

The Bellringer

Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081
(860) 267-0287
October, 2011

A welcoming community committed to worship, mission and Christian formation in today's world

Presiding Priest

The Rev. Dr. Randall Balmer

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Catharine Randall

Officers

George Seitzer, *Sr. Warden*
C.W. Currie, Jr. *Warden*
Barry Edmonds, *Treasurer*
Betty Fuqua, *Parish Clerk*

Vestry

Bud Briere
Willie Fuqua
Jerry Graham
Paul Hunt
Donna Hryb
Dick Napoletano
Patti Stannard

Choirmaster & Organist

Barbara Brundage

Youth Director

Kendra Dickinson

Parish Administrator

Susan Skoglund

Sexton

Roberta Edmonds

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 3 pm - 5 pm

Thursday: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Autumn 2011

After more than three decades of teaching, I've come to recognize it as "The Look". Anyone who's ever been a teacher knows exactly what I'm talking about. You're moving right along with an interesting lecture or an animated conversation, and suddenly you can see the eyes glaze over. You're in danger of losing your audience.

This happened just the other day when I was up at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, to do the J. Arthur Martin Lecture. As often happens with such engagements, I'm asked to visit a class or two and interact more directly with the students. I'm always happy to do so.

In the course of our conversation, one student asked how I reconcile being a person of faith and also a professor. I love this question (I get it frequently) because it allows me to talk about Jesus and how I see no contradiction whatsoever between my life as a scholar and my life as a priest; in fact, I see the two roles as complementary.

But as I began talking about the transformative power of Jesus, I could see the eyes beginning to glaze and a shroud starting to descend. The students were tuning out; they'd heard it all before, and they were clearly uninterested in hearing it again.

So I stopped. Wait a minute, I said. The New Testament is powerful stuff. Jesus came and utterly upended all of the existing categories of right and wrong, of privilege and poverty. I challenged the students to read the Gospels for themselves, with fresh eyes, and listen for its transformative message. If you truly seek to follow Jesus, I suggested, then you're in for a wild ride. All of your assumptions and your prejudices will be called into question as you live into the gospel.

I wonder sometimes if we've "domesticated" Jesus. This happens in all sorts of ways – through familiarity, through a routinization and an institutionalization of the faith, through complacency. We lose sight of the radical imperatives of the gospel—that love trumps law, that the meek and the peacemakers are blessed, and that we have an obligation to care for those Jesus called "the least of these." Following Jesus, as I told the students at Wheaton, is the adventure of a lifetime.

Grace and peace,

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our Congregation's Vestry has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Vestry. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

The Vestry

“Then Moses stretches his hand over the sea...The waters were divided...and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground.” - Exodus 14:21,22

Moses is my hero! Wow, we sure could use someone like that these days! We need a leader who can work a few miracles to straighten out some of our current problems! How can we get another leader like Moses? Do we need to send another baby in a basket floating down the Nile?

Maybe this is another one of the Bible's *allegories*? Is it a story that God is using to deliver a message to us?

Moses inspires us to do great things. Like Moses, we need to set goals and to start down the path toward achieving them...and to follow through to get them done no matter what obstacles are thrown in our path. Most importantly, he teaches us to have confidence and trust in God that all will work out fine – we just need to stay on the path and keep the faith. Without this faith, we would not start anything, not accomplish anything, not do great things.

The best example I can think of is the Officers, Vestry Members and Transition Team Members of our Church who took us through the uncertain times of the past few years. Our Endowment funds were depleted, we had to release our full time priest, and the church that we love so much could have easily closed its doors. But this handful of people took us all through that to the healthy and vibrant place where we are now. They did it by setting goals, starting down the path, and working diligently to get the job done. Most importantly, they had faith – faith that our Church was important and, darn it, it was going to survive. And they had what Moses had – God was working through them to make it happen...

I guess I have a lot of heroes!

Submitted by Paul Hunt

We Pray For:

Louis Schluntz, Patricia McKinney, Peter Nicholas, Sandra L. Read, Guy Garofalo, Ralph Little, June Wylie, Amy Garofalo, Jean, Jeannie, Jessie, Jo, Ted, Winston, Anthony, Claudia White, Claire Megan, Bob Owen, Clive Connor, Anna Bauer, Bernie Karl, Frank Wadsworth, Mary Ayers

KENDRA's KORNER



Jesus and Me (J.A.M.)

Ages 3-10

Prayers, Activities, Storytelling and Music
9:45 am in the Parish Hall

+++++

Nursery

Learning and Play

Birth —Toddlers—Little Ones
9:45 am in the Church Office



J.A.M.

