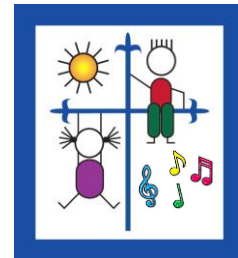




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2018

Reflections from The Rector

by The Rev. Diana Wilcox



Christ is risen!

The message of Easter is one we heard in that familiar collect read on Good Friday: "...let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new..."

This has been a particularly long winter, and most of us are yearning for the signs of new life – for Spring to arise all around us. We know it will – groundhog or not. We also know that is the story and promise of Easter too. St. Paul was right, we are baptized not only into the life of Jesus, but into his death. We die, so we may live. In the midst of what seems dead and lifeless – in the world, in our hearts – the seed of hope that is born in us with Christ comes ripping up through the earth, breaking through the crusty outer seed shell to bear new life in us. Perhaps that is why the resurrection – that empty tomb – is in a garden. Just the place for new life to grow out of the death.

The commitment we make in baptism is to live the resurrection – to be the Jesus alive in the world today – that his message might not disappear off the page of our hearts. The Jesus that called us to love the stranger, care for the poor, visit the sick, feed the hungry is calling us now. The Jesus who left the tomb, left the garden, and changed the world is calling us to join him in this work.

So, look out world, because we are heading out of the garden of our churches and into the streets to proclaim for all to hear that everyone, everyone is a beloved child of God – no exceptions – and no act by any human or government can ever change that reality.

Because of Easter, today, and every day, we will proclaim the good news – that love – God's love – cannot be defeated. Christ is alive! Alive in us! Nothing will ever be the same again.

See you in church!

Mother Diana+

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

Romans 6:3

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

Words from our Wardens



My brothers and sisters of Christ Church, we join with you in celebrating the resurrected Christ during this joyful Eastertide.

We join with you in thanking God for His amazing grace and for keeping us through every trial and tribulation.

We join with you in celebrating the spirit of family and community that is so warmly felt every time we meet for worship and fellowship.

Here are some of the reasons to celebrate as we continue to grow in faith:

- Our membership continues to grow, and new visitors worship with us almost every week.
- Some of our newest members have willingly stepped up to serve in areas where help is most needed in worship ministries.
- Our growing choir enhances our worship experience with soul stirring choral renditions, and special offerings of Advent Lessons and Carols and Lenten Evensong performances.
- The heartwarming children's Christmas Pageant that was choreographed scripted and directed by one of our members.
- Mtr. Diana, our fearless and energetic leader, brings us thought provoking and challenging sermons, and offers adult formation classes that increase our knowledge of the bible and biblical history.

Here are some of the reasons to celebrate as we continue to serve our neighbors and create community:



Teams of Christ Church members and Mtr. Diana offered Ashes2Go to commuters at the train stations and bus stops in our neighborhood.

Our highly reputed Nursery School of Christ Church, which is our main outreach ministry, celebrated its 50th anniversary and continues to provide an affordable and nurturing experience for families in our neighboring communities.

- We once again successfully hosted the Blessing of the Animals, in addition to a pet Adoption event.
- The Dzieci Theatre Company will once again bless us with a touching performance of the Passion. Members of our surrounding communities have been invited to join us to experience the unforgettable performance.





For the larger community, we contributed to needy families through North Porch, raised funds for Hurricane relief by utilizing our entire outreach budget to set up a matching fund campaign, resulting in \$12,000 being sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development fund; and we continue to open the doors of our facility for use by many other community organizations.

There is so much more for us to celebrate and thank God for, as we continue to seek His guidance to live out our baptismal covenant. With faith in God's provision, we have fixed broken pipes, replaced broken boilers, and

repaved the driveway and parking lot, these being a few of the larger projects that needed attention on our campus. There are many more projects lined up, and we ask you to join with us in prayer, asking God's help in bringing the pending projects to successful completion.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, in one of his previous Easter messages charged us to **“Follow in the way of Jesus. Don't be ashamed to love. Don't be ashamed to follow Jesus.”** Let us take up the charge and do so!!!

