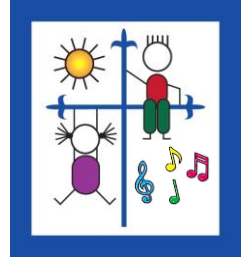




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2017

From The Rector

The radical truth of the Easter proclamation is that Jesus didn't just get raised from the dead a few centuries ago, but is getting resurrected every day, all around us, and most especially in us!

We must choose to roll away the stones, and see the Jesus in all people, most especially those who think, look, act, speak, and love differently than us. It is not enough for us to come here on Sundays, enjoy the Eucharist, sing a few good hymns, and leave here, thinking our work as a Christian is over. It is not enough if only because it is the church itself that has done so much of the damage that keeps people in these tombs in the first place. And so we, as God did through Jesus, must boldly proclaim that we have been resurrected too – brought to new life from the death of our valuing dogma over compassion, doctrine over justice, tradition over love.

So, don't go in search of the living among the dead – Jesus made that unnecessary. Christ is alive! Christ is alive – in you and in me! Go instead in search of the dead among the living – seek them out – and in your love and service to the Jesus in them, the Jesus calling out to us not to forget him – join God in the resurrection work She is already doing in the world!

Some may think you're delirious too, but that's okay, because in your life you will see, and they will discover, that crazy is contagious! And that's a good thing, because, as our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry once said, "We need some crazy Christians!"

So go on now! Go be crazy! Proclaim the good news that everyone is a beloved child of God! Live that gospel out! Because the Lord is Risen! And THAT radical news changes everything! 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 Denise J. Massay-Williams



*O how great a gift Jesus gave to me
Lived a perfect life, died on a tree
Not for me alone has He paid the price
But for all the world by His sacrifice*

Every Easter, I reminisce on my childhood experiences during the season of Lent while growing up in Guyana, my country of birth.

During Holy Week, I remember having to attend church services every evening, except for Good Friday, when the service started at Noon and ended at 3:00 p.m. I also remember that on every Good Friday, it seemed as if the sun shone 100 times hotter on that day than any other day of the year.

Good Friday was the most solemn day in Guyana. All schools, offices, markets, department stores and other businesses were closed. Public radio stations (there were only two) offered back to back broadcasts of church services and solemn music. There were no TV stations at that time.

Not being fully aware of the meaning behind Good Friday's solemnity was truly a test for elementary and grade school-age children who were asked by their parents to be as quiet as possible while at play (that is if they were even allowed to play at all on Good Friday) and to be on their best behavior throughout the day.

Most children complied, knowing that tangible rewards were coming on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. Easter Sunday's rewards were the donning of spanking new "Sunday-best" outfits and the glorious singing of many of the church's Easter Sunday favorite hymns at church and happy songs at Sunday school. Easter Monday in Guyana is specifically set aside for kite flying and family picnics out in the open air. Children were rewarded with new handmade kites, new picnic garb, and scrumptious grub. We, children, were told that kite flying simulates Christ's rising from the dead.

As I matured into adulthood, I began to understand how those childhood experiences were teaching moments that were instrumental in making us better Christians.

As the new *kid-warden-on-the-block*, I am excited to work with Mtr. Diana, the Vestry and the entire Christ Church family to continue our mission to grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and create community. I hope that the just concluded 40 days of reflection, stillness, fasting and praying has evoked renewed energy and zeal to propel us to live out our faith and carry out Christ's ministry in our forward-looking church.

Alleluia!!! Christ is risen!!

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Blessed Easter season.

Denise

Music Notes by Bill Davies, Director of Music

The Easter Anthem

For the second time in the last few years, our Easter anthem this year is Randall Thompson's "Alleluia." It's a gorgeous and interesting work that rewards taking the time to understand its composition.

Thompson, an American composer based at Harvard, wrote the piece in July of 1940, finishing it only three days before its premier at the opening of the Berkshire Music Center, now known as Tanglewood. (Imagine the rehearsals!) The work was commissioned by Serge Koussevitzky, the Russian-born director of the Boston Symphony. Both the date of its composition and the person who commissioned it helped to flavor the work.