Special Events for October

Here are the events for October:

Thursday, October 20th at 4 p.m.

Fun and Fellowship at Pumpkintown!!!
We will meet at Pumpkintown and enjoy
the fall together!

Wednesday, October 26th at 6 p.m.

Crafty Kids in the Parish Hall. Come and make a
Halloween craft with us!





“High Notes & High Tea”

October 23, 2011 at 4 P.M.

On Sunday, October 23rd, Christ Church will host a High Notes & High Tea concert performed by the New England Chamber Choir of Handel’s “The Choice of Hercules.”

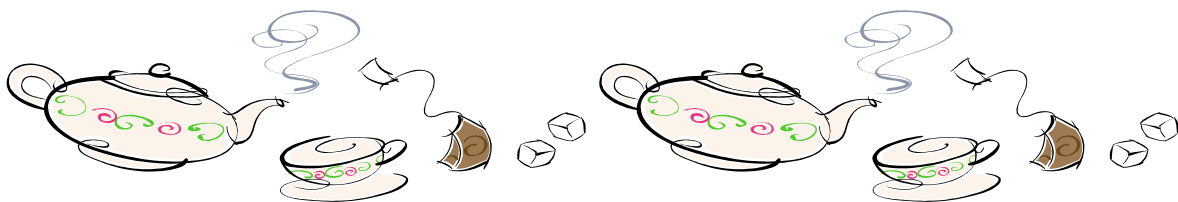
Featured soloists include Anna Cairnduff (soprano) as Pleasure, Christ Church’s Linda Napoletano (mezzo soprano) as Virtue, Kathy Donahue (alto) as Hercules and Richard F. Donahue (tenor) as an attendant on Pleasure. Also performing will be several other members of our choir and several musicians from the NECC.

Both choir and orchestra will be conducted by Richard William Donahue, founder and maestro of NECC for over 35 years.

A high tea reception will follow the 4pm performance in the Parish Hall hosted by Christ Church.

There is no charge for the concert or reception, but a free-will donation will be collected to support NECC. Help will be needed for passing out programs, collecting donations, setting up the church, and hosting of the reception. Volunteers for the reception can call Betty Fuqua at (860) 267-2797 or program coordinator Dick Napoletano at (860) 342-1131.

With the amazing acoustics of our Church, the voices and music promises to be a most outstanding performance. Come and bring a friend!



We need your help for the reception following the concert.

Items needed:

4-5 long white tablecloths 4-5 tea pots (china, silver) 50 cups and saucers

Food needed:

Small sandwiches Cookies, bars, etc

Please see or contact Betty Fuqua if you can provide anything for the High Tea: (860) 267-2797 or wefuqua@comcast.net. Thank you!

From the Desk of the Treasurer

Each week in the Sunday bulletin we publish an update of our year-to-date pledging. Here is what was printed last Sunday, September 18th: As a Parish, we have pledged \$1,555.00 per week for an annual total of \$80,875.00 to support the mission of Christ Church. On Sunday, September 11, we received a total of \$2,589.00 from you. YTD Pledge Budget: \$57,535; YTD Pledge Actual: \$60,645.

Thank you for keeping pledges current during the summer months.

We had two very successful fund-raising events in September. Our annual Labor Day weekend Tag Sale brought in \$3,836.00. Our Cookie Booth at the Haddam Neck Fair brought in \$1,222.87. Thanks to everyone who donated their time, made donations, and helped in any way to make these events so successful.

Barry Edmonds
Treasurer/Bookkeeper



Dear Christ Church vestry,

I thank you very much for granting me a scholarship to go to Camp Washington once more. I experienced lots of fun and games at camp. It was a chance to meet new people and start a new friendship. I had fun going to church at night: we sang songs and added hand motions, which made it interesting.

Gordon (Gingras) and I spent some time together making friendship bracelets, playing tether ball, or just hanging out to talk.

I think it was an awesome camp and I really was looking forward to a great summer and I think it was really generous of the vestry to give me this opportunity.

Sincerely,

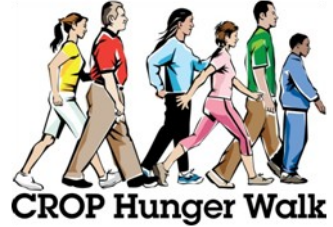
Mariah (Cecilio)

Missions' Team Report - October 2011



Our upcoming Missions' project is providing Thanksgiving baskets for some of our *Covenant to Care* families. We will need four baskets for Thanksgiving. Look for a sign-up sheet to be posted in the Parish Hall. We will also accept cash donations (made out to *Christ Church* with "*Missions – Thanksgiving*" in the memo line). The due date for all gifts for the baskets is November 20. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity to this important program.