One of the best ways to love others is to pray for them. Jesus is our ultimate example in this. The New Testament tells us about Jesus praying for others on many occasions, and even shows us that He continues to come to the Father on our behalf. Romans 8:34 says that He “is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” Even after showing such selfless love at the cross, the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ continues to express His care for us by praying for us at this very moment.

We, the wardens of Christ Church wish you and your families a Happy and Blessed Easter.

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. The distinction between “senior” and “junior” warden or “rector's warden” and “people's warden” depends on the diocese, the parish and even geographical or regional customs and practice.

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 or priest-in-charge 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, Denise Massay-Williams and Leamon McKenzie. 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.

Music Notes

by Bill Davies, Director of Music



If you missed it again.... well, you missed it again. By which I mean the entire Triduum. You have already heard that the services from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday comprise a single liturgical event. For us, they are of course separated by at least twenty-four hours each, but remember that, in their monastic source, the gaps of time would have been filled with other offices and with *Tenebrae*, services contrasting light and dark. (From “*Tenebrae factae sunt*,” meaning “And there was darkness,” the beginning of the Gospel passage describing the immediate aftermath of the crucifixion.)

Light and dark are, when taken literally, about the sense of sight, though they of course also serve as metaphors for spiritual seeing and blindness. And they reinforce the fact that the Triduum attempts to involve all the senses in the contrast between the desolation of Christ’s passion and that exultation of his resurrection. What we hear is little different. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we hear music almost always in minor keys, the majority of it unaccompanied. And we often revert to chant melodies. (An instance perhaps of “Baumstark’s Law,” formulated by the liturgist Anton Baumstark, which asserts that on the most solemn days the most ancient rituals tend to be maintained.) So, for instance, the long singing of Psalm 22 to Tone IV and the Good Friday anthem, “Ah, Holy Jesus.” On Easter Sunday, though, hymns and anthem get loud and major, as if they cannot shout enough. So, with the return of light and aroma (incense makes its appearance), so also with sound.

The brash announcement of Easter is certainly enjoyable even if you have skipped the contrasting days that precede it, but the effect is a bit like seeing only the resolution of a play: you don’t quite know what all the fuss is about unless you experience the pathos that leads to the resolution. So, next year resolve to take in the whole show.



Nursery School News

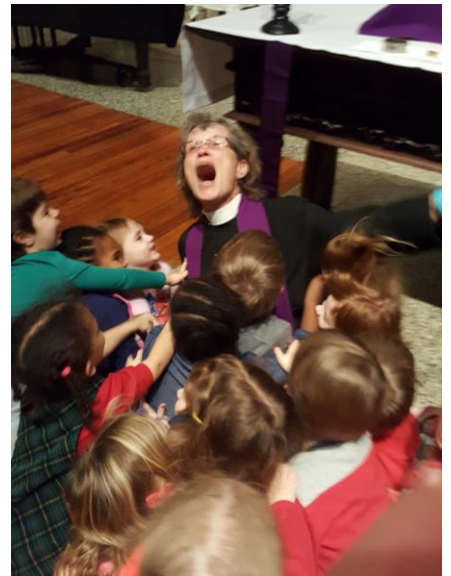
by Jean Bannon, Nursery School Director



This has been a super busy season here at the Nursery School of Christ Church. A local daycare is moving and some of their parents are not willing to relocate, so they have been inquiring about our programs. To date, we have received 5 new registrations! This is EXCELLENT news for us, because these children will be joining the classrooms we have been trying to fill since our infrastructure created space for this 3-4 age group.

For the first time, we brought in a Tennis program here, and had 11 children sign up for their first tennis lessons. Our other extra-curricular activities (Dance, Yoga and Soccer) will be starting in the next few weeks. Parents enjoy taking advantage of these programs here at the school, so they don't have to try and fit these classes for their children into their already busy schedules.

