
For the last five years
Art and Carol Erickson
have graciously given
of their time
to edit this newsletter
as an act of love and service
to this congregation.

As this is their last issue,
we want to say a huge
and very grateful



to them for this faithful ministry.



Close Call

A 'close' is the precinct or space around a cathedral or a church.

Historic Christ Church is a mutually supportive Christian community worshipping in the living Anglican tradition of beauty in liturgy and music. Christ Church bears witness to the love of Christ in prayer, service, and fellowship. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.**

Christ Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey • 732.545.6262 • June 2009

Rector's Column

Beloved in Christ,

Every year, around Christmas, my godson and his brother send me a packet containing stories which they have written and illustrated. Every year the stories are almost the same: a series of fights in which robots or ninjas (often named after Ryan and Conall's school friends) beat up bad guys who are trying to harm them or destroy the world. This year there was even a plot: dread disease was devastating an ant colony, and ninja ants had to go on quest for medicine before everyone died. Once they found it, they had to kill the bad guys who were guarding it, then bring the stuff back to the anthill.

Looked at one way, these are profoundly moral tales. The characters are clearly divided into the good guys and the evil ones; the evil guys are trying to commit acts which are horrendous, and the good are trying to stop them. Stepping back a bit, however, reveals that the good guys and the bad ones behave very much alike; their aims may differ,

but the only tool they use to attain them is violence.

We live in an increasingly violent world. By this I do not mean that there is more violence today than there used to be, although the escalating capabilities of our weaponry make it likely that each incidence of violence will inflict more damage than similar incidents in years gone by. I mean, instead, that every aspect of our culture is saturated with violence, until we are in danger of being able to imagine no other method by which to address what is wrong in our lives and in our world. In children's television, Andy Griffith and *The Mickey Mouse Club* have been outpaced by Transformers and Power Rangers. *Star Trek*, with its emphasis on negotiation and the dignity of every species, now vies with *Star Wars* and its clones, in which evil is an unreasoning force yielding only to violence. The nightly news reports suicide bombings, school shootings, child abuse, murders, etc. Our national

policy betrays the shift: In addition to offensive and defensive wars, we now have pre-emptive ones, as well as "wars" on terror, drugs, obesity, and illegal immigration. "War" has displaced "policy" as our all-purpose metaphor.

Even mystery books, which I love to read, seem to concede that there can be no better matrix in which to study human psychology than that of violent death. Young men and women are encouraged to "be all that they can be" by joining the military, with the implication that only through a life-and-death struggle can we achieve our full potential. The soon-to-be-released film *Terminator Salvation* sums it up: We are coming to imagine that our salvation can come only through a brutality that is greater than that of our enemies.

Nothing could be further from the way of Christ. Christ told us to turn the other cheek. Christ forgave those who hurt him, rather than raining down vengeance upon them, as the Son of God surely

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could have. Christ chose to die on the cross for the love of those who hurt and rejected him. Christ taught us (through St. Paul), "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

We are living, in other words, in a pervasively non-Christian environment, not because we live among people of many faiths, but because mainstream American culture, "Christian" and non-Christian alike, is crippling our capacities to walk in the steps of Jesus. Most of us assume, I think, that the Gospel is something we have to struggle to live, not something as natural as the very air we breathe, which is, in truth, itself a manifestation of the grace of God.

We tend to think of Christianity as counter-cultural, rather than making it *our culture*. And yet, "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other" (Matt 6:24, Luke 16:13). It is not realistic to allow forces that are not grounded in Christ to shape our imaginations almost completely, and then to expect that we can follow Christ without feeling torn apart.

What is required of us is a massive act of imaginative resistance: deliberately to ground our lives in what will recall us to Christ, rather than in what will lead us from him. Include Bible stories in nightly reading to our children; it will shape them and us. Pray daily. If you can manage it, read Scripture or some other holy book daily. When you can't manage it, do it anyway; that's when you really need it. (C.S. Lewis; the poems of Donne, Herbert, or Hopkins; Richard Foster; Teresa of Avila; Julian of Norwich; Desmond Tutu; Miroslav Volf are all good choices. When in doubt, aim toward the classics, as a lot of so-called Christian literature being published today has been shaped by the same forces we are trying to counteract.)

