

*Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road
P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam, CT 06456*

September
2009

The Bellringer

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Middle Haddam, CT*

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Letter from the Wardens

This just in The Givens are renting the rectory for the month of September! So, you can still 'drop by and say Hi'. They have been offered the opportunity to continue renting through October. Time will tell.

Another really important thing to occur since your July letter was sent out is that the Transition Team made the decision to return to two services beginning on September 13.

The Tag Sale here at Christ Church and our cookie booth at the Haddam Neck Fair are two big events! We hope you will attend both ... and leave lots of dollars! We still need your help for both.

Please call Dot C. (267-2267) and Dot S. (267-9204) to pitch in for a couple of hours. [If you sweet talk them a little, I'll bet they might give you a longer time slot!]

Stay tuned for updates on the success of our VBS and for ongoing information regarding our Missions Team efforts and fundraising successes.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

George and C W

Christian Education

What a blessed year we have had in the nursery! Play, learning, art, music, and spiritual development abound! Congratulations to Bella on becoming a big sister, and congrats to Aiden on becoming a big brother! I am very excited about the upcoming year, and I am looking forward to serving as Director of Christian Education. As our children grow together in this church community, each passing day is filled with new joys and surprises that we should all be sharing together. Keep on the lookout for Special Family Days, starting this fall, when we will gather together to celebrate family and fellowship. Also, August will be Sunday School registration time, keep watch for more details. Sunday School begins September 13th. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to work with your children, and you. See you on Sunday!

Kendra Dickinson
Director, Christian Education

Catch the Spirit

As many of you have heard, and for those of you that haven't, there will be T-shirts and sweatshirts printed up with the Christ Church logo from days of old. Christ Church 'Catch the Spirit' on the back and the front has a small Episcopal shield on the left side.

Once I have everything confirmed, I will let people know prices and colors available. For now, anyone interested in getting a T-shirt or sweatshirt, please let me know preference and size. There is a sign-up in the parish hall (thanks C.W.) or you can e-mail me at kschluntz@snet.net.

You can also catch me on a Sunday morning.

Fall Church Services

Yogi Berra has been quoted as saying: "The future ain't what it used to be!". Well, here at Christ Church, that 'ain't' the case.

We will be returning to our normal 8 & 10 o'clock services on

September 13.

Sunday school/J.A.M.? Yup.
Choir Rehearsal at 8:30 am.
Nursery? Of course.

WELCOME BACK!



September Birthdays

James Cain September 4



Missions Committee

The Missions Committee would like to extend a great big thank you to all who contributed backpacks and/or school supplies this summer. We were able to donate 13 filled backpacks to Covenant to Care to distribute to kids in need. As the sales hit this Fall, think about grabbing backpacks and supplies to get a jump on next summer!

As Fall approaches, we would like to let you know about our upcoming projects. In October, we will be collecting for our Birthday Bags. In our opinion, every child deserves to have a special birthday. Thus, we have an ongoing project in which we put together a birthday party in a bag – this includes a cake mix and frosting, candles, birthday napkins and other paper goods, and a \$20 gift card. The total cost to put together a bag is \$35. We give the bags to Amanda Grimm, our social worker with Covenant to Care, to distribute to one child a month. We will be putting special envelopes in the pews in October. Please help us to make a child's birthday special by contributing what you can, perhaps in honor of someone's birthday in your family. You can place cash or check (made out to Christ Church with Missions Birthday in the memo line) in the envelope in the plate. You can also donate online or by mail, just be sure to note that the donation is for Missions Birthday Bags.

Also in October, we will be participating in the CROP Walk around the Lake on October 18. This annual event raises money to help feed the hungry. Some of the money raised stays right here in town to support the Food Bank. As more information becomes available after the organizational meeting in September, we will let you know the details. Basically, you can either walk or sponsor someone to walk.

We are still collecting food and supplies for the East Hampton Food Bank weekly at our Sunday service. Please place your gift in the wicker basket.

Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed through Covenant to Care will be our project in November. Finally, Amanda Grimm will provide us information about children who will need our help to have a merry Christmas. Sign-ups and more information about both of these projects will be forthcoming.