The East Hampton CROP Walk along the Lake is on October 16th. This walk is to raise funds to fight hunger in East Hampton and the greater community. The Missions' Team believes that this is a very worthwhile project, but we have to admit that we are just too small a group and too stretched to take on a leadership role for this project. If there is anyone in our Congregation who would like to take on this particular mission, please let us know and we can put you in touch with the local organizers of this inter-faith event.



Our next team meeting will be October 13 at the home of Donna Long at 6 pm. If you wish to join us, please contact Mary Boretz at (860) 267-0365, Donna Long at (860) 467-6278 or Clive (Tucceri) Connor at (860) 267-7813.



Christ Church Website: Facebook Reference and Link

We wish to invite you to visit Christ Church today on Facebook. Here are just a few of the reasons why...

- Read parishioners' comments addressing everything from the weekly service to church activities.
- Find out what the sermon topic will be for the coming week.
- Get updates on upcoming special events or volunteer opportunities.

Whether you are a long-time member or are new to the area, we welcome you to stay current with our vibrant parish community.

[Check us out at Christ Church Middle Haddam today.](#)



Autumn Leaves Fair
November 5th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



After Church services on October 9th, there will be a get-together in the Parish Hall to work on several craft items for the Fair. Here are a few things we are looking for:



Pinecones—We are planning to make some pine cone wreaths, dip pine cones in wax for fire starters, and decorate the cones with paint and glitter for ornaments. We are in need people to bring in PINECONES! Especially larger ones. If you have some in your yard and just need to pick them up, let me know, and I will come out with a bag and help clean the yard!

Re-Gifting Table—This year there is a new table we are promoting. Our “New Table” (or we could call it the Re-Gifting Table) is for all the new items you many have received as gifts and they simply don’t match your décor or are just not your taste. If you don’t know what to do with them, donate it to the Church. A great way to recycle.

Silent Auction—We need 5 or 6 really special items for our Silent Auction table. If you have anything like that, please be in touch Winnie Edmonds.

Knitted and Crochet Items—We have already received some beautiful knitted and crocheted items. If you knit, crochet, quilt or sew, please feel free to add to our collection. We would love to have some mittens, scarves, baby sweaters, blankets etc.

Plant Table—If you have a green thumb you might want to start cuttings for the Plant Table.

Craft/Christmas Table—This table will have Christmas ornaments, Christmas Stockings, Tree Skirts, and Christmas Decorations and many other holiday gift items such as handbags, coasters, placemats and napkins. Think about what you can do to add to this fine collection. All craft/Christmas items are welcome.

Baked Goods Table—Towards the end of October, someone will be calling you to see if you would be willing to make a donation to the food table. We will be looking for pies, cakes, cookies, jams and jellies, candies, etc. Start looking through your recipe books now and pull out that favorite family goody for our food table.

Our Kitchen Menu for the Day—We are planning on serving: Hot dogs, hot apple crisp, with ice cream or whipped cream, coffee, tea, hot cider. *The menu is still in progress. Look for addition menu items.*

Do you have a special talent that we missed? We need everyone to help with this Fair. If you have a special talent we aren’t aware of—don’t keep it a secret any longer. Please share your items and ideas with Winnie Edmonds.

Winnie will be available at coffee hour every Sunday if you have any items you want to drop off or want to discuss something.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for anyone who wants to work at the Fair for a few hours or for the whole day. Please check it out and sign up.



Winnie Edmonds, (860) 267-6226



October Calendar

October 2 16th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am J.A.M. and Nursery School
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 am Community Time and Refreshments

October 9 17th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am J.A.M. and Nursery School
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 am Community Time and Refreshments
- 11:00 am Autumn Leaves Fair Crafting Workshop



October 13

- 6:00 pm Missions' Team Meeting,
Home of Donna Long

October 16 18th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am J.A.M. and Nursery School
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 am Community Time and Refreshments

October 18 6:30 pm Vestry, Parish Hall

October 20 J.A.M.—Youth Event

- 4:00 pm. "Pumpkintown" Outing with Miss Kendra
Meet at Paul's and Sandy's

October 23 19th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am J.A.M. and Nursery School
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 am Community Time and Refreshments
- 4:00 pm High Notes & High Tea



October 26 J.A.M.—Youth Event

- 6:00 pm Krafty Kids—Halloween Crafts with Miss
Kendra. Meet in the Parish Hall

October 30 20th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am J.A.M. and Nursery School
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 am Community Time and Refreshments





*Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081
860-267-0287*