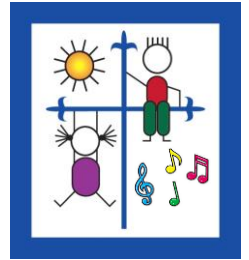




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2014

From The Rector

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Easter is at the heart of our worship life, indeed our entire Christian identity. We were baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. What does that mean for us?

Jesus, whose death we experienced on Good Friday, and whose resurrection we celebrate at Easter, gave all of the world a most precious gift. Because of Christ, we know the power of resurrection – that light will overcome darkness, life overcomes death. And, we are a part of that death and resurrection. In our baptism we died to the sin of self-centeredness, and were given new life in Christ. Our baptismal covenant commits us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

That is the joy of Easter, a joy we will lift up for the next six Sundays. The celebration of the resurrection is a full fifty day event (although we truly celebrate it every day of our lives). In this period, called Eastertide, we will hear of the appearances of our Lord to his apostles, and of his ascension. Eastertide ends at Pentecost (a word that comes from the number 50), when the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples. Guided and empowered by that Spirit, they go out into the world to share the Gospel – the Good News of God in Christ.

Each of us are also called to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, to be awakened to our lives as followers of the risen Christ, and to take that light, that hope, that life, out into this hurting world. We cannot do that alone. Here within our community of faith, we are renewed and restored to do the work we are called to do – the work Christ Church has been doing in our efforts to take the altar into the world.

Eastertide is calling all of us home. See you in church!

Rev. Diana+



“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 6:1-5

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE

The Reverend Diana Wilcox, Rector
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Warden's Words by David C. Drislane

My fellow brothers and sisters of Christ, it has been a short ninety days that I have been fortunate enough to be one of your Wardens. This short time has been filled with many exciting developments within our church community. I would like to take a moment to share with you my personal thoughts about the transformation currently happening here at Christ Church.

One of the most important and exciting developments has been the calling of our new Rector the Rev. Diana Wilcox at the beginning of the year. Her energy, which seems endless at times, is contagious and has helped bring a new sense of life and excitement to our congregation. Rev. Diana has helped to feed us spiritually, so we are prepared to go out into the world to do God's work. For example, adult formation classes were started and a new special service for families with young children called Joyful Noise. There are also plans in the works to grow and develop our Sunday School and Youth programs, as we believe providing our young people with spiritual development and opportunities to grow and be themselves in a safe environment is crucial to their success in life.

For a third year now, Christ Church has participated in Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday. This year our parishioners were again at Bloomfield and Glen Ridge Stations to provide ashes to people on their way to work. It always amazes me how people are so surprised and grateful to see us there. Doing work like this, clearly demonstrates to me that to do God's work we need to be out in the community, which will be another major focus for our church going forward.

We have also done two things to become better stewards of the gifts we have been given and our environment. One of them is our partnership with Green Faith, a faith based organization that believes protecting the earth is a religious value, and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility. Our work with them will require to us perform an energy audit to determine how we currently use and consume energy and how we could do this better. Doing this will help us reduce our energy consumption and thus have a positive impact on the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. In addition, it will reduce our energy costs so that those funds can then be redirected to outreach ministries so we can broaden our ability to help people and do God's work.



Ashes to Go 2014



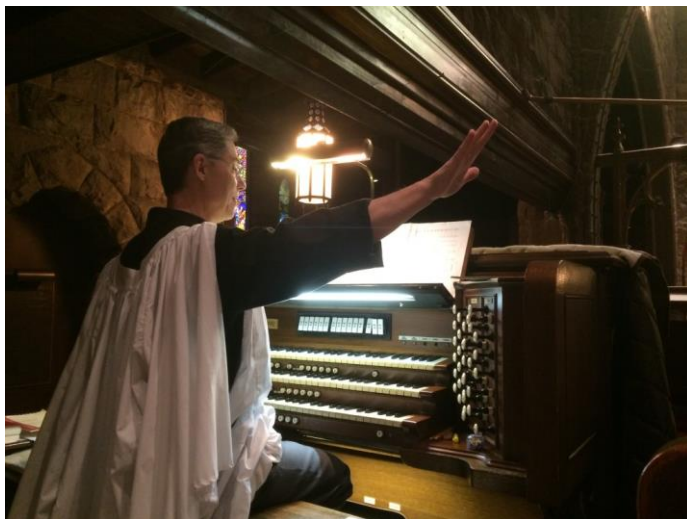
The second stewardship initiative was the overdue renovation of the flooring in our worship space. The terrazzo tile and wood floors were repaired and refinished enhancing the space and providing a more welcoming environment. While doing this we also decided to change our labyrinth from a temporary to permanent one since we use this for many things during worship throughout the year.