Randall Thompson

Thompson composed the "Alleluia" in the key of D, a key often chosen for celebratory works. Indeed, the famous "Alleluia Chorus" of Handel's "Messiah" is also in D. But Thompson wrote less than year after the outbreak of World War II; thus, he wrote his piece without the fanfare of the more typical Alleluia, feeling the need to provide a more introspective, ruminative piece. Indeed, the entire first part of the piece, up to the

Movendo (the point at which the tempo speeds up) suggests a sense of longing rather than

triumph, and the celebratory outburst is soon replaced by quiet and reflection as the piece ends.

That the "Alleluia" was written for Serge Koussevitzky is also reflected in the music. There are distinctly Russian choral references throughout – listen to those low bass notes – and the overall homophonic structure also recalls the great Russian choral tradition. (Recall, for instance, the Tchaikovsky "Cherubic Hymn" the choir sang for Palm Sunday.) Russia – or more accurately The Soviet Union – was also very much to the forefront of the news in 1940, since German intentions toward it were very unclear. That

international uncertainty seems much present in the work.

Of course, the compositional history of any piece of music is secondary to the piece itself; the music always speaks on its own behalf. Nonetheless, understanding the context out of which a piece emerges can only enhance our understanding of it.



Serge Koussevitzky

Communications News from Candice Whitaker, 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

[ig 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

DIRECTIONS

ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Baptisms
We have been blessed with so many baptisms this year. If you feel called, please contact Mother Diana. Check out our photo gallery for more pictures. Photo Gallery

Upcoming Events

Blood Drive - Jan 16

Christ Church is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive right here in our Parish Hall on Saturday, January 16th from 10am-30pm. Your 1 hour of time could help 3 hospital patients. The need is constant and the gratification is instant. This blood drive is in memory of Raymond Lecky, who died at far too young...

News To Share

Christmas Newsletter Online!

Check out the latest edition of our Newsletter. It is filled with pictures, interesting articles, and loads of information about all that has been, or will be, happening at Christ Church. Click on the Newsletter tab off the home page, or just click this link: Newsletters

OUR CALENDAR

Today	Thursday, Jan 17
Thursday, January 14	8:00pm Adult Choir Re
Saturday, January 16	8:30am Blood Drive
Sunday, January 17	8:00am Holy Eucharist
	10:30am Holy Eucharist
	6:00pm Last Chance Iv
Monday, January 18	12:00pm Friendly Senior
Wednesday, January 20	

Over the past year, we have continued to work 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.

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 58,000 hits, and our Facebook page has over 750 likes – ensuring that this parish is reaching our neighbors and beyond.

This office is run by the Director of Communications, a position that has recently been filled by our Director of Family Ministries, Candice Whitaker, who will become a full time employee doing both family ministries and office administration, lightening the load on Mother Diana.

To get in touch with the office, email office@christchurchepisopal.org or call 973.743.5911.

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

Spring is here and we have so many things to look forward to at Christ Church this season! Our Sunday School is still offered every week during the 10:30 service in the Toddler room of the Parish Hall. However, the infrastructure project has transformed the old Sunday School space upstairs, so we will soon be able to use that space again as we are quickly outgrowing the Toddler room. It is still our hope to split the Sunday School into at least two groups of younger and older children; we are very close to doing so, but this will ultimately depend on having an increase in helpers every Sunday to make this possible! We are getting so many new young kids, so very soon we will have a thriving Sunday School! Thank you to all the parents and helpers who have been so patient and supportive during this process. Youth who are in 6th grade or older are invited to serve as acolytes and participate in worship.



We are also hoping to get “Joyful Noise” started back up again, a service just for the children to engage in worship in a way that meets their spiritual needs. More details to come!

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,” “egg hiders” and supervisors during the hunt. They are a tremendous help in getting everything ready for the kids. You won't want to miss it!

Youth Group News

Our Youth Group is at it again...planning outreach efforts, growing in their faith, and having fun! We now meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, from 12-1pm, after the 10:30 service. We have a great space in the other building upstairs that is dedicated to youth. We are still in the process of furnishing the room, but it is coming together and we greatly appreciate the donations of games and fun things we have already received to help decorate the room! 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. We have many great outings planned for this year to help enrich our youth community as well!



The KidZone

Kids are always welcome in church! We even have a 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 Matthew, Episcopal 101, The Gospel

Parallels, The Gospel of John, Visio & Lectio Divina, and so much more. Coming in Eastertide will be other offerings as well.



