

The Bellringer

*Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road, P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam, CT. 06456
(860) 267-0287*

February, 2010

A Letter From Your Wardens

Well, here we are with Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross and Lent looking us square in the face! Our thinking at the moment is to continue cooking pancakes, having a priest conduct the Ash Wednesday services, have a lay person there to lead the Stations of the Cross and ... well ... Lent is Lent. Check your Sunday bulletins for details.

The rental of our house went well. The gals moved in at the end of November and we haven't heard more than a peep from them since! [Gosh. We hope they're alright!]

Although many will continue to miss a full time ministry, it sure will be nice to have revenue coming in [from the tenants] and not going out! Also, the electric and heating bills are no longer on our expense sheet.

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting [you all attended didn't you?] will have seen Barry Edmonds' budget for this year. It's been a long time since we've had a balanced budget! True, we don't have much wiggle room, but with faithful pledging we should sneak by.

The snowplowing was a little squirrely back around New Years, but we think that may have been resolved. Anyhow, spring is right around the corner, right? It looks like a serious copying problem has .. or very soon will be .resolved. Our five year old printer finally gave up the ghost. So Susan was stuck between a rock and a hard place. At the same time, the guy who had been copying this rag ... er,

I mean excellent publication ... announced he was discontinuing the service. Cutting to the chase, we are renting a copier which will serve the office and also allow us to copy the Bellringer. And guess what? The money we save from hiring that copying done will pay for the new machine rental! Which includes toner and all maintenance!

Well, that's the news highlights for now. Enjoy your winter!

Connecticut's other season ... Road Construction ... follows it and few among us have figured out which is worse, I expect.

George & C W your Wardens

Lenten Services At Christ Church

Ash Wednesday
12 Noon and 7 pm

*The Rev. Jane Stickney
will be with us for
Ash Wednesday Services and
imposition of ashes.*

Wednesdays in Lent
*The church will remain open
for your self-guided
Stations of the Cross*

Greetings from J.A.M. and the Nursery!

Happy winter to all! By the time you receive this newsletter, our J.A.M. and Nursery children will have baked our Christ Church communion bread! With the guidance of Miss Johanna, the children will make the bread from scratch, it will be blessed and then used for Communion! The children and families will have also enjoyed a Cocoa and Crafts activity in the parish hall. There is nothing quite like gathering with friends to enjoy hot cocoa, treats, and arts and crafts projects on a cold and blustery winter day!

In February, keep your eyes peeled for our J.A.M. /Nursery live music video. We are going to act out the "Hand Song" by Nickel Creek, a bluegrass group with strong Christian roots, and we will present our live music video to the congregation in February. Also in February, mark your calendars for our Shrove Tuesday Get-Together. This will take place on Tuesday, February 16th at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are invited to a delicious pancake dinner. Feel free to wear costumes, enjoy a piñata, and share a delicious meal. The suggested donation is \$5 per person with a maximum family contribution of \$10.

In light of the tragic devastation that has taken place in Haiti, our J.A.M. and Nursery children will collaborate with the Missions Team to gather monetary donations and medical supplies to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. You will soon see some brightly decorated jugs that will assist our children in gathering change and contributions to help the effort in Haiti and the members of the relief teams in our prayers.

February Calendar

February 2	6:30 pm	Transition Team Meeting Parish Hall
February 4	6:00 pm	Mission Team Meeting
February 7	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Nursery Care & J.A.M. Holy Eucharist—Rite II <i>The Rev. Catharine Randall</i> <i>The Rev. Randall Balmer</i>
February 14	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Nursery Care & J.A.M. Holy Eucharist—Rite II <i>The Rev. Catharine Randall</i> <i>The Rev. Randall Balmer</i>
February 16	6:00 pm	Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Parish Hall
February 17	12 noon 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday Service <i>The Rev. Jane Stickney</i>
February 21	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Nursery Care & J.A.M. Holy Eucharist—Rite II <i>The Rev. Catharine Randall</i> <i>The Rev. Randall Balmer</i>
February 23	6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting Parish Hall
February 24		Stations of the Cross
February 28	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Nursery Care & J.A.M. Holy Eucharist—Rite II <i>The Rev. Catharine Randall</i> <i>The Rev. Randall Balmer</i>