Build into your lives time to reflect; even ten minutes a day can do a lot to prevent a spiral of

frenetic energy that drains us and leaves us prey to rage, resentment, malice, and envy. Play. Create things. Take a walk or a run. Sing. These things immerse us in ways of being that do not harm others, help us to imagine responses that allow good to prevail in our lives. Above all, "be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3: 15-17).

Blessings and grace,

Deborah+

* * *

P.S. If you would like to explore one culture that seeks to ground itself in Christ, please join me in reading and discussing *Amish Grace*, by Donald Kraybill et. al. Discussions will take place after the 10:00 service during the month of June. For more information, see the Adult Formation section of this *Close Call*.

VESTRY NOTES

—Robin Brown,
Clerk of the Vestry

Robin Brown opened the meeting with prayer. Dr. Meister conducted a Bible study on Acts 10: 44-48.

Treasurer's Report (Kathryn Brennan)

Zida Abbott and Jonathan Glosster have joined the counters for the Sunday collection. There are now six teams of two each. Paul Ulyak, the bookkeeper, is teaching Treasurer Brennan to do his basic tasks so that she can substitute for him while he is on vacation. The treasurer cannot take over everything he does, but it may be

possible to cut his weekly hours from eight to six.

SERVICE SCHEDULE REMINDER

Dear friends, a few months ago we embarked on a trial of a new service schedule, to run from Lent through Pentecost.

Please note that we will return to the old schedule (with worship at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.), on June 7, the Sunday after Pentecost.

We will be arranging times in June when we can gather as a parish to discuss the schedule and see which one best suits the needs of the parish.

—Deborah+

Donations by people who give every week but don't pledge have been reclassified as plate income. It is important for people to be consistent in their pledge payments, particularly during the summer months. One way to do that is to use online bill payment to make regular pledge payments. Sending out an electronic *Close Call* is still in process. The project may be impacted by the break even numbers for bulk mail.

Outreach Committee (Edward Beckles)

The outreach committee continues to grow and support our key missions: the Food Pantry, Elijah's Promise, the Interfaith Homeless Men's Shelter, the annual Angel Tree, and the Boaz Community Corporation.

The Food Pantry has continued to expand, both in the number of people fed, and in the types of programs that are being offered. The program that Gerry Welch offered in April on breastfeeding is a wonderful example of going broader and deeper. Christ Church parishioners on the third Saturday of each month cook and serve a meal to clients of Elijah's Promise, the soup kitchen.

Christ Church again hosted the Interfaith Homeless Men's Shelter for two weeks this winter. Volunteer hosts stayed with up to 15 men, who slept on the Auditorium floor. The Angel Tree program takes place at Christmas time, providing gifts to children of service people and to those who are locally economically disadvantaged. The Boaz Community Corporation is an independent non-profit organization that provides free and low-cost legal services to immigrants. Christ Church provides in-kind support through the use of office and meeting space and through leadership on the Board of Directors.

Music Committee

(Gwen Greenberg)

The last music event was a great success. The Schola Cantorum Leipzig concert on May 3 brought in \$450 in donations. The New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra has contributed \$600 to the music fund. A gift of \$1,000 was also given to the music fund. The year's musical finale will be a joint concert by four of our choirs on Sunday, May 17, at 6 p.m. Carol Forsythe and Nancy Walworth have contributed greatly to the advertising of our concerts.

Fundraising/Special Events

(Mary Angely Johnson and Annette Johnson)

The Fundraising/Special Events committee presented several new initiatives. They have begun collecting recipes for a Christ Church cookbook. Valerie LaPorte has offered to help with this project. A used book sale and a rummage sale were both discussed.

Newcomers/Hospitality

(Robin Brown)

There was a brief discussion of different ways to do coffee hour, and how to get different groups in the parish involved in it more regularly. In addition, there is a possible plan to do a congregational picnic near the end of the summer.

Marketing/Communications

(Peter Clarke)

The website project has gotten a much-needed boost. Website design will consume the entire \$2,000 of the marketing budget. Photos have been gathered, but there is still a gap—certain pictures need to be taken by a professional photographer. The committee is still considering possible choices in this area.

Rector's Remarks

(The Rev'd Dr. Deborah Meister)

There were eight Sunday Eucharists, three Wednesday Eucharists, one baptism and one marriage. There has also been planning for Pentecost and the Rite 13 Liturgy.

