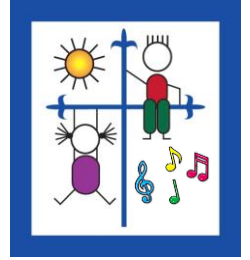




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2016

From The Rector

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. Throughout this week, we have considered the choices Jesus made; and now, in the glow of the resurrection, we have a choice to make too.

The choice that is ours is whether we leave this good news here, inside the walls of the church; or, as the women did, who were the first to receive the news that he lives, will we seek him out? Because Jesus is alive, now! And, he is calling us to not only proclaim that message, but go to him. He can be found 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 – the body of Christ that is alive in the world then, now and always! And we have a choice to make. Do we live that good news, or do we leave it behind? Like the one He made for us, it is a choice each of us must make. This hungry and hurting world hopes we choose to walk in love as Christ loved us.

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

See you in church!

Mother Diana+



“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

Luke 24:5b

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE

The Reverend Diana Wilcox, Rector
74 Park Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
973-743-5911

christchurchepiscopal.org

facebook.com/cc74park

Warden's Words by Bill Seeman

Last year at this time, in this newsletter, I wrote to you about the meaning of Lent. Quoting both Pope Francis and then Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, I suggested that Lent is a time of renewal and is about a journey about enlightenment. Further, the message observed that the renewal process and journey would bring change that could be positive and rewarding.

Since then, there have been many initiatives designed to sustain and enrich our worship journey. To name a few, we experienced the renewing "Mass on the Grass with Brass" in The Glen last spring. We also enjoyed wonderful Evensong services and Lessons and Carols featuring our



terrific and growing choir. These services drew many from outside of our congregation and began to give notice to our communities that Christ Church is thriving. Vacation Bible School and our Outreach Committee are the new face of Christ Church in the community. All of this required a great deal of time, talent, and dedication to complete and much credit goes to the rector, staff, and people of Christ Church for all the work they put in to ensure these programs and worship services happened.



All the while, it was clear to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry (pictured on left at their annual Fall Retreat) that for these and other programs to continue, we needed to secure

our financial future. Following many months of design study, financial projections and negotiation with banks, we have begun our Infrastructure Project to renovate 74 Park Avenue and the Parish Hall to expand the Nursery School, improve our Sunday School and youth facilities and make our administrative plant more workable and inviting. Once completed, it is expected that our renewed facilities will help generate the revenue necessary to enable growth of the church and the nursery school in a financially sound environment. *(For more on that project, see page 10)*

The result of the preparation and work is beginning to be visible now, during Lent 2016, and it is the manifestation of our renewal and enlightened journey. None of this would have been possible without your faith and support, and the dedication, imagination and skill of your Rector, Wardens, Vestry, Treasurer and Finance Committee.

Please enjoy this exciting time!

Wishing all of you a blessed Easter season,

Bill



Music Notes by Bill Davies, Director of Music

Major & Minor

It's probably a questionable assertion in theological terms, but, musically at least, I much prefer Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to Easter. It's true that Easter is big and loud and joyous. It comes with trumpets and full organ. It does not, however, tend to come with lots of subtlety. It says, "Be happy!" And then it says it again, and louder.

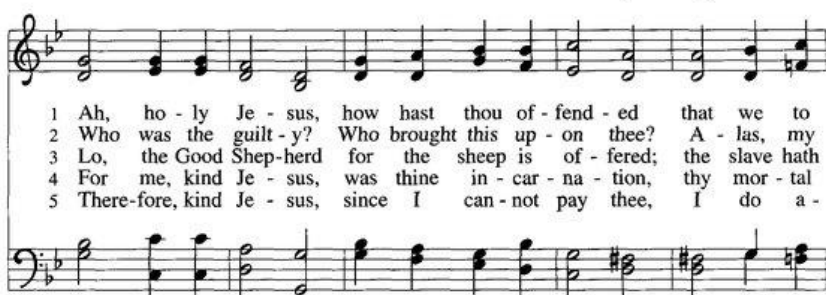
But consider the days leading up to Easter. Even the simplest music of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday explores the rich emotional terrain of suffering and loss as redemptive. Listen to the simple chorale "Ah, Holy Jesus, how has thou offended," (*see below*) and the music itself conveys the intense irony of a perfect God killed for the redemption of sinners.