February 24 to March 31

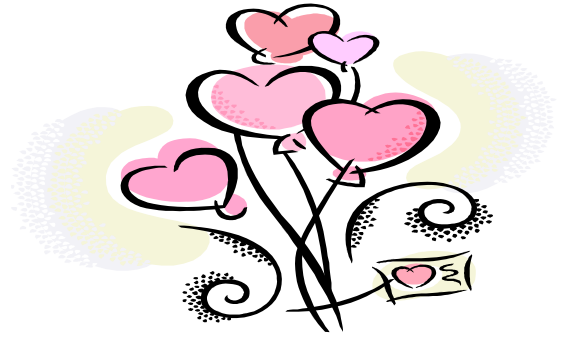
every Wednesday

*The church will remain open for you
(self-guided)*

*Stations of the Cross
(time to be determined by you)*

Christ Church Choir News

Looking ahead to Lent, Holy Week and Easter ... the Christ Church Choir will again be singing at the Good Friday evening service as well as on Easter Sunday. Please consider adding the meaningful Good Friday service to your observance of Holy Week.



New England Chamber Choir News

A small group of singers from the choir, including our own *Linda Napoletano*, will be providing a program of duets in the **High Notes and High Tea** concerts.

There will be two performances:

Sunday, February 14, 2010

4:00 pm

Sacred Heart Church

116 Grove Street

Torrington CT

(860-482-8246)

Sunday, February 21, 2010

4:00 pm

Congregational Church of Plainville

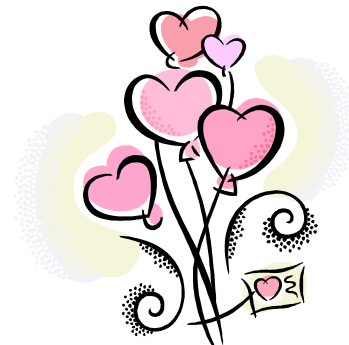
130 West Main Street, Plainville, Ct.

(860-747-1901)

'THANQUES' FOR THE PLAQUES

Sometime back, a glitch omitted the historical buildings of Middle Haddam from the state list. Thanks to a lot of work by Margaret Faber, the error has been corrected.

The historical buildings ... ours included ... are once again officially recognized. Apparently not content with that nice piece of work, Margaret also purchased and sent along to us three new plaques for placement on our buildings! These are now affixed in a prominent location on each of them.



More New England Chamber Choir News

The adult and treble choirs will present two performances of **Music for Lent & Easter**.

Sunday, March 14, 2010—4:00 pm

Saint John's Episcopal Church
768 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct.
(203-335-2528)

Sunday, March 21, 2010—4:00 pm

The Church of the Holy Trinity
381 Main Street,
Middletown, Ct.
(860-347-2591)

Coffee Hour

Have you been enjoying your cup of coffee and goodie each week after the 10 am service? Me Too!

If you have never signed up to provide Coffee Hour and would like to do so, the sign up sheet is on a clipboard in the kitchen. Please consider teaming up with someone else if you like.

Coffee Hour need not be elaborate. Just a simple gathering for people to chat after service. Coffee and supplies are provided by the church, you just need to "put on the pot" and provide a simple goodie.

Come to think of it—Did you ever wonder how all of those supplies end up at the church and we never seem to run out of coffee or paper products?

Remember to thank

Betty Fuqua

For all she does to keep
our kitchen fully stocked
and for all those folks who
help to provide goodies each week.

December 22, 2009

To the Middle Haddam Christ Episcopal Church:

Thank you again for another successful and wonderful year! I know that it has been really difficult for so many during this recession but your generosity for others continues and has really blessed numerous families in need. The families that received your generous donations of a Thanksgiving meal were extremely grateful. Thanks again for another successful Thanksgiving season!

*Sincerely,
Amanda Grimm,
DCF Social Worker*

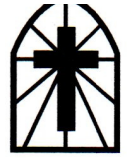


Bellringer Delivery

The Bellringer is available to you in several different formats. You may continue to receive it through the US Postal System, but it is also available to you via e-mail (PDF Format) and can also be viewed through our web site (www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com). The web site is updated often through the month, a good place to check for up-to-date information. Please consider one of these alternatives—as we are always interested in saving printing costs and mailing fees. If you choose to receive your Bellringer via e-mail just send your request to Ellen Little at ellen.little@sbcglobal.net or notify the church office.

We thank Anna and Andy Lebiszczak, who maintain our web site.

Christ Church Request for Prayer



Date _____

I ask you to pray during the coming month for:

Name _____

Need _____

Requested by _____

Form of prayer requested

___ Confidential (parish prayer chain)

___ Prayers of the People (public intercessory prayer, plus prayer chain)

Please indicate if it is permissible to share this prayer request with the parish in the Sunday bulletin: Yes No (circle one)

Please place this card in the offering plate. Requests may be renewed by card or phone. Emergency requests may be phoned to the church office.

