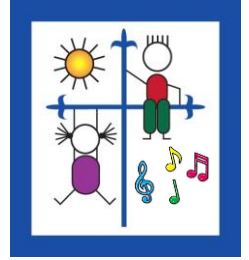




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

OUR NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

From The Rector

So much troubling news has broken our hearts, not only these past weeks, but for years now. The violence in our streets and around the world, children dying and killing, trust eroded, and people without homes or countries. The world seems in despair at every turn. But there is hope. There is always hope.

Hope is found in God, and God is found everywhere we turn in – in those who respond to these tragedies – the doctors, nurses, first responders, refugee agencies, justice advocates, and so many more. And God can be found in all of us, as we work tirelessly to fight for those who have no voice, to stand up against injustice wherever we see it, to proclaim to the world that all people are beloved children of God – and that means ALL! And all of God’s children, not just those who think, look, act, speak, and love like we do, deserve to live in safety, to have shelter and food, to have an education, to live without fear, and to be able to dream of what is possible.

Often in these tragic times people call out “Where is God?” “Why didn’t God stop this terrible thing from happening?” I remember a cartoon I saw once, where a young man was sitting on a park bench with Jesus. The young man asked “Why do you let all these bad thing happen?” Jesus replied “I was about to ask you the same question.” We have much work to do if we are to live into our baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and striving for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. God will be with us, we need only join in the work God is already doing in the world.

See you in church!

Mother Diana+



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

John 14:27

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE

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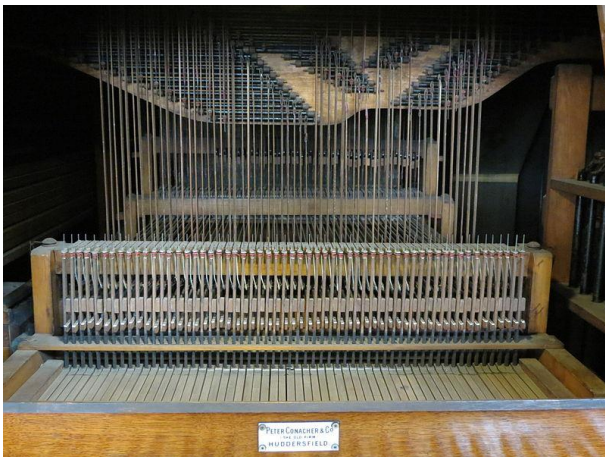
Music Notes by Bill Davies, Director of Music

Organs and The Organ

As everyone must be aware by now – if only because of having suffered through the summer without it – our organ has recently been the object of a major investment of time and money to rebuild its console. It may be an opportune time, then, to wonder a bit about organs, their place in liturgical worship and our organ in particular.

Some form of the pipe organ may be traceable back to ancient Greece, with wind created by water power. It's certainly the case that something like the organ we know showed up at the chapel at Aachen in the 9th century, and by the 17th century it had evolved into a complex machine capable of producing a wide variety of sounds. Indeed, some writers assert that the pipe organ was the most complex man-made device until the emergence of the telephone exchange in the 19th century!

For most of its early history, the organ of course could not rely on electrical power. Air was supplied by pumping, most often carried out by young lads too tone-deaf to sing in the choir. Equally, the means of opening the pipes to admit air, and thus produce sound, could not rely on electrical connections, but had to be mechanical. Thus, the organ on which Bach, for instance, would have played would have been a tracker instrument, named for the thin lengths of wood (“trackers”) that connected the manuals (the name for the organ’s keyboards) to the pipes. Many organists and organ builders continue to favor this sort of mechanical action, builders still build tracker organs.

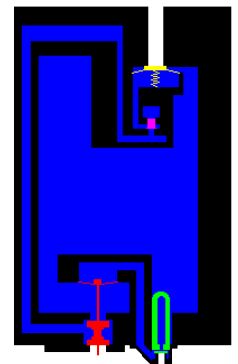


On the left, the interior of an organ, showing trackers. (Cradley Heath Baptist Church, Peter Conacher Organ, 2013)

With the advent of electricity, organs could become much larger, since their keys could be controlled through some form of electrical connection, most often a system called “electro-pneumatic,” in which both electricity and air control the connection between pipes and keys, and also the connections that allow the organist to choose which sounds the organ will make (the “stop action.”)