Along with doing other administrative work, Dr. Meister participated in a meeting of the Coexistence Project and interviewed potential scholarship recipients for the Hall Fund. She also attended a week-long session of the Clergy Leadership Project. The formation program has continued to grow; there have been three more sessions of the Romans Bible study, as well as a session taught by Mark Trautman on the Psalms, and a workshop led by Janet Chisholm (Jesus as Peacemaker).

Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Sunday will be ending after this week because attendance has become very erratic. The revised Sunday schedule will continue until Pentecost (May 31). Services will return to 8 and 10, at least for the summer.

Old Business

NJ Historic Trust Grant

(Paul Ambos)

Donald Edwards and Paul Ambos attended a workshop for grantees, and brought back materials that need to be signed for contractual purposes. Work is continuing to see if the scope of the grant can be revised to cover urgently needed work on the sanctuary building. The grant funds have not yet cleared the legislature.

New Business

Because of rain, the property committee workday will be rescheduled.

Next Meeting:

The next regular Vestry meeting will be held June 8.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

to host Coffee Hour after the 10:00 a.m. service.

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the door of the Nicholas Room.

A more affordable way to host Coffee Hour is to co-host with one or more other families.

NEWCOMERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

—Robin Brown

Newcomers are vital. Newcomers remind us of who we are. Newcomers are fantastic. Newcomers are amazing. I would like to build a Newcomers ministry at Christ Church. I would like to recruit a committee that will help grow new programs and structure events. Introduce yourself on Sunday morning, or by email, or telephone. Robin Brown, reb2670@gmail.com or 732.266.7360.

HOLY EUCHARIST WITH MUSIC AND MEDITATION

is offered every **Wednesday from 12:15-12:45 p.m.** in the Clarke Chapel.

This service is fully accessible for parishioners and community members who use walker, canes, or wheelchairs.

All are welcome

Parish Announcements

Goood Food!!

—Deborah+

This fall, Christ Church would like to publish a parish cookbook, featuring well-loved recipes from all around the world—*your* well-loved recipes. We're inviting each of you to send us your favorites: your grandmother's Christmas cake, your mother's codfish cakes, your father's goat—whatever makes you think of happy times.

Recipes can be submitted on paper or electronically (preferred), to Mary Angely Johnson at maryangelyj@gmail.com. In order to avoid confusion, please: 1) use the following abbreviations: teaspoon = tsp; tablespoon = tbs; cup = c.; and 2) double-check all cook-times and temperatures. (If you know that that cake really needs to cook for about twice as long as Aunt Edna wrote down, please make the correction!)

Each person can submit any number of favorite recipes. We hope to be able to collect them quickly so we can publish the book in time for Christmas gift-giving.

DINE TO DONATE

Dine at Perkins Restaurant and 10 percent of your bill will be donated to Christ Church. Coupons are located on the table at the back of Church; please take some for yourself, family, and friends.

CELL PHONES AND PRINTER CARTIDGES

Bring your used inkjet printer cartridges and unwanted cell phones to back of the church to benefit Christ Church youth.

SPRING CONCERT THANKS

—Mark Trautman

Many thanks to the small army who helped make the May 17 Spring Concert such a success. Concert participants included Parish Choir members Paul Ambos, Poldi Binder, Wilfredo Coriano, Kelly-Jane Cotter, Louise Deis, Donald Edwards, Art Erickson, Frederick Fischer, Carole Forsythe, Gwen Greenberg, Pamela Harbour, Julia Jenson, David Keil, Ginny Keil, Renata Koumendouros, Karl Manger, Frederick Montana (librarian), Leslie Pruess, James Rossi, Eric Sanders, Andros Thomson, Giulia Utz, Susan Vitali, Cathryn Whitener, Diana Whitener, Scott Whitener. Canticum Novum members are Pat Buckendahl, Barbara Cooper, Judith Kuldinow, Barbara Lewis, Mary Nelson, Marcia Newcombe-Travers, Molly Newling, Doreen Sirjue, Marie Thompson, and Richard Travers. St. Cecilia Ensemble members are Carol Brown, Oluchi Egekeze, Ijeoma Egekeze, Caroline LaPorte-Burns, Helena LaPorte-Burns, Victoria Harbour, and Lily Kramer-Mills. Youth Choir members are Belle Ager, Gigi Ager, Kayla Arroyo, Carol Brown, Rebecca Chant, Chioma Egekeze, Kyra Kozachek, Caroline LaPorte-Burns, Helena LaPorte-Burns, Taylor Latimer, Nicole Marshall, Audrey Orford, and Amelia Wilkerson.