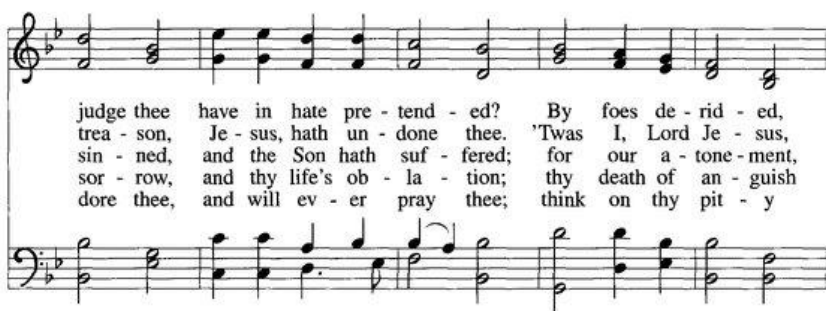
HOLY WEEK, THREE DAYS

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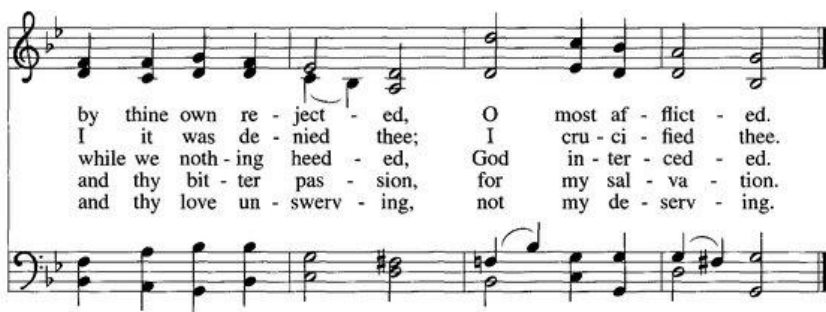
Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

richness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The trumpets on Easter will make more sense.

This version is in g minor ("Minor is richer than major!"), but you're hearing an amazingly quick progression of harmonies. Consider just two passages and how they fit the text.

In the first line and the last the composer, Joann Cruger, toys with our ears by juxtaposing major and minor chords in quick progression. On the first line, the word "offended" is sung on the B-flat Major, c minor and then - wham! - D Major chords.

Then consider the final word of the first verse, "afflicted." It's all sung on minor chords, except for one tiny beat of D Major, just before we settle back to the home key of g minor. You're being asked to think here. There's a bit of hope embedded in this sorrowful chorale, as well there should be, if it is to express musically the richness of what the crucifixion means.

If you tend to skip "the sad bits" of the season, you're missing something.

Next year, plan to experience the

Communications News by Jayne Murphy-Morris, Director of Communications

The Parish Office is responsible for all communications and the management of the facilities. It is also often the first point of contact for vendors, visitors, and others looking to know more about the church.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE

[Is This Sunday Jan 17- Come hear all the great news! There will be only one morning service - 10:30am.](#)

Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

Home About Us ▾ Worship ▾ Growing in Faith ▾ Serving Our Neighbors ▾ Creating Community ▾ New To The Episcopal Church? ▾ Photo Gallery

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN • OUR NEWSLETTER • IN THE NEWS! • PLEDGE/DONATE • OUR ANNUAL REPORT • DAILY BIBLE READING FROM TAIZE • CONTACT US

The screenshot shows the website's layout. On the left, there are sections for 'DIRECTIONS' with a church photo, 'ALL ARE WELCOME!' with a 'We're a Believe OUTLOUD' logo, and 'JOIN US FOR WORSHIP'. The main content area features a large photo of a baptism with the text 'Baptisms' and a 'Sermon' section. Below this are 'Upcoming Events' for a 'Blood Drive - Jan 16' and 'News To Share' for a 'Christmas Newsletter Online!'. On the right, there is an 'ACCESSIBLE' sign and an 'OUR CALENDAR' showing services for Thursday, January 14, Saturday, January 16, Sunday, January 17, Monday, January 18, and Wednesday, January 20.

Over the past year, we have worked to ensure that all the good things happening in and out of Christ Church are well known in our surrounding communities. We have launched Facebook and newspaper ads, had sign displays on Bloomfield Avenue near the Glen Ridge train station, and brightly colored banners alongside the church on Bloomfield Avenue. Press releases were also sent to local media for our events, and Mother Diana has been writing a periodic column for the Glen Ridge Voice.

We have been working on producing a new Photo Directory as well, but we don't have nearly enough photos yet to print it. And, as always, we produce the bulletins and Sunday Papers for every worship service, all of which are loaded online each week, as well as the quarterly newsletter. Speaking of online communications, our website has over 40,000 hits, and our Facebook page has over 650 likes – ensuring that this parish is reaching our neighbors and beyond. *(taken from our Annual Report)*

The Director of Communications also works as a liaison between the Nursery School Staff and church events to make sure that we are all supporting one another. It is a privilege to be a part of this thriving ministry. To get in touch with the office, email office@christchurchepiscopal.org or call 973.743.5911.