On Wednesday 2/14, Mother Diana held a special Ash Wednesday service here for the children, and they surprised her with a rose and a song for her birthday! On that day, there was also a Valentine's Day tea party for the older children in Parish Hall. Another exciting event here at the school was our chick hatching project. The eggs were delivered from a farm in Pennsylvania, along with an incubator and brooder box. The children and



staff enjoy watching the hatching stages as well as time with the baby chicks!

Our semi-annual fundraiser this year was from Gertrude Hawks Chocolates. Hopefully we can raise enough funds to be able to replace some of our indoor gym equipment.



Children and Youth

by Candice Whitaker, Director of Family Ministries



Happy Spring! As always, we have so much going on in the church, especially with our children. We have a lot to celebrate and look forward to! Our Annual Egg Hunt follows the 10:30am service on Easter. This is a joint effort with our youth group, who help hide the eggs on the playground and in the church on Easter morning. A very special thank you to the McAllister family for helping to “stuff” the eggs this year!

Sunday School is offered every Sunday morning during the 10:30am service. Our classrooms are located in the Parish Hall. We are currently following the Illustrated Ministries Compassion Curriculum, where the stories we cover help us “learn how to love like God.” I especially love these lessons because it shows how these “old” stories are examples that are still applicable in our everyday life.

Some of the themes have been kindness, hospitality, and grace; all things that help us demonstrate compassion to others. They are also easy for volunteers to help lead! Because our ages are so varied, we have had to be very flexible with the lesson plans and adjust them accordingly. The goal is to be able to offer multiple classrooms each week. We have the space; we just need more volunteers and regular attendance. I am very hopeful that we will get there in the next few years. We have a lot of little ones right now, which means we are already in the perfect position to keep growing!

We have a great space for the youth to meet (typically the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month). Thanks to a very generous donation by Charles and Ann Nicol, we now have a huge 60 inch TV in the youth room. We have added a ping-pong table (generously donated by Don and Renee Gibson), and it is so nice having a space completely dedicated for our youth to make it their own.



Our children and youth have been working on a “Kindness Rocks” project. This is a nation-wide project, and although not a new concept, a really fun thing to be a part of and contribute to. It is an ongoing project, and when they are done, they are going to be awesome! The idea is to paint rocks with inspiring messages on them, and leave them around the community. When people see them, they can pick them up and leave them in a new place, or leave them for the next person. It is an easy and fun way to spread the love. Keep an eye out for our rocks once the weather gets a little warmer.



Coming up in August, we have our annual Vacation Bible School/Day Camp for children entering Kindergarten-6th Grade. The dates are August 6-10, 2018. Save the dates now because I know summer schedules fill up fast, and you really don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity! The staff from Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center join us for the week and lead us in songs, Bible studies, crafts, and games. This is our fourth year hosting them, and it really is such a great way to experience summer camp in our own church.

We always need volunteers, so let me know if you are willing to help. We need to people to host dinners, whether you invite them out, into your home, or provide a meal for them. This is a great opportunity to show hospitality and welcome them into our church. They work very hard all week with non-stop energy, and they make the week so fun for our kids.

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, we had forums on Women at the Well (Bible-type scenes),



The Gospel of Matthew, The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and the 7 Week Advent. Mother Diana also did an Instructed Eucharist, which covered what we do in church, why we do it, and so much more. The Instructed Eucharist booklet handed out that morning are available to take home (ask an usher for a copy).

Coming up this Spring will be forums on: The Gospel of Mark (because we are in Year B, where we hear from this gospel), and other topics.

There is also a Men's Group, a Book Club, Labyrinth Walk & Compline services on Wednesdays, Evening Prayer on Thursdays, and of course, the popular

Theology on Tap. We will be launching other groups in the Spring, so check it all out.

Office and Communications

by Candice Whitaker, Director of Communications

As both the Director of Family Ministries and the Director of Communications, I get to do a lot of things around our church. There is always room to grow in each ministry, so it definitely keeps my job busy and exciting. I am also very fortunate to have the best little assistant who certainly keeps me on my toes!