Finally, if you are still reading this, perhaps you would be interested in helping out at the committee level, either on a one-project basis or on an on-going basis. We would love to have you join us! We meet from 6-8 pm (and often actually finish earlier but never later) one Wednesday night a month. Our next meeting dates are September 16, October 14, November 11, and December 9. For more information, please contact Clive Tucceri (267-7813), Mary Boretz (267-0365) or Donna Long (467-6278).

Thank you all for supporting the Missions Committee and Christ Church in all of our projects!

HELP

Support our cookie booth at the Haddam Neck Fair
be a Cooke Dough Sponsor

Sponsor one case of cookie dough for \$70.00

Sponsor 1/2 case of cookie dough for \$35.00

Sponsor more or less

Make your check out to Christ Church and put
'Cookie Dough' in the memo area. Place in the collection
plate on Sunday or mail it to the church.

Your Support for this fund raiser is very much appreciated.

MUSIC NOTES

Summer is drawing to a close, and one thing that means is that Christ Church Choir rehearsals will begin again, and the choir will sing at our 10 o'clock services.

Since the Transition Team has decided to have two services each Sunday, the Choir will again rehearse each Sunday at 8:30 in the morning in the Parish Hall.

The first rehearsal will be on Sunday, September 13th, and we will sing an anthem that morning. We invite any interested parishioners to join with us in praising God with song!
Please join us at our rehearsals!



Search for the 15th Bishop of The Diocese of Connecticut

Diocesan Bishop Andrew D. Smith announced his plan to retire in 2010 and called for the election of Connecticut's 15th diocesan bishop for our October 2009 Diocesan Convention.

The Standing Committee of the Diocese subsequently announced the formation of a Search/Nomination Committee for the purpose of prayerfully discerning and naming nominees for the position of the 15th Bishop of Connecticut. A Transition Committee was also formed to introduce the nominees to the Diocese, oversee the election and ease the transition from our 14th to our 15th Bishop. The nominees were announced July 1. With no qualifying Petition Candidates subsequently submitted, there will be no nominees by petition. The 15th Bishop of Connecticut will be elected from the slate previously presented by the Search/Nominating Committee.

Please continue to keep the nominees -- Jim Curry, Mark Delcuze, Ian Douglas, and Beth Fain -- in your prayers. For more information on the nominees, please visit the diocesan website at www.ctdiocese.org

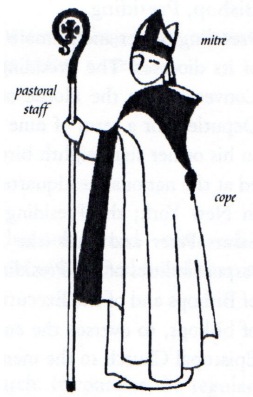


FIGURE 13
BISHOP IN COPE AND MITRE WITH
PASTORAL STAFF

PRAYER CHAIN

As we all return from our summer vacation mode, the Vestry will be rolling up its collective sleeves and getting to work on some of the more pressing needs of the parish. Sunday School and Stewardship not the least amongst these projects, we are also looking to pull together a "prayer chain" for intercessory prayer. To many people, prayer seems complicated, but it is simply talking to God. Jesus himself taught us to talk to God as Father.

Why do we pray? All too often, it's because we want something for ourselves, not unlike a child in the grocery check-out line begging a parent for that candy bar. But prayer is the only way to a real and personal relationship with God. Even though He sees and understands our situations better than we do, He still wants to hear from us in our own words. And we grow as people and Christians for the experience, especially when we pray for things beyond our own immediate concerns.

There are five basic types of prayer. **The first is the prayer of praise.** The simplest way of praising Him is in the name we call Him: Almighty God; Lord Jesus Christ; Lord of Lords; King of Kings. Many of the psalms in the Book of Psalms are prayers of praise, and many prayers of praise are woven through our liturgy.

The second type is the prayer of thanksgiving, or telling God, "thank you". We thank God for all the wonderful things He does for us. He gives us life; He gives us food, clothing and shelter; He gives us good people to share in our lives.