Christ Church Prayer List

Recently we have revised our Prayer List card (sample above). There is now several ways in which we can request prayers for our loved ones. Prayer Cards are available each week in the pews, and you are also encouraged to clip this one from the Bellringer and send it along to the church office. You may select either—or both ways to have prayers said.





**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**

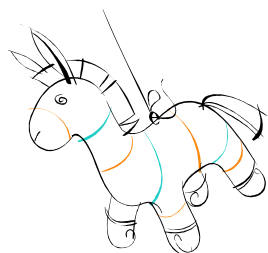
**Parish Hall
6:00 pm**

Delicious Pancake Dinner

Wear costumes if you like

Piñata

**Suggested Donation
\$5.00 pp
Maximum \$10.00**



Are Lay Preaches Extinct?

An interview with the editor ... [or maybe I just dreamed it.]

Ellen: "C W, I've heard you were disappointed that we've had supply priests come in since Mark left. Gosh, everyone seemed to love Jane and now the Balmers have been very well received. What's the problem?"

C W: "Well, it's not really a problem. The priests you mentioned are top cabin. It's just that I've always wanted to try my hand at a little preaching. I figured if we got stuck and decided to take a break from Morning Prayer ... well, why not a lay service?"

Ellen: "Oh, I see. Have you had experience at sermons?"

C W: "Ah, well, er ... not exactly. That's what I was hoping to get."

Ellen: "At our expense, I take it."

C W: "OOH. That's cold. I'll bet I could have come up with a dandy sermon. After all, I saw 'Elmer Gantry' and 'Deliverance'."

Ellen: "I hope you're joking. 'Deliverance' had nothing at all to do with religion!"

C W: "Oh. Well, maybe not. But it's a great title! Anyway, I have a lot of other sources. I was planning on ordering all of Billy Graham's tapes."

Ellen: "Well ... I think it's just as well we have supply priests. There's something about that collar

C W: "I thought of that. I know I'm not permitted to wear one of those white collars, but I figured one of my western ties would make a dandy substitute! I was thinking of doing my Joel McCrea imitation. Did you ever see that old movie "Stars in my Crown"? Wow! I'll bet the audience would have been saying 'Encore ... Encore' after that act."

Ellen: "Well, lynching being illegal ... maybe you'd still be alive to tell the tale. But my guess is you'd have been banned from the altar area for the next hundred years!"

C W: "OOH. There you go again, Ellen. Gosh, that's cold. But I guess I'll never get the chance to see if I have a gift for preaching. Hey! I just had a great thought! What if my Transition Team agenda had only one item ... 'A Sermon' for our next meeting ?!"

Ellen: "That might work as long as you didn't reveal your plan beforehand. Still ... I seem to remember our Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment!"

C W: "You know, I'm beginning to suspect you're not thrilled with my idea. Just a suspicion, but ..."

Ellen: "I'd like to stay and chat, but I've got to get the next issue of the Bellringer together. If you have any more of your brilliant ideas ... well ... ah, gotta go."

[C W's thoughts after Ellen leaves: Gosh. That seemed to go well!
Guess I'd better get to work on a sermon!]

C W

Our Lenten Mission

As Lent approaches at the end of the month, it will soon be time for our school aged children to pick up their brightly decorated plastic jugs in which to deposit Lenten “spare change”. The Lenten Mission of Christ Church in the past was to raise money to purchase vitamins for ALL of the children attending the St. Vincent’s Center for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti to help keep them healthy. Unlike in our own families, usually only the sick children receive vitamins. The entire congregation has always responded generously to this Mission.

This year, we have been asked to change our focus to raising money to purchase medical supplies. Although all of the children’s and staff of St. Vincent’s lives were mercifully spared by the horrific earthquake, they are still in desperate need of medical supplies.

During Lent, we ask that you look for spare change wherever you can (in the sofa, on the floor of the car, change from purchases), or make a small Lenten sacrifice (taking coffee to work instead of buying it and donating the difference, giving up your daily snack) and place this cash in the plastic jug or in an envelope marked Missions in the collection plate. You may also write a check made out to **Christ Church (with Medical Supplies Drive in memo line)** and mail it in or put in the plate. We will be handing out the jugs beginning on February 7 and will be collecting them from April 11 – 18. THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!

Questions: contact Clive Tucceri (ctucceri@aol.com or 267-7813) or Mary Boretz (boretzmar@Reg8.k12.ct.us or 267-0365) or Donna Long (longdjj1@sbcglobal.net or 467-6278).

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