Also special thanks to organist John Sheridan, baritone Vincent Grana, baritone soloist; the members of the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra who joined us;

Renata Koumendouros who prepared the children for performing *Psalmkonzert*; the parents of the children for getting them to rehearsals; Gwen Greenberg and the Music Committee members for attending to publicity, selling tickets, and organizing the reception; and Sally Edwards and Eric Sanders for arranging the flowers.

Elijah's Promise
Chef's Night
Monday, June 29 at 6 p.m.

**THE PALACE AT
SOMERSET PARK**
333 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, New Jersey 08873
(877) PALACE-4

Get ready for our most spectacular event to date!
Over 20 of the area's finest restaurants will be participating.

Join us for three hours of exceptional dining while we **eat for the cause of raising critical funds.**

This is our largest fundraiser of the year and \$100 of the cost of every ticket goes directly to supporting **Elijah's Promise.**

Tickets are \$125 per person. Additional information and registration materials are at www.elijahspromise.org

Adult Education Opportunities

BOOK STUDY:

Amish Grace

—Deborah+

Amish Grace, by Donald Kraybill et al., is a study of the reactions of the Amish people following the 2006 school shooting which claimed the lives of five of their children and injured several more. Though the book focuses on the theology and practice of forgiveness, it also offers a glimpse of a culture in which all aspects of life are explicitly modeled on the life and teachings of Christ.

Although we are not Amish, reflecting on their practices can help us to shape our own ways of being which assist us in following our Savior. Discussions will be held on the Sundays in June, beginning June 7, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please read chapters one through five for the first meeting. The book, written for a popular audience, is a quick read.



LOOKING FOR A GOOD RETREAT OR CLASS?

The Parish Staff host current listings from a wide variety of monasteries, retreat centers, and educational institutions on the bulletin board near the 5 Paterson doorway. Drop and explore them. You might find something that could change your life.

MEN'S MINISTRY

—Deacon Pete Cornell

The Men's Ministry continued our study of the Book of James, completing our investigation of the first chapter. The final set of questions we examined focused on what James professes as the key characteristics of Christianity, how our dialogue informs the world of our faith, how we come to know believers, and what God calls acceptable religion.

James states that controlling our tongues and living a life of example to others is critical to being good followers of Jesus. Several of the members have been attending the study of Romans, in which the emphasis seems to be on the acceptance of faith as the necessary foundation, but James argues strongly that actions are important.

The group agrees that both are necessary, and we concluded that James's audience, Christian Jews who had been raised in an organized religion of tradition and rules, could more readily believe that it takes more than just accepting Jesus to be a good Christian. For Gentiles, who likely had no organized monotheistic religion, accepting one God and one Son was enough to set them on the road to salvation. But Christian Jews would have felt this idea was too simple perhaps in view of the heritage of Jewish teaching of laws and rituals.

We have already explored James and his call to live as Christians by our actions, and here again he stresses that the way to know what is in someone's heart is to see how he acts. As modern Christians, we take on the role of keeper of the weak and caretaker for the poor, whether as individuals or in community. And that approach,

above all in James's view and teaching, shows that we are practicing a religion that is acceptable to God, Father and Son.

The Men's Ministry meets for Bible study on the second Sunday of the month. As we return to our regular schedule for worship in June, we will meet at 9 a.m. between the two services, at a location to be determined. This Bible study is open to all men in the Parish; there is no preparation required, and all materials are supplied for the study. The discussion is always engaging and thoughtful, and every month we learn more about who we are and what God calls us to do. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Pete Cornell, Deacon 732.516.9661 or leave a voice mail at the church.

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED FOR GODLY PLAY

Do you love children? We need you! Christ Church is hoping to transition to Godly Play, a Montessori-based church school program that uses storytelling and reflection to nurture the faith-lives of our children (and those who teach them). We still need another 4 or 5 volunteers in order to start the program. Teachers will need to attend a one-day training over the summer, as well as spending a day at a safe-church workshop. Each teacher will be asked to serve two Sundays a month, once as a storyteller and once as an assistant. (Preparing to be a storyteller would take about 1-2 hours per lesson. The assistant just comes and helps.) Please contact Deborah Meister at 732.545.6262 or rector@christchurchnewbrunswick.org to volunteer or to obtain more information.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Call Sally Edwards (609.395.1467) and Julia Utz (732.545.6262) when you have made a substitution.