As you can see the first ninety days have been filled with much work and many exciting changes and developments at Christ Church. We are laying the foundation to enable our congregation at Christ Church to grow and meet the needs of our surrounding communities. It is a honor and pleasure to be one of your Wardens and please let me know if I can be of assistance or help to you at any time.

Music Notes by Bill Davies

The seasons of Lent and Easter present us with many of the central questions of the Christ event: The purpose and effect of the death and resurrection of an incarnate God. The music we choose to mark the long arc from Ash Wednesday to Easter helps us to understand the answers. Fortunately, there is a huge range of music available, and in fact worshippers at Christ Church sing and hear a vast amount of that available range.

Consider, for instance, chronological range. Between Lent I and Easter, we sing music of one of the earliest known composers of music and that of some of the most recent. During both the Great Vigil of Easter and the Easter morning service, the choir sings the ancient sequence “*Victimae Paschali Laudes*,” written by a tenth-century figure we know as Wipo of Burgundy, a priest attached to the court of the Holy Roman Emperor Conrad II. The way we sing it is also rather ancient. We use the original chant melody, but add a device called *organum* just at the end, singing the “amen” and “alleluia” in two parts at a fixed interval, one of the first ways of adding harmony to a sung text. The tune we find in the *Victimae* has had a long and happy musical life. During the Reformation, Martin Luther turned it into a popular hymn of the Reformed Church, writing a German text (*Christ lag in Todesbanden*/Christ lay in the strong bonds of death) that mirrors the Latin one’s emphasis on the struggle of death and life, but also injects his own theology of faith in the last verses. (The hymn is in *The Hymnal 1982* at number 185). While we don’t often sing the hymn, the postlude for Easter represents it well: It’s Johann Sebastian Bach’s choral prelude *Christ Log in Todesbanden*, based on the tune that is common to both the Lutheran hymn and the tenth century sequence.



At the other end of our chronology, you will find the Canadian-Polish composer Michael Oczko (1958-2010), whose setting of the hymn tune “What Wondrous Love is This” was the anthem for Lent III. Even in this simple piece, many elements come together. For instance, Oczko – who also had some success writing film scores – chose to set a tune very much associated with the southern United States, though his own roots were Canadian and Polish. (He became a Polish citizen after the fall of the Eastern bloc.) And the tune itself has an interesting history. It was clearly used during camp meetings of the Second Great Awakening in the early 19th century, but its original lyrics may have been 18th century and in the popular vein. They probably told the story of the pirate Captain Kidd! This tune, too, has found its way into the organ literature, most notably in a piece by the American composer Samuel Barber, *Variations on an American Shape Note Tune*.

All of which brings us to Easter. The Great Vigil of Easter is historically the most important service of the church year. In the early church, it was the service at which baptisms took place, and at which catechumens were received into full communion. Because it recounts the history of salvation through a series of readings and musical responses, the service also recapitulates much of the entire liturgical year’s story of the Christ event. The Vigil begins with an ancient piece of chant, the *Exsultet*, which exhorts heavenly beings to rejoice and choirs of angels to sing. Moving from darkness into light and reflective quiet into loud praise, the Vigil brings back the “alleluias” that have been silenced since Ash Wednesday. Easter morning finds us in full-blown alleluia fervor, with a full slate of favorite Easter hymns and a festive rendition of “Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain,” set by R.S. Thatcher as the anthem.

What does all of this music convey? Much of the answer is in the music itself, of course, and is therefore immediate in the literal sense; unmediated by anything, including words. But the texts have also been chosen for a reason. Perhaps phrases from “What Wondrous Love” and “God So Loved the World” are sufficient: Christ “laid aside his crown,” ...“not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved”



Pictures from Good Friday and our Stations of the Cross in Community. We were joined by The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop of the Diocese of Newark, who led us in prayers.

The stations were in our towns of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, where approximately 40 people joined us to look at places of despair and hope in our communities. More pictures will be available on our website.