Children & Youth News, by Candice Whitaker, Director of Family Ministries

Spring is just around the corner! Our Sunday School attendance continues to flourish and we have had a great time learning about the season of Lent as the kids have grown familiar with the Stations of the Cross. We still offer Sunday School every Sunday during the 10:30 service in the Toddler Room just off the Parish Hall. Youth who are in 6th grade or older are invited to serve as acolytes and participate in worship.



The youth choir, led by our Director of Music, Bill Davies, will be singing at the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday. It is always a joy to hear them sing again! And don't forget about our Annual Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30am service—all children are invited to participate. This is a joint effort with the youth group. They serve as “egg-stuffers” and “egg hiders” and they are a tremendous help in getting everything ready for the kids. You won't want to miss it! If you have any questions or would like to help work with the kids in Sunday School, please see Candice for more information.

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. The Christ Church 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 teamed up to raise funds and collect food donations as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Their team - the Christ Church Saints - were ready at our Sunday services on February 7th, Super Bowl Sunday for the NFL, to collect for our food ministry, which provides donations to the Presbyterian Church on the Green Food Pantry in Bloomfield. They collected an overflowing box of food, and \$500 to support those in need, all while raising awareness of the excess of the Super Bowl when so many are in need. The picture at right was taken before the service, and before all the food was placed into the box that they had decorated for the occasion.



The KidZone

If you haven't been around in awhile, you might notice that 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.



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: The Gospel of Luke, Episcopal 101, The Gospel Parallels, The Gospel of John, Visio & Lectio Divina, and A Visit To Turkey. Coming in Eastertide will be a series on the letters of St. Paul.



There is also a Men's Group (pictured on right at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, which they host), a Book Club, Labyrinth Walk & Compline services on Wednesdays, and of course, the popular Theology on Tap.

Nursery School News by Jean Bannon, Director

The infrastructure project is up and running smoothly here at the Nursery School! The infants were temporarily moved over to one side of the toddler room, and the older toddlers were in the Coursen Room. The Rose Room expansion is completed and construction has begun upstairs in the old Sunday school classrooms, so all of these little guys will be back in their own rooms.

We were very pleased with the snow removal company this winter, with



both their quick removal of snow as well as the upkeep in salting the parking lot and steps. They had their hands full with putting the snow in the playground, but managed to keep most of the spots open.

On Wednesday, February 10th, Mother Diana gave a condensed Ash Wednesday service to many of the children here. She also went into the infant and toddler classes to give ashes. Also this month, Valentine's Day brought tea parties and class parties to all of the rooms.

March is a busy month with dance and yoga classes beginning again as well as re-registration for our Nursery School families. We will be dyeing eggs in in each classroom to celebrate Easter and all of the children look forward to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt outside in the play yard.

Looking forward to Spring!

We Welcome Everyone!

Check out our new banner (our banners are on the Bloomfield Avenue side of the church):

A banner with a light blue background and black text. The text lists various identities and characteristics in a colorful, multi-colored font. The text reads: "You are welcome here if you are gay, straight, imperfect, lonely, young, not so young, trans, male, female, spiritual but not religious, seeking, physically challenged, a refugee, black, white, brown, purple, green, blue, (well, you get it), Muslim, conservative, liberal, Jewish, can sing, can't hold a note in a bucket, poor, rich, Hindu, Buddhist, wouldn't be caught dead in a church, spiritually dead, monastic, a student on campus or a student of life, a thinker, a dreamer, an artist, a scientist, a teacher, an immigrant (recent or not), a native, sees the glass half full, sees the glass half empty, what glass?...in other words YOU!"

You are welcome here if you are gay, straight, imperfect, lonely, young, not so young, trans, male, female, spiritual but not religious, seeking, physically challenged, a refugee, black, white, brown, purple, green, blue, (well, you get it), Muslim, conservative, liberal, Jewish, can sing, can't hold a note in a bucket, poor, rich, Hindu, Buddhist, wouldn't be caught dead in a church, spiritually dead, monastic, a student on campus or a student of life, a thinker, a dreamer, an artist, a scientist, a teacher, an immigrant (recent or not), a native, sees the glass half full, sees the glass half empty, what glass?...in other words
YOU!

What's Been Happening Over The Past Year?

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 2016 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 two years ago, that I started as your Rector. Our journey together as 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 – 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 2015 we...