The third type is the prayer of confession, telling God that we are sorry for what we have done (or left undone). He already knows, but 'fessing up is good for our souls, even if it's a little tough to do.

The fourth type is the prayer of supplication, or asking for help. We ask God to keep us safe, to give us courage in tough times, or help us or our loved ones to be strong and healthy. This is probably the type of prayer that comes to us most easily.

The fifth type of prayer is the intercessory prayer, where we ask God to care for another person or part of His creation. God indeed cares for other people without our prayer, but we build our Christian community by asking for God's special care for one another. Our Prayers for the People is one form of intercessory prayer practiced at Christ Church. The Daughters of the King and other private prayers are another. In seeking to form a Prayer Chain, we hope to grow our Prayer Ministry and strengthen the bonds of our community.

Financial Update

Stewardship/Pledge statements as of the end of June 2009 were mailed the week of August 10th. If you have any questions about the statement, please contact me at the phone number or email below.

As of the end of July our pledge income is \$45,706.22 which is under our budget amount by \$2,795.78. The summer months have always been low in pledge collections due to vacations and a drop in weekly attendance. If at all possible mail in your pledge envelop or drop it off at church during office hours, which are - Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 – 2:30.

Barry Edmonds
Acting Treasurer
860-267-6226
bwedmonds@comcast.net

Carrying A Torch?

One of ours that is!!!

One of the torches that belongs to Christ Church is missing! We have done our best to locate the missing torch but it has not turned up as yet.

If you have seen it, or come across it soon, please return it to the church.

We thank you for your help.



Diocesan Bishop

The chief sacramental officer of the Episcopal Church, and the office that gives that church its name. The Greek word for bishop is episcopos, “overseer”; the name of the Episcopal Church thus means that it is a church with bishops. Diocesan bishops are the chief pastors for their dioceses, entrusted with safeguarding the teaching and faith of the church and with special offices of ordination and confirmation. They are required to visit all the parishes and missions in their dioceses at regular intervals, preside at diocesan conventions, and assume administration oversight of their dioceses. In the Episcopal Church there are six kinds of bishops: the Presiding Bishop, diocesan bishops, bishop coadjutors, suffragan bishops, assistant bishops, and retired bishops.

Cope: A semicircular cloak made of materials and liturgical colors that match other vestments or liturgical hangings appropriate to the season. It is worn in liturgical processions but is customarily exchanged for a chasuble at the offertory. Bishops often wear a cope and mitre when they function liturgically, especially at a confirmations and in processions.

Crozier (Pastoral Staff) Sta., often in the shape of a shepherd’s crook, carried by the bishop or the bishop’s chaplain in procession and held by the bishop when pronouncing an Episcopal blessing. It is one of the signs of the office of a bishop.

Mitre: Distinctive hat worn by a bishop and shaped like a shield with two ribbons hanging down the back. It is worn in liturgical processions and when pronouncing Episcopal blessing.

Church Calendar

September 2009

September 1 6:30 pm Transition Team Meeting
Parish Hall

September 4-7 Cookie Booth
Haddam Neck Fair Grounds

September 4-8 Tag Sale
Christ Church

September 6 9:00 am Holy Eucharist
The Rev. Jane Stickney

September 13 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite I
9:45 am Jesus and Me (JAM) - Sunday School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite II

September 15 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting
Parish Hall

September 16 6:00pm Mission Committee Meeting
Parish Hall

September 19 9:30 am Vestry Mission Statement Worship
Parish Hall
The Rev. Peter Floyd, Facilitator

September 20 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite II
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

September 27 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite II
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

September 27 Stewardship Kickoff

October November 2009

October 4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 2
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

October 6 6:30 pm Transition Team Meeting
Parish Hall

October 11 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 2
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

October 14 6:00 pm Mission Committee Meeting
Parish Hall

October 18 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 2
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

October 20 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting
Parish Hall

October 25 8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 2
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite 2
10:00 am Jesus And Me (JAM) - Sunday School

November 3 6:30 pm Transition Team
Parish Hall

November 11 6:00 pm Mission Committee Meeting
Parish Hall

November 17 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting
Parish Hall