

The Bellringer

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

March, 2011

***Children of Abraham
Thursday, March 3, 2011
7:00 p.m.***

Have you ever considered how various religions develop or how they compare and contrast with each other? If you have, then this is your chance to learn more about it by attending a program on March 3rd at 7 p.m.

The program will include Susan Campbell, award-winning Hartford Courant columnist and author of Dating Jesus. She will moderate *Children of Abraham*, a symposium that explores the areas of convergence and divergence of Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

This the first part of a two-part program at Christ Episcopal Church, Middle Haddam on Thursday, March 3rd at 7 p.m. Rev. Dr. Randall Balmer, professor of American Religious Studies at Columbia University, will field questions, along with historian Stephen Marino and representatives from the Jewish and Islamic faiths. Mr. Marino will open the evening with a historical account that traces the roots of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

A second symposium on *Islamophobia* will take place on the first Thursday in April. All are welcomed to both events. Call Christ Church at 860-267-0287 or program coordinator Dick Napoletano at 860-490-8006 or Jerry Graham at 860-267-6736 for questions.

There is no charge for admission.

***We look forward to seeing you there
Please bring your friends!***

Wardens' Message

You won't be seeing Catharine for a while – she's lending a hand over at St. Stephen's in East Haddam. From what we hear, she'll be there through at least Easter Sunday. They are looking for an interim priest. [Randall assures us it won't be Catharine!]

The 'Senior guy' is working on a plan for seeing that the steps, walkways, and parking lot get sanded when needed. Did we hear a shout of 'Halleluiah'?! And he's involved in a ton of other stuff. More on the times and trials of the 'tall hog at the trough' next time.

The 'Property guy' is working on a few small projects. One is locks for a few drawers and doors in the kitchen. Trouble is, he's no great shakes at sorting out the sizes ...and it would be nice if they were keyed alike, also! A new motion detector fixture was purchased for the parking lot spots. The old fixture, which is on the main shed, is malfunctioning. But it's too darn cold, most of the time, to install it! There's more stuff, but you'd only become even more bored with the details.

George & C.W. [still!]

Property Update

You sure picked a great time to get the trees trimmed, Barry! I shudder to think what would have happened if the snow and ice had weighed down the tree limbs that used to overhang the house and Parish Hall!

Well, a path to the oil tank room was finally made. About time I earned my 'salary', I guess. Whew! What a winter, huh? And speaking of oil ... Barry Edmonds is poised to order a gauge for our tank. We ran out of oil during the cold snap and our tenants froze their .. er .. well .. tootsies off! The new gauge will alert us when the oil runs low.

Boy! Did we luck out getting Roberta Edmonds for our new Sexton. Not only is she getting kudos for her Sexton job, but she's also hired on to shovel snow! Not that there's much to shovel, right?

Well ... it's deadline time, so I'll sign off here. Until next time.....

C.W. Currie

Thanksgiving for the Diversity of Races and Cultures

O, God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

(Book of Common Prayer, page 840)



Mardi Gras Celebration

March 6, 2011

following the 10:00 a.m. service



Catch the Spirit

Remember the lovely shirts worn by the Seitzer's at the Haddam Neck Fair? Barry also has a shirt (from long ago) and C.W. models his sweatshirt throughout the year. I love mine!!

Well, you can 'Catch' your own Spirit by way of getting a shirt or hat. Plus, it is a great way to bear witness for the Spirit and Christ Church. These prices may be adjusted by shape and size, and economic changes:

Sweatshirts \$14

Hoodies \$18

T-Shirts \$9

Tank Tops \$9

Hats \$10

For 2X and over sizes—add \$2 for the shirts

Note that 12 is the minimum order for each item to get favorable pricing. If you would like to Catch the Spirit you can tell me sizes, color, etc at church or you can e-mail me at

kschluntz@snet.net

Welcome, Our New Vestry!