The crucial element in this system is the pitman chest¹:

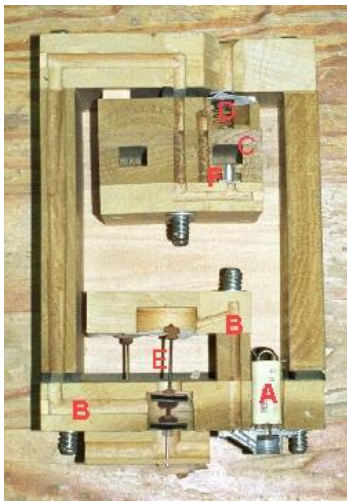
- The structural outlines of the chest are shown in black, and the break in the top boundary of the chest is a hole in the topboard that leads to a pipe.
- The blue areas are parts of the chest that contain the wind when no stop is drawn and no note is played.
- The yellow rectangle near the top is the *pallet*, a small disc that closes the hole in the topboard.. It is held in place by a flexible leather membrane, the *pouch*, represented by the



¹ Source: <http://faculty.bsc.edu/jhcook/orghist/works/works15.htm>

yellow lines attached to the pallet.

- The rose colored shape below that is the *pitman* itself, a small cylinder or square rod with another disc attached to its lower end.
- The red shape at the bottom of the chest is a rod with two leather seals. It too is attached to the chest by a flexible leather membrane, represented by two red lines.
- The green inverted "U" shape is the magnet, which moves a small disc or *armature* immediately below it, also green in the diagram. Here's a real pitman chest:



For many years, electro-pneumatic action was “state-of-the-art” and almost every builder used some version of this system. Indeed, when MP Moeller built the Christ Church organ in 1951, it was this system that was used. As you may imagine, this system, with its many parts, presents many bits and pieces that can break down over time, including points of electrical contact and the mechanical elements of the pitman chests, among others. (The world’s largest organ, in Atlantic City, is estimated to contain 137.500 miles of wire, for instance.) That, in fact, is what was increasingly happening to our organ. As a result, some keys refused to sound and some stops would now and then refuse

to come on – or, perhaps worse, go off!

Fortunately, modern technology provides a fix. Integrated circuits and microprocessors now make the connections between console and pipes more efficient and much less likely to fail. In fact, if you were to look inside our console now, you’d find it largely empty, the many wires and other pieces replaced by a single box – essentially a computer – and a single relay. Not only is the system more efficient and reliable, it also expands the ways in which the

If you would like to help offset the cost of the organ restoration, you can do so online at our Pledge/Donate page on our website (which you can access using the QR code on our e-giving cards, located in the pews), or by dropping a check into the offering plate (please note “Organ Restoration” in the memo line).

Thank you all who have already donated!

organ can be used. For instance, the old system allowed the organist to set six pre-set combinations of stops, controlled by general “pistons” (the small buttons under each manual) to bring on a number of stops at a time. Now there are ten pistons and, because of the possibilities of digital memory, the possibility of having 250 different combinations for each one!

Here’s the console in its new incarnation. Better, though, to get a close-up view by stopping by to have a look.



Infrastructure Project Under Consideration

There is a new infrastructure project under consideration by our Vestry. 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 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:

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.

LIVING OUR FAITH



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

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 including a contingency of 20%, and would begin in January. The church Finance Committee met for several days and many long hours to determine the best way to finance the project, and all of that has been presented in full to the Vestry at our October meeting. The final vote of the Vestry will be on November 3rd, and if approved, work will start in the new year. Once approved, your lay leadership will call a Parish Town Hall on the first Sunday of Advent after the 10:30am service to go over the entire project. At that meeting will be the architect, the Director of the Nursery School, the Vestry and the Wardens. Should you have any questions or comments now, or in the weeks to come, please don't hesitate to contact your Wardens, Bill & David, or any member of the Vestry.

We need a name. We've been calling this the Infrastructure Project, but clearly, it is so much more than that, so...we are launching a contest!

Submit your suggestion for a project name to any Warden or Vestry leader, or to Mother Diana. Your lay leadership will select the best one, and a prize will be awarded! The name should reflect the way in which this project will build our future for doing the work of Christ. Good luck!

What's In A Name by Mother Diana+

"So, what exactly do I call you?" This is a question that many female priests get, that our male colleagues can generally expect to avoid. In our tradition, and that of the Roman Catholic Church, male priests are called by the paternal title of "Father." So, it would be Father Joe, or Father Smith. The title of Reverend is a written honorific, used only in writing or in an introduction, and almost always with the definite article before it, as in "The Rev. Geraldine Granger." Also, in writing, it is common for all priests as well to add a sign of the cross after their signatures, as in Jane+, and for bishops, the cross precedes the name, as in +Mark.

