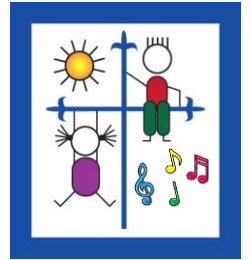




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2019

Reflections from The Rector

by The Rev. Diana Wilcox



"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." Luke 24:5b

Mother Teresa went into the dark slums of Calcutta, and she was afraid. Yet there, in the face of the starving poor, she saw Jesus. He was there already waiting for her. She was terrified, and then amazed. In later years, she would struggle with her faith – don't we all? Faith and doubt are essential partners, in as much as light and darkness, life and death. All are a part of our faith.

That is why today is not a service on its own, but the last part of a three-day service – the Paschal Triduum. If you have come only for this morning, you have entered into the middle of the story. We need the fullness of the Triduum experience, because to stand in darkness without the knowledge of light will kill us of hope. And to stand in light without the knowledge of darkness will blind us to suffering. Our faith demands both cross and empty tomb – they can never be separated.

If Easter is ever to mean more to us than chocolate bunnies and egg hunts, we have to be part of this story – the full story. It doesn't take much for us to imagine the cross – for we have borne witness to Christ's crucifixion in our lives today – in the bigotry, violence and hate we

witness in the world. Or perhaps it is your own personal Good Friday that allows you to feel deeply the shadow of the cross. The journey to the tomb is one we all have experienced in one way or another. It is the journey *from* the tomb – *that* is what makes all the difference. That is what the Easter story is all about. That is when hear the proclamation and receive the invitation! Christ is risen! Come and join him where he is!

You can try to put Jesus in a box – do the church thing at Christmas and Easter – he's born, he's resurrected – done until next year. You can certainly do that, but God hopes deeply that you realize that the only thing you will be boxing up is yourself, and all the potential you have for a life of meaning.

Easter is a proclamation about Jesus, yes, but it is also about an invitation to every single one of you. If you came here expecting to find Jesus – you will! Jesus is here! You will find him when gathered in community and experience him in the Eucharist. But if you expect to leave him here when you head out the door – you will have missed the entire point. Jesus can't be contained to a tomb or a church – Jesus is on the loose! He has gone ahead of you. What will you do about it?

See you in church.

Mother Diana+

Sabbatical Summer by Mtr. Diana



A couple of weeks ago during our episcopal visitation, our bishop mentioned the importance of clergy care for the vibrancy of our mission to love and serve all as Christ. She said that it was critical to the health of both priest and parish that clergy take regular days off each week, take days to center themselves in prayer, and go on retreat. Another of the ways that clergy ensure that they are able to continue to meet the needs of their parish is by going on sabbatical.

What is a sabbatical?

Sabbaticals find their origin in church affiliated universities where every seven years or so, professors were able to take time away to study and rest. This then provided them with renewed energy and creative thought to bring back into their academic work. Churches too believe strongly in this tradition, and in our denomination, it is the practice that every 5-7 years, rectors are to take a sabbatical of a minimum of 3 months. In fact, it is written into our contracts. I am now in my 6th year as Rector of Christ Church, and will take my first sabbatical this summer.

A clergy sabbatical is not meant to be a time of only rest, but of renewal that will benefit both priest and parish, and so I have decided to engage in four areas during my sabbatical: Education, Spiritual Renewal, Ministry, and Rest.

In the rest of this article, I have outlined what I plan to do in each of these areas.

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Welcome, The Reverend Deacon Sharon Sheridan Hausman



Sharon Sheridan Hausman is a lifelong Episcopalian and a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Newark. She graduated from Drew Theological School with a Master of Divinity degree last May and comes to Christ Church from her sponsoring parish of Messiah, Chester.

Deacon Sharon is a volunteer chaplain at Northern State maximum-security men's prison in Newark, where she preaches and assists in leading the Protestant choir, worship services and Bible studies; and at the Mountainview prison in Annandale, where she teaches a creative-writing class to young adult men. She also is a member of our diocesan Prison Ministry and coordinates children's visits to their parents in the Essex County jail and a new monthly Saturday arts and science enrichment program in Newark for children of incarcerated parents. As a Drew student, she volunteered in the state women's prison in Clinton and in the Essex County and Morris County jails.

Deacon Sharon also has worked for many years as a reporter and editor for both church and secular publications. She lives in Flanders with her husband Paul, cats Sasha and Sushi, and an anonymous goldfish. Their son, Carl, is a freshman at Oberlin College in Ohio, where he is majoring in music composition and math.

She will be serving here as she prepares for ordination to the priesthood, and we are thrilled to have her join our staff for a while! Welcome!

Easter Reflections: Practice Fasting and Feasting Every Day

By Denise Massay-Williams, Warden



This Lenten season, instead of “giving up” a favorite food, pastime or habit, I participated in a spiritual practice, themed “Fasting and Feasting”, where for forty days, each daily reading centered around the practice of fasting from negative thoughts and feasting on “Christ in us, our hope of glory”.

I am sharing this practice with you and hope that in the days, weeks and months ahead, you add this to your daily devotions by reading and reflecting on each of the forty ideas outlined below.