Nursery School News by Maria Feliz-Collado

The Nursery School of Christ church has been serving Glen Ridge, Bloomfield and other surrounding areas since 1967. Our Year round program offers a safe, welcoming learning environment for infant 6 weeks to 6 years of age. We offer Music to all of our students, Dance with Melissa, Kiddie Soccer and Let's Yoga year round to children 3 and up. We offer fun learning activities for children throughout the year such as our chick-hatching project and our butterfly release event in the spring. Warm weather brings water days every Friday in the summer and our summer program is jammed pack with special events such as Special Story Times, Outdoor Olympics and Carnival Day!

Christ Church Focuses On Children

This past February, our we began the "Joyful Noise!" service for children ages 7 and under, and their parents. This interactive service is fun and engaging, and it takes place in our new children's chapel located in the church beside the labyrinth every Sunday from 9:15am-9:45am, from September to May. Children sing and learn the stories of our faith.

The leadership of Christ Church is committed to the formation of children of all ages, and the Rector will be hiring a part time Director of Family Ministries sometime in early summer. This position will focus on the development of robust Sunday School programs, Vacation Bible School, and so much more. We are also looking at our infrastructure to create good space for children to worship and learn.

Stay tuned for more about all we are doing here at Christ Church to create a safe and fun environment for the formation of all of God's children.



Youth Group Raises Over \$1,300!

Our youth group will showed their muscle for a good cause by raising over \$1,300 for MDA last Sunday. Their team, the Spirited Walkers joined others in the MDA Walk. Well done Spirited Walkers! We are so very proud of all of you!!



Installation Of Our New Rector

On Saturday, May 17th at 3pm we will welcome our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, local clergy, and our community to the Celebration of New Ministry here at Christ Church. This is the official installation of our 21st rector, the Rev. Diana L. Wilcox.

The Celebration of New Ministry service is a cherished tradition of our church. The liturgy is from our Book of Common Prayer and other liturgical supplements. It is a time when the parish stands as a united community before the bishop to request that the new Rector be installed. Symbolic gifts are presented to the new Rector – keys by the Wardens, chalice & paten by the Altar Guild, the book of Constitution & Canons by local Episcopal clergy, and so on.

It is also a time to recognize the hard work of all those who made this discernment journey possible. Recognized that day will be the Vestry, Wardens, and of course, the Discernment Team.

Don't miss this important event in the life of our church!

Christ Church Is Going Green!

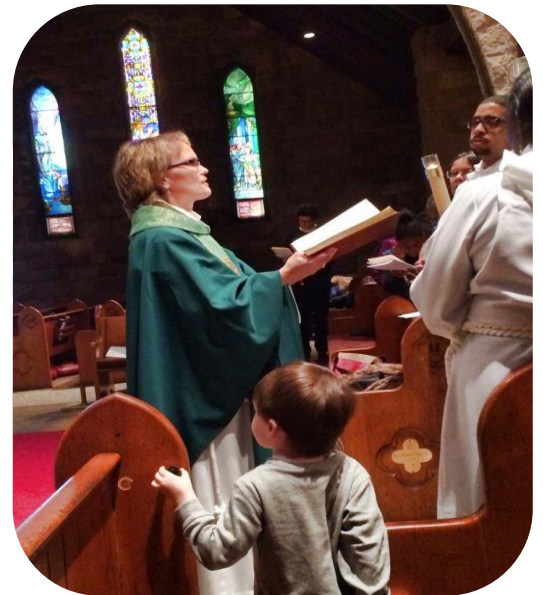
Christ Church Vestry Resolution on Energy Conservation Passed April 7, 2014

WHEREAS, the vestry of Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge recognizes that Christianity teaches us that we have a moral responsibility to preserve and protect our environment, and

WHEREAS, the vestry of Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge recognizes that we have a fiduciary duty to operate and maintain our facilities in a fiscally responsible manner.

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge is committed to incorporating energy conservation into the operation and maintenance of our church facilities;



"To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit." (BCP p.562 from the liturgy for new ministry)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge will promote and encourage energy conservation and awareness in the Christ Church community and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge will emphasize through our religious observance and in other ways the Christian teachings and traditions to preserve and sustain the environment and promote actions that demonstrate this commitment.

What does all of this mean? It means that we will work with Green Faith, a non-profit organization dedicated to these ideals, to audit our current energy use, and to listen to recommendations for how we can be better stewards of creation and of our resources, both natural and financial. Stay tuned for more as we move through this important process.

