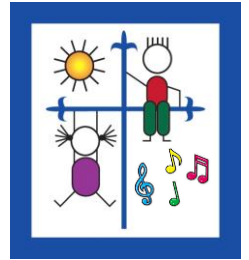




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2015

From The Rector

“I have seen the Lord!”

These words of Mary Magdalene, the apostle to the apostles, the one chosen by Jesus to be the first to know of his resurrection, are really the first words of Easter. “I have seen the Lord!” So often, it seems, we leave this “seeing” to something that happened over two thousand years ago. But the truth of Easter, the joy that is ours, is that it is something happening now. And the question is – where have you encountered Christ?

We have walked this week through the anguish of Gethsemane, to the darkness of the shadow of the cross, and here we are now rejoicing in the empty tomb. The message of that moment is that Christ is alive – here and now. Where is he? In the marginalized, the homeless, the oppressed. He is in you, and me, and everyone. And he is present with us most especially when we gather here around the table to be nourished with his body and blood in the Eucharist.

Easter is a powerful statement – that no darkness or death is more powerful than the light of God. But it is also a call to action for all of us. It is a call to model Christ in the world in the way he showed us before his death – to love and to serve as he did for us.

We are a resurrection people!

We are the body of Christ that is alive in the world then, now and always. A people ready to proclaim the good news – and then to live into that good news by serving the least of these.

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

See you in church!

Rev. Diana+



“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.”

John 20:18

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE

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Warden's Words by Bill Seeman

Many of us think of Lent as a time of sacrifice as we pledge to give up something we enjoy in observance of the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. In reading the Lenten messages of Pope Francis and Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop, I learned that Pope Francis views Lent as “a time of renewal for the whole church” and that Katharine Jefferts Schori states that “it’s also about a journey. And it’s a journey about enlightenment if we’re willing to think about it that way.”



Thinking about Christ Church, it seems that we are in step with these thoughts in Lent 2015. We continue to renew our parish both spiritually and physically and these acts of renewal serve as milestones on our journey toward our goal of building a robust parish that will serve and lead our various communities both religious and secular.

What Exactly Is A Warden Anyway?

The canons of the Episcopal Church say very little about wardens other than their responsibility to ensure that worship services are continued in the absence or disability of the rector or parish priest. The term itself dates back to seventeenth century England because of the individual’s responsibility to unlock the church doors for worship and other events.

An open and trusting relationship

Putting canons and customs aside, the primary role of the warden is to serve as the lay partner of the rector in articulating the mission and vision of the parish, managing its day-to-day operations, identifying and nurturing leaders, and empowering members of the congregation to live out the Gospel in their daily lives. The role requires an open, honest and trusting relationship between warden and rector — and it is virtually impossible to fulfill if these key elements are missing or impaired. Elections of Wardens occur at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Our Wardens

We are blessed to have two fabulous Warden’s, Bill Seeman and David Drislane. Many others have served in this role, and it may be one that you will find yourself called to at some time in the future.

Both the renewal process and the journey bring change. When we take a vacation trip, we do it because we want to experience something different and perhaps new as opposed to continuing our daily routine. When we move to a new home, new town, go away to college or take a new job, we do it to improve ourselves and grow. Sometimes we prepare to face change and the unknown and not always willingly. But, if we face renewal and the journey in an enlightened way, the result is almost always positive and rewarding.

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry are working to provide such a positive and rewarding experience for all of us in the Christ Church family but we can only measure our success through your feedback. What do YOU think of our journey of renewal so far. We encourage you to let us know!

Wishing all of you a blessed Lent and Easter season,
Bill

Music Notes by Bill Davies, Director of Music

As you may have heard, we are about to embark on a project to rebuild the organ console, as well as some other needed maintenance on the organ. What follows is a brief explanation of that work.

The Christ Church organ is a 35-rank, three manual instrument, installed in 1951. That means that the organ has roughly 35 different individual sounds, each of which accounts for a “rank” of pipes – i.e. enough pipes to account for all of the notes on the manual from which the stop (the name for a particular sound) is played, controlled at a console that has three keyboards (plus a pedal board). This results in an amazing amount of complexity. If we imagine that the organist draws one stop and plays an eight-note scale, we will have some understanding of the starting point of this complexity. Drawing the stop (essentially “turning it on”) sends an electronic signal to the pipework.