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

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 ongoing 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 that are regularly updated. Press releases are always sent out to local media for our events, and our big events are also submitted and posted on the Diocesan calendar and events page.



My assistant, Emerson



Now available are new connection cards and a welcome brochure. More brochures with detailed information on our different ministries are coming soon. We are so please to be able to offer our visitors a welcome bag that include the card, brochure, Rector's letter, and a Christ Church mug. Members will receive a mug also (available today in the Parish Hall!).

We also send out weekly emails to help you stay better connected. Most of this information is also (usually) in the Sunday Paper, which we provide as an insert with the bulletin each week. However, I don't want you to miss out on any of the information so this is just one more way to have the latest news! If you have not been getting the emails, please let me know and I will add you to our mailing list so you receive the next one!

We also offer a text service to provide you with last-minute updates, closings, news, events, etc. If you haven't done so, text **CHRISTCHURCH** to **313131** to receive these messages.

As always, we produce the bulletins and Sunday Papers for every worship service, all of which are loaded online each week, as is the quarterly newsletter. There are plenty of ways to stay connected at Christ Church; don't miss out!

Outreach



In the past few months, Christ Church has been busy doing the work of Christ in the world. In October, our vestry approved a matching grant for Hurricane Relief after so many places were struck by these natural disasters. The response to this was incredible- not just by our parishioners, but from our community and the surrounding churches that also wanted to contribute. In total, we were able to raise \$12,000 for the Episcopal Disaster Relief.

Throughout the month of November, parishioners of Christ Church and every classroom of our Nursery School collected loads of groceries to be donated to the Presbyterian Church on the Green Food Pantry. They were brought forward to be blessed at the altar the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Over the past three years, we have developed a strong partnership with them in their ministry to feed the hungry. We are always amazed by the generosity of our Church community and the amount of food we collect for the pantry! Thank you to Kevin Treuberg, who organized the pick-up this year!

Our Annual Giving Tree went up in the Parish Hall on the first Sunday of December with tags (made by our children) that listed items needed at North Porch. North Porch is a ministry in our diocese that supports women and children in need. Our congregation, as well as our Nursery School, responded as they do every year- with exceeding generosity and enthusiasm. What better ministry to support in Advent when we await the birth of Jesus, born in humble means to Mary. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute, and thank you to Kevin Treuberg, Cheryl Restaino, and Christopher Dwyer for volunteering your time to coordinate with North Porch and getting these items delivered to them.

On December 3, the choir organized a caroling afternoon for the seniors at South End Gardens in Montclair, where some of our own parishioners live. We always have such a great turnout and it brings so much joy to everyone!

We also started a Winter Coat collection. As the weather begins to get colder, we especially notice our local friends and neighbors who are in need of coats to keep them warm throughout the winter. We have been collecting new or gently used coats so we are able to provide some warmth to those in need. The winter chill is just beginning, so we continue to welcome donations! We have a box located at the back of the church to put your donated coats in. All sizes are appreciated!

Stay tuned for more, as our Outreach Group continues to keep us focused on our mission. If you would like to help and get involved with our Outreach Ministries, please contact Mother Diana



A Few Highlights

Celebrating Palm Sunday with our Eco-Palms, and blessed by Dzieci's performance of The Passion.





Shrove Tuesday, pancake baseball, games, and behind the scenes. Ash Wednesday with our Nursery School. Last Year's Easter Egg Hunt (top).





Greening of the Church on December 16, getting ready for the Pageant, and scenes from our Pageant on December 17.





Mother Diana talking to our Nursery School children about the church at Christmastime, our Joyful Noise service with the Nursery School on Wednesdays, and Lexi the Church Dog.



Upcoming Events and Services



Pentecost/Baptism: May 20

Youth Sunday: June 3

Mass on the Grass...with Brass!: June 10

LGBT Sunday: June 24

VBS/Day Camp: August 6-10



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