The same rules apply to female priests, so the title in speech would be "Mother Karen" or "Mother Johnson." Many Episcopal priests, both male and female, do not use the paternal titles, and are known by their given names, so "Joe" or "Karen." So, the best thing to do is just ask any priest what they would prefer to be called.

As for me, when I first arrived here at Christ Church in January of 2014, the previous priest used "Reverend" as a verbal title as well as a written one. While that is not technically correct, it is what she liked, and so it became common usage here. If you were to ask me, I am fine with a title, or not, and so it is up to you, and what feels most comfortable based on your tradition. However, if a title is to be used, whatever you would call a male priest, the same should be applied to me and all female priests, just as a matter of justice. So, if you would call a male priest "Father," then you would call me "Mother."

I hope that clears up some of the confusion around all this title stuff. Whatever you do, just don't call me late for dinner.



Nursery School News by Jean Bannon, Director

Welcome Fall! We have added a few new students to our school this month. October's enrollment is up to 90 with 7 more due in by the end of the year. Our extracurricular activities are doing well. Soccer has started with a record of 23 children enrolled! Yoga and Dance classes are also doing well.

All of our Staff and children are busy planning and practicing for our annual Halloween Show and Parade, which will be held on Friday, October 30th at 2:00pm in Parish Hall. All of the children go on stage and sing their little hearts out, and then they all parade around the gym for their parents, families and friends. It's a great show!

We are already planning our annual Thanksgiving Day Feast, which is Thursday, November 19th at 11:30AM in Parish Hall. We have a full traditional menu (turkey, potatoes, corn, stuffing, rolls, etc.), plus a delicious assortment of desserts. The staff and children prepare, cook, and serve this feast, and we ALL (infants included), sit down to share in this special occasion. It is truly amazing, and a lot of fun! Volunteers are always welcome! If anyone would like to help us, just call the NS School Office at 973-743-7582. Thanks!!

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

The Fall season is here! Summer has zoomed by, but I am happy to report we had such a great summer at Christ Church. Our first year of Day Camp/VBS was a great success, and we had so much fun! We learned a ton of new songs, played games all over the church campus and on the green, made crafts that coordinated with the daily Bible theme- it was all awesome! My favorite part of the week was being able to showcase the songs, crafts, and lessons for all the parents on Thursday evening. The kids sang with such joy and it was delightful to give the parents the opportunity to see it all in action! I'm already looking forward to next year!

We have started the Workshop Cycles in Sunday School- the current cycle is focusing on Baptism. We will be covering the topic with different workshops for approximately 5 weeks, before we move on to the next Cycle. I will be having a meeting with those who have expressed interest in helping with Sunday School within the next few weeks, so if you would like to help and have not talked to me about it already, let me know as soon as possible and I will be happy to include you. There will be plenty of opportunities coming up for fun festivities for the youth and children, including retreats, a volleyball marathon, and more! Let me know if you have any questions or are interested in helping with these opportunities! There are so many great things happening at Christ Church- it's going to be another great year!



Youth News



Our Youth Group got together to plan for a year filled with activities and outreach. But first, it was time for a lasagna cook off, as they prepared a feast of two types of lasagna (meat and veggie), salad, and garlic bread. The whole meal was topped off with a homemade apple pie donated by Stephanie Reynolds. Delicious!

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.

Our Young Adults – those who have graduated from High School – will be planning to join the diocese on a trip to the Taize community in France! More on that to come.

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 Book Club, Zen Meditation, Labyrinth Walk & Compline services on Wednesdays, and of course, the popular Theology on Tap. Upcoming topics will be announced in our Sunday Paper, which is available every week in print, and online (as is our Bulletin). So, check it all out. And, if you have a topic you would be interested in learning more about, please be sure to contact Mother Diana.

Christ Church At A Glance (favorite moments)...

*Youth Group Lasagne Cookoff, Fall
Founder's Fest, Blessing of the Animals.*



Last Chance Mass, New signage, Pet Rest Stop, Nursery School graduation, Vacation Bible School (aka. Christ Church Day Camp), General Convention





Mass on the Grass...with Brass and our first annual Summer Parish Picnic





Easter Sunday with baptism and youth choir, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt



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 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
74 Park Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028**