Depressing each key sends a series of further signals. Each of those signals is carried by a discrete set of wires. The electronic signals engage the air stored in the organ’s wind chests. The wind pressure is used not only to send air through pipes, creating sound, but also to open and close the stop mechanisms and the mechanisms that allow air to flow into each pipe as each key is depressed. Each key depressed engages a series of air chambers built of wood and leather, creating and realizing vacuums. If we now imagine that the organist has in fact drawn a number of stops (a dozen wouldn’t be all that unusual), we can begin to develop a sense of the extent to which the functioning of the organ depends on a great number of pieces of electronic and pneumatic equipment functioned quickly and precisely. Thus, the organ has what is referred to as “electro-pneumatic action.”

So, what’s wrong with it? Basically, age. The organ’s pipework was rebuilt in 1990, twenty-five years ago. The console was not rebuilt at that point, so everything at that end of the functioning parts of the organ is sixty-four years old. Electronic contacts have pitted, wiring no longer functions well. Beyond that, the electro-pneumatic technology that was “state-of-the-art” in 1951 is no longer that. Newer digital systems allow all of the complex actions described above to happen based on many fewer elements that can break down over time. Once the work is completed – over the upcoming summer – the sound of the organ will be the same, but we will be assured that that sound can continue to be produced for many years to come.

About The Organ Restoration Project

As Bill Davies mentioned, we will be restoring our organ console so that we might continue to enjoy music from it for years to come.

We are putting together a team to work with Peragallo, the restoration company, on raising funds to replenish our capital account, as this project will cost \$59,860. Look for more information in the next few months on that effort.

If you would like to contribute, or help to raise these funds, please let one of the Wardens know, or Rev. Diana.

Christ Church Children

Nursery School News by Jean Bannon, Director



The Nursery School of Christ Church (along with everyone else), is looking forward to Spring! We had our annual chick hatching project and it was so much fun. Quiver Farms in Pennsylvania brings a dozen eggs, and an incubator for us to do this wonderful project with the children. We watch the eggs crack, and the baby chicks pop out! They stay and visit with us for a few more days, until they are yellow and fluffy and can return home to the farm.

During Lent, Rev. Diana met with the children to talk about Ash Wednesday. They were very curious about all the big

things in the church and wanted to explore the high altar.

We all celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with stories, and actually eating Green Eggs and Ham! This is in conjunction with Read Across America March 2nd through March 6th. Our Yoga class began on Friday, March 6, 2015, and our Dance classes will start on Wednesday, March 11th. Soccer classes are scheduled to begin in April. We cannot wait to get outside and start enjoying our playground!



Sunday School, by Candice Whitaker, Director of Family Ministries

This is a very exciting time for the children of Christ Church. The energy they bring to church is absolutely fantastic! We have already welcomed new families this year and it has been a joy to meet new (at least to me!) faces each Sunday. We are now offering Sunday School



every Sunday, and we've transitioned to meeting in the Toddler Room in the Parish Hall. Youth who are in 6th grade or older are invited to serve as acolytes in worship. Our next training session will be the Sunday after Easter, April 12, after the 10:30 service. We would love to have more kids involved in worship, so please see Candice for more information if you're interested.



The youth choir, led by our Director of Music, Bill Davies, will be singing at this year's Easter service. After their fantastic debut at Christmas, we are so excited to hear them sing again! And you won't want to miss our Annual Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30am service—all children are invited to participate. The youth are a tremendous help in getting everything ready for the kids, and it's going to be a blast!

The KidZone

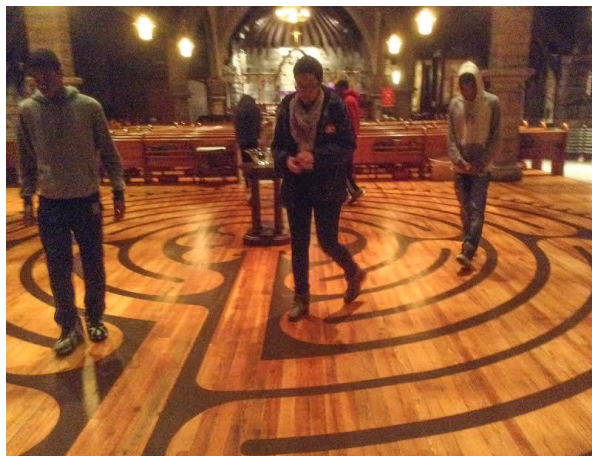
This past year we added the KidZone at the back of our church. This space is designed to allow children and their families to worship together, but in space that is welcoming and engaging for little ones. There is a play mat, the maze (labyrinth to adults), books, crayons, and bulletins made just for them.