Thank you to all of those folks who have volunteered their time to be the leadership of Christ Church: The Vestry meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. All members of Christ Church are welcome to attend any meeting. The members for the current year are:

George Seitzer—Sr. Warden

C.W. Currie—Warden

Barry Edmonds—Treasurer

Betty Fuqua—Parish Clerk

Vestry Members

Bud Briere

Willie Fuqua

Jerry Graham

Donna Hryb

Paul Hunt

Dick Napoletano

Patti Stannard

Autumn Leaves Fair Update

We held a meeting on the 6th of February to start planning the Fair. I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to offer to help in either supplying crafts, baking, manning the booths, and/or telling me that they will be buying our crafts. I am overwhelmed with the support that the parishioners have shown me. It is obvious that we have all missed the Fair and welcome it back

A second meeting is scheduled for Feb. 27th, after the 10 a.m. service, to display some of the crafts that we hope to make and sell. It's very exciting. We have talked about meeting in the Parish Hall to make the crafts, as well as in private homes. I will keep you updated on when and where we will have our meetings.

If you want to send me some of your ideas, please email me at: bwedmonds@comcast.net or see me at church. Thank you.

Winnie Edmonds



SNOW CLOSING NOTICE

If it becomes necessary in the winter to close the church for Sunday service because of the weather, there are two ways that you can be sure that service has been cancelled.

A message will be sent to all church members via e-mail. Please be sure to check your e-mail early that day if you are in doubt before leaving your home.

Everyone, computer users or not, will be able to receive a closing message by calling the church office. A voice message will notify you if the church is closed.

Christ Church Calendar

March, 2011

March 3

7:00 p.m. *Children of Abraham* Symposium

March 6

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 a.m. Mardi Gras Celebration
St. Vincent's Vitamin Drive Begins

March 8

6:30 p.m. Mission Team Meeting, Home of Donna Long

March 9

12 noon Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

March 13

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

March 15

6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Parish Hall

March 20

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

March 25

Bellringer Deadline

March 27

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Currie's Chuckles

Wanting to lose some weight, a guy joined a health club. A year later, his weight was just the same. Whereupon he concluded, "Apparently, you actually have to go there!"

Al Gore was riding with Bill and Hillary Clinton when they were involved in a terrible accident. All died and wound up in Heaven. St. Peter entered the waiting room and was somewhat impressed to see such well-known people. He sat down and said to Bill Clinton, "Come up and take the chair to my right." He then turned to Al Gore and said, "Come up and take the seat to my left." He then turned to Hillary...who said, "I believe you're in my seat!"

The old man was on his death bed. He caught the aroma of freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies—his long time favorite. With a great effort, he struggled to the kitchen where his wife was baking the cookies. He took one and his wife immediately slapped his hand. "Get away from those!" she said. "They're for the funeral!"

New England Chamber Choir Music for Lent and Easter



Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.
Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Ave., Newington
860-666-3331

Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.
Saint Peter Church
30 Saint Peter Lane, Higganum
860-345-8018



Missions' Team Report

Lent is coming! 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" (kids, look on the car floor, under cushions, share your allowance...) and for the rest of us to think about giving up something (that Starbucks coffee? afternoon candy bar?) for a Lenten sacrifice and donate the money saved for our Lenten Mission. The Lenten Mission of Christ Church is 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.

I hope you all read the letter in the last *Bellringer* from Hope Lennertz, the Volunteer Executive Director of the Friends of St. Vincent's Center. There is a lot of good news since last January, but there is still a long way to go in reestablishing all of the programs that were in place before the earthquake. One positive aspect that has come out of the quake is ironically due to all the damaged limbs of those people unfortunately hit and/or buried by the rubble. Hope tells us that the prior prejudice against children without limbs is receding, and the older students are being allowed to attend school with non-disabled children for the first time.

Please place your Lenten sacrifice in the plastic jug, which we collect at the end of Lent or place it in an envelope marked **Missions** in the collection plate. You may also write a check made out to **Christ Church** (with *St. Vincent* in memo line) and mail it in or put in the plate. We will be handing out the jugs beginning after February school vacation and will be collecting them from April 17-25. THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!

Although our Missions' Project involves sending the necessary funds to purchase as many bottles of vitamins as possible, there are also other needs to be filled. As Hope said in her letter, there is a need for musical instruments and manual typewriters, so please contact her if you have these to donate.

Our next Missions meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at the home of Donna Long. As always, we would welcome your help in this important work of Christ Church.

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).

On a very personal note, I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and good wishes as I move along this journey to defeat breast cancer. My surgery has healed well, and I began my chemo on Feb. 17 and will finish in May in plenty of time for my wedding in July (minus hair, but it will make for an interesting wig adventure!). Following up with a 5-year daily pill regime to starve my cancer of estrogen, and I should be good to go for a long time! Thanks, Clive



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