Please note the deadline for names changes in the Sunday Leaflets is noon on Wednesdays. **Intercessors**, please be in church and pick up the Intercessor three-ring binder before the Prelude starts. If you're later than that, we have to get a substitute from the congregation.

		June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5		
	8:00 AM							
	EM	Bruce Rydel	Jose Castillo	Joan Borden	Peter Clarke	Rod Neaveill		
	L/P	Meegan Adames	Sheila Cooper	Margaret DeMatteo	Patricia Warren	Ruth Neaveill		
	CB	Joan Borden	Sheila Cooper	Allie Graham	Syl Pratt	Jose Castillo		
	U	Elfrida Gooding	Margaret DeMatteo	Sheila Cooper	Elfrida Gooding	Margaret DeMatteo		
	U	Debra Lowe	Pat Lowe	Evangeline Guy	Pat Lowe	Debra Lowe		
	10:00 AM							
	EM	Andrea Cunnell	Chris Davies	Penny Gordon	Sally Edwards	Artie Phillips		
	L	Carol Erickson	Cathy Whitener	Catherine Ambos	Eve Johnson	Molly Newling		
	I	Mel Garber	Kay Hadzimichalis	Jonathan Gloster	Jennifer Murphy	Liz Roberts		
	CB	Jonathan Thomas	David Heinlein	Rod Neaveill	Molly Newling	Andrea Cunnell		
	U	Kenreic VanLoo	Wendy Benjamin	Peggy Smith	Wendy Benjamin	Martha Golfphin		
	U	Marva VanLoo	Mel Garber	Richard Travers	Chris Davies	Molly Newling		
	U	Chris Davies	Martha Golfphin	Kenreic VanLoo	Thelma Fergusson	Peggy Smith		
	U	Thelma Fergusson	Molly Newling	Marva VanLoo	Mel Garber	Richard Travers		
	G	Robin Brown	Annette Johnson	Robin Brown	Nancy Cornell	Carol Erickson		
	Acolytes	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****		
	S	Ijeoma Egekeze	Sam Kuldinow	Graig Fergusson	Kerrie VanLoo	Oluchi Egekeze		
	T	Chioma Egekeze	Joanna Kuldinow	Kendall Beckles	Ashlinn Stansbury	Kabir Golfphin		
Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Psalmist	Intercessor	Chalice Bearer	Usher	Greater Server	Crucifer	Torchbearer

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday (*Summer Schedule*)

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Music, Rite I

9-9:45 a.m.—Youth choir rehearsal (*through June 14*)

9:00 a.m.—Men's Ministry (*second Sunday of the month*)

9:00 a.m.—Parish Choir rehearsal

9:45 a.m.—Children's Chapel and Church School (*through June 14*)

10:00 a.m.—Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II, followed by coffee hour

11:30 a.m.—Rite 13 Class (*through June 14*)

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m.—"Open" AA meeting for men and women in the Auditorium.

Monday

9:00 a.m. – 7 p.m.—Boaz Open Clinic

7:00 p.m.—Boaz Board (*third Monday of the month*)

7:15 p.m.—Lyme Disease Support Group (*second and fourth Mondays of the month*)

7:30 p.m.—Narcotics Anonymous

7:30 p.m.—Vestry (*second Monday of the month*)

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. – 7 p.m.—Boaz Open Clinic

Wednesday

12:15 p.m.—Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry (*last three Wednesdays of the month*)

7:30 p.m.—WomenSpirit

7:30 p.m.—Property Committee (*first Wednesday of the month*)

Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 7 p.m.—Boaz Open Clinic

8:00 p.m.—Parish Choir Rehearsal

Friday

9:00 a.m.—Food Pantry (*last two Fridays of the month*)

Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.—Boaz Open Clinic

10:30 a.m.—Food Pantry (*last two Saturdays of the month*)

Christ Church

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Kathryn Brennan
Treasurer

Christ Church Web Page:

www.christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday:

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday:

9:00 a.m. – noon

Close Call deadline is:

Friday, June 12, for
July 2009 Issue

Allie Graham, Editor
609.306.4257

closecall@

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Christ Church Vestry

If you wish to become involved in any of our ministries, please contact the Vestry committee chairs.

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President

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Winston Sirjue
People's Warden
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