- ❖ Increased our average Sunday attendance by 16%, 33% over the past two years!
- ❖ Our financial outlook is improving, with a new five year plan towards full financial health
- ❖ The new Infrastructure Project will provide needed space for church programs and nursery school classes
- ❖ We restored our aging organ console and pipes to ensure that they will produce beautiful music for years to come
- ❖ New music worship experiences were added – a Lenten Evensong and an Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols
- ❖ We had two new parish wide celebrations – Mass on the Grass with Brass & Parish Picnic and the Fall Founder's Fest – both of which were well attended and received
- ❖ Our website has reached thousands (over 40,000 views and over 16,000 visitors) and our Facebook page has over 650 “likes” – more than any other church in our diocese
- ❖ Continued to offer Adult Formation programs on a variety of topics as well as Theology on Tap, our successful discussion program offered at the local bar and grill
- ❖ Added a Book Club to our many affinity group offerings that has really taken off



- ❖ Continued to host diocesan events, including Christophany and in early 2016 Happening – the two programs offered for youth by the diocese
- ❖ Once again the bishop joined us for our Good Friday Stations of the Cross in Community, where we go out into our neighborhoods to find the Christ crucified and risen there
- ❖ The church and nursery school continue to grow together, allowing me many opportunities to engage with the children
- ❖ We started an outreach group and offered a pet watering station for our four legged friends that was well received in our communities
- ❖ We also finally completed plans for our Infrastructure Project that will allow for growth of both the church and the nursery school.



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 years to come, we will experience even more. The rest of my report provides important details about our parish life (see Parochial Report below), and yet, as Christians, it is vital to remember that 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.

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. Wishing you all the blessings of Eastertide, and see you in church!

Blessings,

Mother Diana+

In the years ahead, we will continue to “grow in faith,



The Infrastructure Project Is Underway!!!

This past year, we finally were able to finalize the plans for our Infrastructure Project. This project will address space challenges currently faced by both the church and our nursery school, while also opening up opportunities for new life in surprising ways. It all began in February of 2014, when a group of lay leaders, Mother Diana, and the leadership of the Nursery School, gathered in the Coursen Room to talk about the space issues each were facing, and to determine what opportunities existed to remediate them. Specifically, the Nursery School is at capacity (with wait lists for every class), and more space for an expanded Kindergarten is needed. Also, the

LIVING OUR FAITH



BUILDING OUR FUTURE



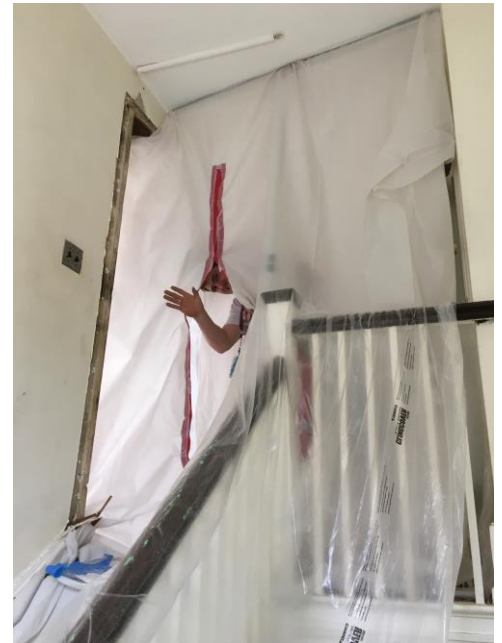
Pre-School II Class is currently in a rather uncomfortable space on the 1st floor of 74 Park. The church has space issues as well. We need to have the Rector's office on the first floor to make it more accessible to people (it is currently up a long flight of stairs in 74 Park). We also need to have small and large group meeting space for holding group meetings that require a more comfortable feel. Typically in churches this is called a parlor or a library, and features sofas, and chairs, creating a more intimate sacred space.

We also looked at the Coursen Room itself, realizing that, due to the old casement style single pane windows, with the heat registers just below, we were losing heat, and we could not cool the space either. To add to that problem, we had those large walls that essentially blocked whatever heat might have made it into the room. This is a problem not only for the church, but also the school, as that room is used 6 days a week by both. And then there was the unused space on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall, that had been the church's Sunday School classrooms. We managed to get the bathroom working up there, but the space itself is in need of a major overhaul, and so it goes unused.

The team that met that February came up with a preliminary plan of action. The Vestry hired an architect to review and revise, creating blueprints for what we call the Infrastructure Project. What it includes is:

1. Moving the Rector's office to the first floor of 74 Park & the Finance Office to a room off the Parish Hall. Both of those offices are currently on the 2nd floor of 74 Park, with the Kindergarten.
2. Expanding the Kindergarten to use the full 2nd floor (adding 12 additional seats).