There is also a Men's Group, a Book Club, Labyrinth Walk & Compline services on Wednesdays, and of course, the popular Theology on Tap.

Nursery School News by Jean Bannon, Director

Happy Spring! In spite of the decent winter we had, we are starting to get anxious about being able to get outdoors to play. Hopefully the snow in the playground will melt quickly!

Our Dance and Yoga classes started this month, and their recital will be on Wednesday, May 17th in Parish Hall. Our Soccer program will begin on Monday, April 3rd.



On Wednesday, March 1st, 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.

The classes are busy decorating for Easter, and learning how to dye eggs. They will have an Easter egg hunt on Thursday, April 13th. Weather permitting, the hunt will take place outside in our play areas, if not, we will use the gym. I can't believe a year ago all the

construction that was going on, and now, we are all settled in our beautiful spaces.

Happy Easter to you and your families!

Follow This Car To Christ Church!



Check out our new bumper magnets. We hope you will place these on your cars to let everyone know the Christ Church is your spiritual home.

If you didn't get one when you came to church, just ask an usher.



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 2017 is available both in print and on line on our website.

God has truly blessed us all again this past year, and it seems only yesterday, rather than three 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 2016 we...

- ❖ Increased our average Sunday attendance by 7%, 42% over the past three years, which is nearly unheard of these days across most churches
- ❖ Our financial outlook has improved, and the future appears to be moving to solid ground
- ❖ The new Infrastructure Project was completed, and provided needed space for church programs and nursery school classes, and accessibility to our church offices and meeting spaces
- ❖ We updated our aging phone and data networks to provide both the church and the nursery school with the tools needed to serve our parishioners, parents, and children
- ❖ We updated our aging school camera system to provide increased safety for our students and staff
- ❖ We were the gathering place in the wake of the horrific mass shooting in Orlando, providing an interfaith service of healing and peace
- ❖ We began hosting PFLAG NJ, and continue to offer space to the NJ Reading Orchestra, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and many more
- ❖ We have become a focal point in our community, hosting a Police-Community relations meeting this past fall, as well as hosting the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- ❖ Our choir is growing too, and our Lenten Evensong and Advent Lessons & Carols are now no longer new programs, but something the community looks forward to each year.
- ❖ We continued our new parish wide celebrations for a second year – Mass on the Grass with Brass & Parish Picnic and the Fall Founder's Fest – both of which continue to be well attended and received



- ❖ Our website has reached thousands (over 57,000 views and over 23,000 visitors) and our Facebook page has over 730 “likes” – more than any other church in our diocese
- ❖ Adult Formation programs on a variety of topics as well continued, as well as Theology on Tap, our successful discussion program offered at the local bar and grill, and the popular Book Club.
- ❖ Continued to host diocesan events, including Christophany
- ❖ Once again we had 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 Outreach Group held two blood drives, and we expect a great deal more this year as you all engage with the world in the name of Christ

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. 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.

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,

Mother Diana+



The Infrastructure Project Is Complete!!!

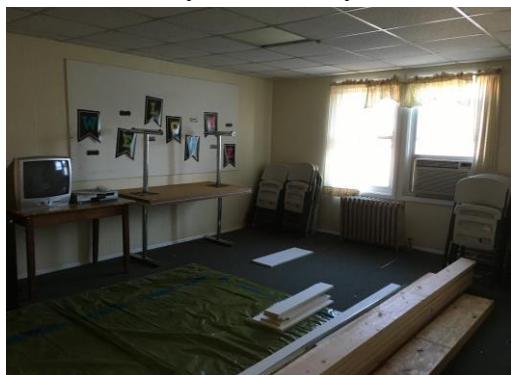


If you haven't been here in a long while, you might not know that this past year, we finally were able to realize the plans for our renewed and restored Church and Nursery School spaces. It all began in February of 2014, when a group of lay leaders, Mother Diana, and the leadership of the Nursery School, 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 was at capacity (with wait lists for every class), and more space for an expanded Kindergarten was needed. Also, the Pre-School II Class was in a rather uncomfortable space on the 1st floor of 74 Park. The church had space issues as well. We needed to have the Rector's office on the first floor to make it more accessible to people, and we needed a parlor or a library (see final space next page), with sofas, and chairs, allowing for a more intimate sacred meeting space.