I hope this will help to free you and me from the valleys of life and help us rise to a higher perspective.

Fasting and Feasting

Adapted from William Arthur Ward

*I fast from judging others.
I feast on beholding the Christ in them.*

*I fast from hostility.
I feast on nonresistance.*

*I fast from emphasis on differences.
I feast on the oneness of all life.*

*I fast from bitterness.
I feast on forgiveness.*

*I fast from apparent darkness.
I feast on the reality of light.*

*I fast from self-concern.
I feast on compassion for others.*

*I fast from thoughts of illness.
I feast on the healing power of God.*

*I fast from anxiety.
I feast on eternal Truth.*

*I fast from words that pollute
I feast on phrases that purify.*

*I fast from discouragement.
I feast on Hope.*

*I fast from discontent.
I feast on gratitude.*

*I fast from facts that depress.
I feast on thoughts that uplift.*

*I fast from anger.
I feast on patience.*

*I fast from suspicion.
I feast on Truth.*

*I fast from pessimism.
I feast on optimism.*

*I fast from shadows of sorrow.
I feast on the serenity of silence.*

*I fast from worry.
I feast on divine order.*

*I fast from problems that overwhelm.
I feast on the power of prayer.*

*I fast from complaining.
I feast on appreciation.*

*And now in the silence of prayer, I rest.
After resting, rising fully nourished and fortified.*

*I fast from negatives.
I feast on affirmatives.*



Wishing you and your family all the beautiful blessings of Easter,

Denise Massay-Williams and Leamon McKenzie, *Wardens of Christ Church*

Music Notes: Randall Thomson's *Alleluia*

by Bill Davies, Director of Music



evening, G. Wallace Woodworth, commented, “Well, text is at least one thing we won’t have to worry about.”

Thompson’s setting of that single word (There’s also an “amen” at the end.) may have resulted in his most famous composition. Perhaps part of the piece’s attraction is its restrained simplicity. At a time when many composers imagined that “straightforward” keys like D Major offered little scope for interesting writing, Thompson returned to that key, the one in which Handel had set the *Alleluia* chorus in the *Messiah*. But Thompson wrote a very different alleluia. This anthem lacks the exuberance and fireworks of Handel’s earlier work. The context within which Thompson wrote helps to explain the reflective mood. In July of 1940, Europe was at war; France has fallen to Nazi Germany in June. Thompson’s alleluia is, thus, more a statement of faith than one of triumph. Even in times of trouble, it seems to announce, “Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

If you have ever had trouble meeting a deadline, you will appreciate at least one thing about the anthem for Easter, Randall Thompson’s *Alleluia*. The great conductor Serge Koussevitsky commissioned the work for the opening of the then-new Berkshire Music Festival (now Tanglewood) on July 8, 1940. July came, but there was no work from Thompson. Indeed, July 8th dawned and still there was nothing for the large chorus to rehearse. Finally, about 45 minutes before the performance was scheduled, Thompson delivered his extended setting of just one word, “Alleluia.” Glancing quickly through the score, the choral conductor for the



Pictured above: Randall Thompson



Nursery School News

by Patrice Noyes, Nursery School Director



We started the New Year off with tons of fun!!

The children enjoyed a new class special: Gymnastics was offered at the NSCC by Ms. Rachelle owner of Diamond Gymnastics in Verona NJ. That quickly lead into our spring specials: Yoga and Dance which are offered by Ms. Melissa owner of Just Dance Academy in Pine Brook NJ. Kiddie Soccer of Bloomfield NJ will be returning once again to offer soccer skills and drills to our children. All the classes continue to enjoy a weekly music program with Ms. Lori of Juice Box Rock.

The eggs and incubator from Quiver Farms arrived early in

February and the children were enthralled with daily visits to see the eggs hatch into chicks!! Some classes even colored birth announcements, to let their families know that we had new additions to the nursery school!

The children also enjoyed a visit from P n C Pediatric Dentistry, to learn about good brushing habits. The older kids went home with a goody bag filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. The children (and teachers) enjoyed a



puppet show from our returning guest Cheryl Scoles. Students from Bloomfield College read to some our classes in honor of Dr. Seuss month in March.

With Spring finally approaching and with it the warmer weather, hopefully this will allow the kids more freedom to enjoy some much-needed outdoor time on the playground. We have added a few kid-sized picnic tables to our outdoor space and look forward to enjoying some picnic lunches very soon.

Looking ahead, the children in our Preschool 3 and Kindergarten classes will be preparing for graduation. This year our graduation ceremony will be in June 14th at 2:00. We hope that you can join us for this special event.

Lastly, we wish Jean Bannon much success on her retirement. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Norma Manchesi who will retire on May 17th after 20 years of sharing her gifts and talents with our nursery school children and families. We are so grateful for her time with us!



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.

Sunday School is offered every Sunday morning during the 10:30am service. We meet in the Toddler rooms, located through the parish hall. We flexibly follow the Illustrated Ministries Curriculum, while integrating elements of worship.