Also in the KidZone is a rocker with handmade baby blankets, for parents who need to provide a peaceful moment for their infants. We recently hired two of our nursery school staff for our infant care on Sundays as well.

Why do we do all of this? Because we want everyone to know that children are not only welcome here, they can teach us so much about what it means to sing a joyful noise.



Youth Group News



Our High School Youth Group is at it again...planning outreach efforts, growing in their faith, and having fun. They meet on the second and fourth Sundays from 6-8pm. Youth Group provides an opportunity for teens to talk about their lives and their faith journey in a safe and sacred space. Our Youth Group last year also raised over \$1,300 to help those with neuromuscular diseases, and served in numerous roles in worship as acolyte, lector, and crucifer. At left, our Youth Group walked the labyrinth as part of an introduction to different forms of prayer. In the weeks to come they will be building transformative art out of trash as part of their effort to raise awareness of our need to care for all of God's creation. Don't miss it. All High School age youth are welcome!

Adult Formation



Christ Church isn't only for the young, but the young at heart too! Adult Formation is an important part of living into our baptismal covenant. This year there have been a number of Adult Forums after worship. The topics have engaged a wide range of theological and contemporary areas, including: Epiphany: The Jesus and Peter Moments of Our Lives, Lent Madness, The Gospel Parallels, The Bible & Homosexuality, Spooks & Saints, Episcopal 101, Ways to Pray

There is also a Men's Group, a Women's Group that is starting later than planned due to the weather, a Book Club, Zen Meditation, Labyrinth Walk & Compline services on Wednesdays, and of course, the popular Theology on Tap.

Report of the Rector

The following was included in our Annual Report (some information has been updated). The full Annual Report presented at our Parish Meeting in January of 2015 is available both in print and on line on our website.

God has truly blessed us all this past year, and it seems only yesterday, rather than exactly one year ago, that I started as your Rector. Our journey together as new priest and parish has been filled with so many opportunities for renewal and growth. Inside these pages are the stories – our stories – of transition, of new life, of growing to serve and serving to grow. I encourage everyone to read these pages, because they are your story – a story of the Holy Spirit at work here at Christ Church through you.

There truly is so much good news to share, and much of it is part of other reports, but I will try to just highlight a few. Some of these I have already shared in various forms of communication throughout the year. In 2014 we...



- ❖ Increased our average Sunday attendance by 14% and our financial outlook is good
- ❖ Our diversity was featured in a nationally recognized online business news service, the International Business Times
- ❖ Restored our worship space, fixing and refinishing the wood and cleaning the terrazzo, while making the labyrinth a permanent and beautiful addition to our nave (which, in itself, has attracted many to our church), and made other building repairs including removal of the dirty plexiglass hiding our stained glass and restoring the broken steps leading into the Coursen Room and the Sacristy
- ❖ Added worship experiences, including: Last Chance Mass/Worship Without Walls, Joyful Noise!, Stations of the Cross in Community, Labyrinth Walk & Compline
- ❖ We continued in our outreach, including: The Nursery School, Ashes 2 Go, SpiritWalk, Giving Tree and so much more
- ❖ Transformed the choir room into a multi-purpose space that respects the past, but is not grounded there.
- ❖ Created a KidZone to make it easier for families with young children to come to worship, staffed up our child care facilities, added an Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Pageant
- ❖ Launched a new website (over 21,000 hits), new Facebook page (over 555 likes), new quarterly newsletter, and new weekly Sunday Paper
- ❖ Hired new staff, and both Nursery School and Church staff now work seamlessly together
- ❖ Offer Adult Formation programs on a variety of topics
- ❖ Added social opportunities, including a Second Saturday Stitchers, and even more to come
- ❖ Hosted diocesan events, including Christophany and Diocesan Council meetings



Already the following new programs have been started or are planned for 2015: a Women's Group, a Meditation Group, and a Book Club.



We also are planning an Infrastructure Project that will allow for growth of both the church and the nursery school. The current Sunday School space will be re-vamped and shared with the Nursery School, and 74 Park will get an overhaul as well. The result will be better accessibility to the parish offices, small and large group meeting spaces that provide a cozy living room feel, an additional kindergarten class room (we are currently maxed out), and a great youth group space. Look for more news on this in the months ahead.