We also changed 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 (see them in the picture at left, as they were being removed) that essentially blocked whatever heat might have made it into the room. This was 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 was in need of a major overhaul, and so it went unused (see before & after at left).

We also added a wheelchair lift off the front porch of 74 Park to ensure that our new office and meeting spaces (see pictures next page) were accessible to all of our parishioners. This is an important aspect of our project, as it was nearly impossible for those using walkers, and impossible for those in wheelchairs, to meet with the Rector in her office where it was up on the second floor, not to mention just getting in the building itself. We are a church committed to accessibility, and now the offices and parish library meeting room are as accessible as the church.

The project cost \$350,000 for the construction, and another \$50,000 for related expense (legal paperwork, furniture, architectural plans, etc.). The Ribbon Cutting and Blessing was on Oct. 4th, and we were happy to have our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, there to consecrate the newly renovated spaces.



As a result of this project, both the church and our school have a brighter financial future (see Financial Report). The ability to offer better church program and office space, to increase our infant room capacity, and even to add a new class – PS III (the age just before Kindergarten) has breathed new life into Christ Church. This was a project that was truly Spirit led, but it took this congregation’s willingness to go where She was leading, to make it all happen.

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:

Rutgers University Choir at Christ Church! – April 29



We are blessed to host the acclaimed 50-voice Rutgers University Chorus here at Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge as part of their Spring concert series, featuring music from The Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Brian Preston Harlow and accompanied by Christopher Jennings on the organ, will present “I Dream A World” in the church at 5pm on Saturday, April 29. Parking is available in the municipal lot across the street from the church.

Tickets will be available at the door, and are \$25 for preferred seating, \$10 general admission, and \$5 for students and seniors. The entire concert series is supported by the Cultural Programming Committee of Rutgers-Newark. Don’t miss this opportunity to

hear such a fine choral ensemble, and bring a friend or two to experience it.

For more information and directions, see our website: <http://christchurchepiscopal.org>

Other Important Dates:

Pentecost (Baptism) – June 4

Youth Sunday – May 28

Mass on the Grass with Brass – June 11th

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



Christmas caroling, Lenten Evensong, Advent Lessons and Carols, Our Bishop visits, Nursery School performs their Christmas show, January baptism, PFLAG Event



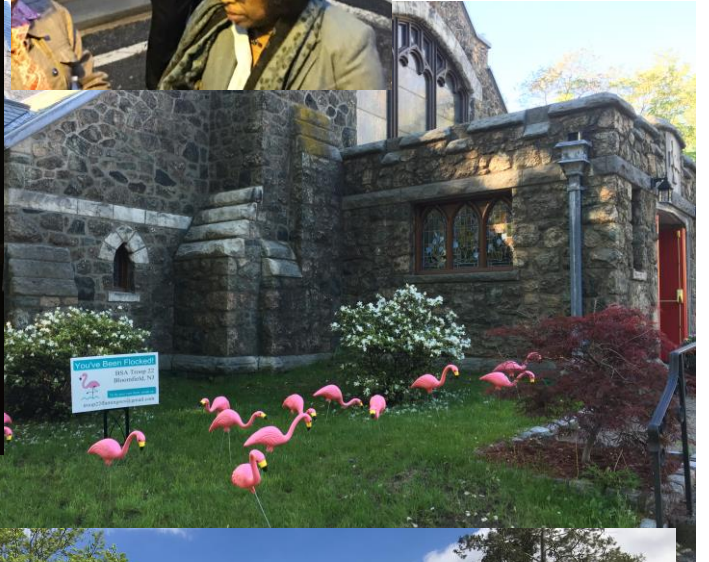
*Immigration Marches, Pancake
baseball at our Shrove Tuesday
Supper, Prayer Vigils, Palm
Sunday with Dzieci Theater
performing "The Passion",
Mother Diana marches for an
immigrant, Sunday School
reunion, Outreach Fair*



Last Chance Mass, A Few More Of Our Baptisms, Youth Sunday, Vestry Retreat



Landscapers, Vacation Bible School, Ribbon Cutting for the Infrastructure Project, The Flocking of the Church, Christ Church in the Spring, Mass On The Grass With Brass In The Glen, Youth Group





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 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**