3. The first floor of 74 Park will include not only the Rector's office, but the Parish Office (already done), and two meeting spaces as identified above.
4. The 2nd floor of the Parish Hall would be completely redone, and would be the new home of the Preschool II class (currently on the 1st floor of 74 Park).
5. The Rose Room would be opened up to the rest of the Infant Rooms, and would enable us to add 5 more infants to the school.
6. The attic of 74 Park would be finished off.
7. Handicap access would be added to 74 Park, and the damaged fire escape off the Parish Hall would be completely replaced.



In addition to being a better use of space, the project will bring in additional revenue; which, in addition to your pledges to the church, and the school tuition, will help to support the school and the church for years to come, allowing us to continue to do the work Christ calls us to do in the world. It is essentially an investment in our future, and the future of all the children we serve through our nursery school.

The project is estimated to cost \$350,000, and we hope to have it completed in time for the new school year. Work has already begun! The walls in the Coursen Room were the first to go, and that has added warmth and light to the room, making it much more energy efficient. The new windows are on order, and now the construction has moved to the second floor of the Parish Hall.

We will have a grand opening ceremony for the new school and church space, once everything is completed, so stay tuned for more updates over the next few weeks!



Above right is Ian, one of our contractor's sons, peeking out through the plastic that cordoned off the entire second floor of the Parish Hall. To the left is looking through the former Sunday School classroom toward the former Sunday School office.

To the right is Thor, another of our contractor's sons, standing in that former classroom. Both will become a Nursery School classroom.

On the previous page, the walls in the Coursen Room come down!



Save These Dates!

As you can see from this newsletter, there is so much that has already been happening at Christ Church, and there is more to come too! Please don't miss these events:

Colin Lynch at Christ Church! – Apr 16

"...enormous style and aplomb. His technique and musicality seem flawless...a tour-de-force..."

The Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians

Hailed as "an impeccable performer with compelling musicality and technical command," (*The American Organist Magazine*) First Prize Winner of the Fort Wayne National Organ Playing Competition, Colin Lynch maintains a busy performance career that has taken him to prominent venues throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada, South Africa, Brazil, and Argentina. He will be performing here as a celebration of our new organ restoration, and we are grateful to our Director of Music for enabling this incredibly organist to be here.



Mr. Lynch serves as Associate Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square in Boston, MA. Previously, he has held positions at Christ & Holy Trinity Church in Westport, CT, Marquand Chapel of the Yale Divinity School, the Episcopal Church at Yale, and was organ scholar at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago. As Director of Chapel Music and School Organist at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, he led the choirs on performance tours to South Africa and Cuba in addition to producing two commercially available recordings.

Episcopal Visitation – April 24

On Sunday, April 24th, our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith will be visiting our parish. We will have only one service that day, at 10:30am, where the bishop will be the Celebrant and Preacher. He will also have a special message for the children. Afterward, he will have a forum during coffee hour in the parish hall for anyone interested in asking questions, and then he will meet with the vestry.

Let's all be here to welcome our bishop!



Other Important Dates:

Pentecost (Baptism) – May 15

Spring Rummage Sale - TBD

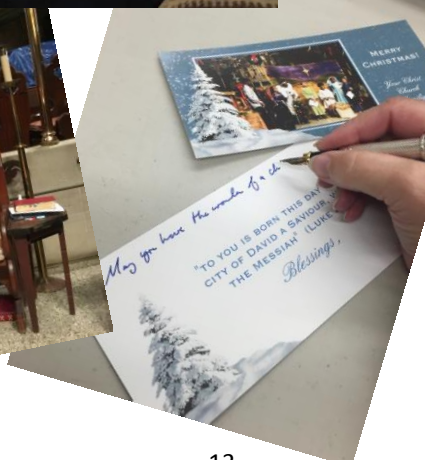
Youth Sunday – June 5th

Mass on the Grass with Brass – June 12th (tent.)

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



Visit of the Magi, Santa and his elves, Altar Guild makes the church beautiful, Advent Lessons & Carols, Parish Hall & Church decorated for Christmas, Greening of the Church, Frances checks out the Giving Tree, Mother Diana signing Christmas Cards.



Nursery School Christmas and Halloween Shows (and parents watching), Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Mother Diana With Some Of The Nursery School Children and Teachers



Last Chance Mass, A Few Of Our Baptisms, Youth Group Lasagna Bake-Off, New Light Over The Font, Vestry Retreat, Mass On The Grass With Brass In The Glen





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

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 three 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
74 Park Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028**