What does all this mean? We are growing to serve and serving to grow. Christ Church is growing by leaps and bounds, and in the next year, we will experience even more. And yet, as Christians, we do not exist, nor does the church, for ourselves alone, but for God, and we are called to love and serve in the name of Christ. In the years ahead, we will continue to “grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and create community,” that others may know that they are loved unconditionally and for all time. There is much work to do in this dark and weary world, but together we will step boldly forward knowing that in all that we do, because of Christ, there is no darkness that his light cannot overcome, that life is stronger than death.

I am truly humbled to be called to love and serve you, and I pray we continue to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit in the year ahead.

Blessings,

Rev. Diana L. Wilcox, Rector

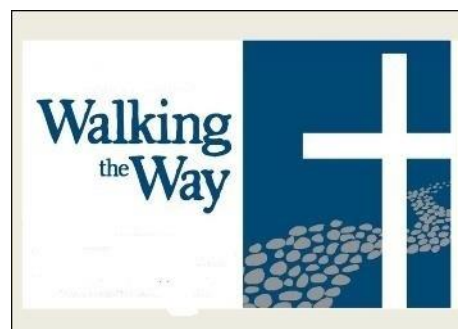
Thank You!

So many of you responded to the stewardship campaign this year that we have blown past 2014 numbers in terms of pledges and amounts pledged. We still see some names missing, and we hope that if you have not had a chance to get your pledge in, that you take a moment to remember the place where you find spiritual enrichment – Christ Church – your parish home, by offering your gift to God, and to loving and serving in the name of Christ. All of the great news you see above in the Rector's Report are only possible through the generosity of those who pledge to the church. Thank you!

Christ Church Diversity Makes News!

Our church was featured in the International Business Times on December 10, 2014 in an article on the diversity of churches. We were one of only three churches in the country mentioned in the article, which spoke to our diverse congregation, and the importance of that in a world often divided by race. Check it out online by going to our website, or to the article directly at:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/us-churches-make-moves-become-more-diverse-less-racially-segregated-1745825>



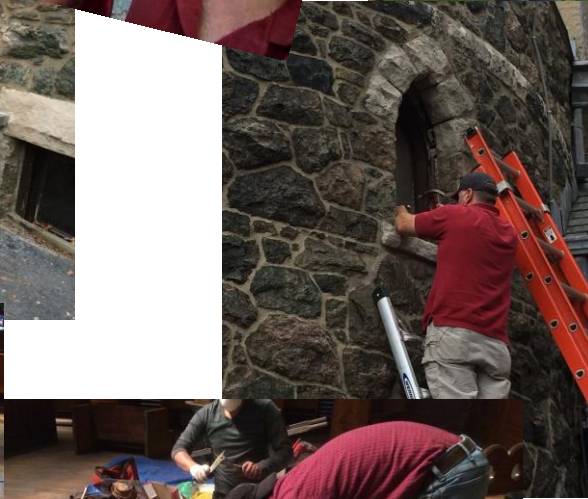
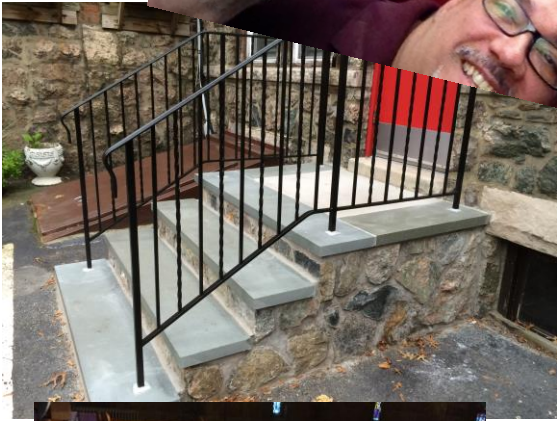
Christ Church At A Glance (favorite moments over the past year)...



Sunday School children make banners for Easter Sunday, Bishop visit with Christophany youth, and the Christophany youth sing at worship on Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt



Landscaping, Restoration of the steps, floors, and windows. The "Bell Team," Coursen Room makeover and dedication





Parish Hall worship service, Blessing of the Animals, Installation of Rev. Diana as Rector, Baptism, Stations of the Cross in Community, Ashes to Go, Last Chance Mass...on the Grass





Youth Group Trip to St. John the Divine, Men's Group Fundraiser for our Nursery School, Nursery Thanksgiving & Christmas, Theology on Tap, Christmas Pageant and Youth Choir, Ash Wednesday with the Nursery School and Rev. Diana, Staff at Christmas.



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.com/cc74park](https://www.facebook.com/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!

Our 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 is 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.

**Christ Church
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