“Death and Resurrection” by Rick Fox

My favorite charity outside of the Church is the National Federation of the blind. To me, that sounds like a glib understatement, when I think of the way in which the people of that organization helped me through an especially painful period of my life.

A year in college had changed me from a cocky kid who thought he could do anything into a person who was depressed, lacked confidence, and thought negatively about almost everything. That’s when I met the



National Federation of the Blind. The organization was founded in 1940 by a small group of blind people who felt that only people who were blind could and should lead the blind from a position of almost guaranteed idleness, helplessness and poverty, to a position of equality with their sighted neighbors. The very idea that this might be possible was, in that day, controversial.

The first, and most important lesson I began to learn from my NFB mentors was: It is respectable to be blind. As I pondered this message, I realized that I viewed my disability as a badge of inferiority. I have learned that this is common among people with disabilities, and other marginalized minorities. The idea that I, Rick Fox, blindness and all, could claim the same dignity and self-respect as other human beings, was, to say the least, liberating and revolutionary. All that shame and self-loathing could now be put to use in positive ways.

The second lesson was: keep your expectations high; don’t abandon your dreams because of your disability. My NFB mentors gave me constant encouragement. One totally blind NYC veteran spent a day with me in the NYC subways and crazy noisy streets of Manhattan. I decided I really could live and work in NYC when he led me across 116 street and Broadway.

Rick serving at the 8am service with his guide dog “Guy”

I’m proud to say I have built a 35-year career in the technology field, beginning in New York City. Lesson number 3: Only a blind person can teach another blind person lessons 1 and 2. Lesson4: If we have taught you life-transforming lessons, pass them on to other by continuing the work of the NFB.

Over most of my adult life, I have tried to do that by mentoring others, educating the public regarding the capabilities of blind people, working with governmental and private agencies doing work with people who are blind to improve their services, and lobbying our legislators to pass laws conducive to equal participation of blind people in our society.

Our current issue is: abolition of subminimum wage payments to people with disabilities. Yes, corporations and nonprofits alike are allowed to pay people with disabilities less than the minimum wage! Though I cringe at the remembrance of my painful period of depression and self-doubt, I am a more mature and compassionate person having gone through it. My sufferings seem to have borne fruit, though I do what I can to help young people avoid the pain that I experienced. I’m loath to make any definitive statements about the redemptive power of suffering, but it is Eastertide, and death and resurrection are in our thoughts.

If you are in pain, I pray that Christ will bring you through it, and use it to bear fruit for His Kingdom.

Our First Newsletter

We at Christ Church are excited by the new life and transformation in this place, and this newsletter is a part of the many ways we are stepping boldly forward in faith. This newsletter will be published four times each year, and will cover the life of this congregation – worship, spiritual formation, music, children & youth, and so much more. Let us know what you think.

Winter's End by Judith Richardson-Dunkley

The long winter is waning
Signs of life begin to appear
Patches of green grass beneath the melting snow
A solitary bud
The grey shroud has lifted
Though a certain chill still fills the air
At least on certain days
But in between warmth and bright sunlight
Hope

This winter has seemed particularly long
Perhaps because we've grown far too accustomed
To what had been uncharacteristically mild
Or just seems that way
Recall is a fickle mistress
Making us remember things as we wished them to be
And not the way they actually were
Old habits are hard to break
And there is safety in the old and familiar
But care must be taken
As safety becomes synonymous with constancy
Constancy becomes complacency
And complacency begets stagnation

We have become like the mighty tree
Buffeted by harsh winds
Beset by heavy snow and ice
A few branches lost
But still strong

Here are some of the ways you can find out more about what is happening here at Christ Church:

The website:

<http://christchurchepiscopal.org>

Our Facebook page: facebook/cc74park

Our Sunday Paper, an insert in our Sunday Bulletin, all of which is located on our website for download to your e-reader or iPad.

By email:

office@christchurchepiscopal.org

And the best way...come to church!

New branches will form
To be filled with summer leaves
Offering shelter for birds and wildlife
A support on which the weary may lean
And a crown of rich green under which
strangers may find shade

The new tree will resemble the old
But it will not be quite the same
Still it will stand
Offering refuge to the lost
Rest to the weary
A welcoming home
And a beacon for all to see

