advent time of Centering Prayer for both men and women. We invite you to deepen your prayer life during Advent by learning about and participating in this ancient spiritual practice. Anne Cushman, a trained leader in Centering Prayer (<http://www.northeastguild.org/guild-leaders/anne-cushman.html>), and step-sister to Shane Crabtree, will be leading this "mini-retreat." Anne will offer time to continue working together on Monday morning for anyone who is interested.

**December 12:** Wine and cheese party! Come with a "gift" of a give-away item from your house, for our first annual "Yankee Swap." Imagine- "re-gifting" before Christmas!

**January 23:** Art as a way of connecting with God.

**February 13:** *Afghanistan: "View From A Grain of Sand"* (Three Afghan women: Three decades of war.) Film, Forum and Photo Exhibition. Rachel Williams, from *Help Women Heal* ([www.helpwomenheal.org](http://www.helpwomenheal.org)) will join us to show the film, some of her photographs she took while making the film, and lead us in a discussion around this topic. Note: **This will be a longer evening and we will begin at 7 p.m.**

**March 19:** Music and Spirituality: Our own Carol Doran will lead us in an experiential exploration of the ways music adds meaning and depth to our worship.

**April 23:** Flower arranging with Sue Gramolini and friends. (And, if interested, we can bring perennials in to share and swap!)

**May 21:** Walking the Labyrinth: a field trip to Adelynrood in Byfield, MA.

### COFFEE WITH THE RECTOR



One of the best-kept secrets around Christ Church is the coffee hour following the 8 a.m. service on Sundays! We gather at approximately 9 a.m. in the Meeting Room for coffee (or tea) and conversation. You do not have to attend the 8 a.m. service to come! We normally have no particular agenda, but the conversation and discussion is always interesting and stimulating – and occasionally downright hilarious! We talk about issues of the day, theology, politics, world events, local issues, and share our experience and perspectives on a wide variety of topics. Come and join us! All are welcome!

### TRANSITIONS

#### Baptisms

**June 12, 2011**

John Michael Moriarty  
Son of Michael & Kristen Moriarty

Raven Chan Diaz  
Daughter of Rebecca & David Diaz

Wolfram James Diaz  
Son of Rebecca & David Diaz

**July 17, 2011**

Brody Joseph Finn  
Son of Megan Borsari-Finn & Patrick Finn

Lily Morgan Guthrie  
Daughter of Julie & Ryan Guthrie

Daniel Davis Curley  
Son of Suzanne Esslie Curley

Leo Nurbek Stavropoulos  
Son of James & Cynthia Stavropoulos

#### Funerals

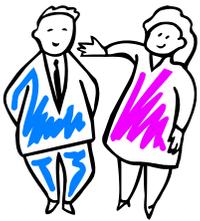
James White - May 31, 2011

The Very Rev. James Allen Diamond  
July 24, 2011

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## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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### WELCOME FALL

*Connie Molinaro, Sunday Coffee Hour*

I hope everyone had a great summer and is ready for fall and school. This is an exciting time for me at home (the boys are back in school) and here at Christ Church. As some of you may have read in the summer edition of *The Prophet*, Marti Johnson, after six years of dedicated leadership to the Coffee Hour Ministry, has passed the “coffee urn” so to speak to me.

She will still be with us and a part of our group, but I want to give her a big “**thank you**” for all of her hard work, attention to detail, and most of all guidance!

Since joining the parish in 2009, my family and I have enjoyed the coffee hour and all the people we have met and come to know better. I have always been amazed as to how much food we have after the 10 a.m. service, and our special occasion brunch buffets we do could rival some of those “fancy” restaurants! I love to throw a good party, so I knew that the Hospitality group was my calling. I needed to be a part of this wonderful and nurturing group.

Marti welcomed me with open arms and introduced me to all of the wonderful people that support this ministry. We all work shoulder to shoulder to prepare, set up, and present a tidbit or two to have as we greet our church friends and family. This group is amazing! Last spring, while discussing the plans for the awesome Easter brunch that we do, Marti “floated” an idea by me to take over the Hospitality ministry in the fall. At first I thought she was joking—“*who me?? I’m the new kid in the group?*”. But I guess when you jump in whenever asked or needed, you’re not so new anymore. So here I am...the new Hospitality Chair...HELP!!!!

We have many wonderful parishioners who bake or buy (we don’t judge!), make delicious fruit dishes, cheese and cracker trays, or snacks for the children’s table—but we can **always** use more help! My plea today to my church family is to join us in this ministry—even if it is only for twice a year; it will warm your soul to know you are helping out. I am also wondering if the parish has suggestions or requests for the coffee hour. Do we need more gluten-free/vegan/diabetic choices, do you have a particular item you would like to see or not see, I am open for comments!

I must admit, I am not as Bible-literate as a cradle Episcopalian probably should be, but I found this verse from [Luke 14, 12-14](#): Then Jesus said to his host “*when you give a luncheon*

*Continued...*

### WINE & CHEESE PAIRING TO SUPPORT *BREAD & ROSES*

We hope you’ll join us on Friday evening, September 16th at 7 p.m. *Bread and Roses* volunteers will host this fun event in the Meeting Room at Christ Church. Donations are being accepted for \$20 by *Bread and Roses* volunteers, who will be available after our two Sunday services. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the evening will go towards the nutritious meal we provide once a month to our neighbors in Lawrence. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! For more information on Christ Church’s commitment to *Bread and Roses*, contact Anne Lamontagne at 978-470-0870 or [lee-anne@verizon.net](mailto:lee-anne@verizon.net).

### CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 ST,  
9 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

AT BENTLEY UNIVERSITY, WALTHAM

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts holds this annual training to give parishes a large variety of hands-on tools, practical help, and networking support. There will be workshops to help develop skills and give participants spiritual and practical help for joining God’s mission in the world. Workshop topics will include stewardship, education, environmental ministry, communication, congregational development and youth ministry. Parishioners from all different committees and ministries are encouraged to come! For more information on specific offerings and to register, go to <http://www.diomass.org/event/resource-day>.

*Welcome continued.*

*or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they can not repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

I took that passage to mean that people are most comfortable in a place where they can feel welcomed and feel at home. They don’t care if the tableclothes don’t match or if we have mix-matched platters to put the food out on. It matters that our coffee hour is a place for everyone to share ourselves and what is ours with someone else. I have always felt at home at our coffee hour, and I hope that everyone who shares our table feels the same way. See you around the urn!

# LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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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](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHANDOVER.ORG)  
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