We have a great space for the youth to meet and hang out in. I'm excitedly planning events for the year to help build and grow our Youth community. We are also one of the host churches for a new diocesan program and collaboration for youth, and I think this will be a really great way to build our program! The first official joint youth group meeting will be on September 22. If you're interested in working with me and our youth group, let me know!

We are also so excited to have just launched a new service at our church. This service is designed to appeal to children of any age, and is especially appropriate for children with Autism, PDD-NOS, ADHD, ADD, Down's Syndrome or any other developmental/physical challenges. This 30-minute service will be offered on the first Sunday of every month at 12:30pm. Our first one was just a couple weeks ago, April 7, and it was awesome! We had a great turnout and are looking forward to the next one on May 5! All are welcome to attend.



Coming up in August, we have our annual Vacation Bible School/Day Camp for children entering Kindergarten-6th Grade. The dates are August 5-9, 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.

Outreach



Christ Church has been busy doing the work of Christ in the world. As mentioned, we have welcomed many new and returning groups this year into our space to use our facilities throughout the week. Christ Church is a very active place!

We also continue to partner with PAWS Montclair, the local animal shelter, to provide needed food and supplies throughout the year. We collect each week, and once per month bring those items to PAWS.

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 four 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! And remember, this ministry is on-going, not just during the month of November! We collect food year-round and have it regularly collected by the food pantry.

We are also home to PFLAG NJ. The PFLAG NJ group meets at Christ Church on the second Thursday of the month. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of parents, families, friends, and allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education, and advocacy. PFLAG has over 350 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters crossing multiple generations of American families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas in all 50 states.



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. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute!

We have a lot going on in our community! It takes many hands to coordinate these events and stay involved. If you would like to help and get involved with our Outreach Ministries, please contact Mother Diana.



Office and Communications

by Candice Whitaker, Director of Communications



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 welcomed many new and returning groups this year into our space to use our facilities throughout the week, which is awesome!

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.

In addition to our Christ Church welcome brochure, we have also updated our Nursery School brochure, and added a Music and Family Ministries brochure. We are so pleased to be able to offer our visitors a welcome bag that include the card, brochure, Rector's letter, and a Christ Church mug.

We also started using nametags in church. This is especially helpful and welcoming to visitors- but is helpful for all of us! Nametags invite conversation, and knowing names makes fellowship more personal. You may know most names, but there are probably some new members and it can be hard to remember everyone. This is just a simple way to help everyone feel more connected, which is so important in this community!

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!



Don't forget- we 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!

Adult Formation



Bringing Faith to Life and Life to Faith



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. At the start of Lent, Mother Diana launched a new video blog: Outward & Visible: A Conversation on Faith. The first couple of episodes are up on Youtube and can also be accessed through our Facebook page. Our spiritual formation is so important, and this is conveniently accessible wherever you are, brought to you in a brief 3-5 minutes. Please check it out!

Summer Sabbatical Continued...

Education:

For the education element, I have been accepted into the two week Theological Summer School at Oxford University, where I will study several exciting areas of theology and scripture taught by renowned professors. This is an opportunity of a lifetime, and I will be taking the following courses:

Week 1:

Mary Magdalen: Penitent or Preacher? (morning)

The figure of Mary Magdalen has fascinated Christians down the centuries. As 'Apostle to the Apostles' her Biblical story has been fused with that of the 'woman who was a sinner' and given rise to legends of her life of penitence in which she becomes an archetype of the sexually sinful woman restored by Christ. Recent feminist analysis has separate out the Biblical story from the later legends. But the legend itself shows Mary, not only as a penitent but also as a missionary preacher who as far back as medieval times opened the possibility of an apostolic preaching role for women. Tutor: The Revd. Canon Dr. Jo Spreadbury studied classics at Oxford and completed a doctorate on the legend of Mary Magdalene at King's College, London. She is currently Precentor of Portsmouth Cathedral.

Martyrdom, Praise and Other Sacrifices (afternoon)

The Reformation and Counter Reformation was a period of spiritual renewal marred by the tendency of some Christians to persecute one another. This course investigates the writings of some of the great English pastor-poets of the period, including John Donne, George Herbert and John Bunyan to discover how they

explored personal faith and its public expression in troubled times. Tutor: Dr. Roger Pooley is Honorary Research Fellow in Humanities at Keele University where he taught English for many years.

Week 2 –

Discipleship and Sacrifice in C S Lewis, J R R Tolkien and Charles Williams (morning)

In this course we shall look at the work of three of the most important of the 'Inklings', the 20th-century Oxford Christian writers. We will examine, through their imaginative literature, as well as their specifically religious works, what it means to be a follower of Jesus. In particular we will concentrate on what the role of sacrifice, atonement and redemption in their conception of the Christian life.

Tutor: Professor David McNaughton taught philosophy for over 40 years at the Universities of Keele and Florida State Universities and is now an Honorary Professor at the University of Edinburgh.



Science and the Sacraments (afternoon)

Christians see sacraments as rituals through which God's grace is uniquely active. They are 'visible signs of an invisible reality' (St Augustine). This is part of the ancient belief that any tangible element of creation may speak of the existence and presence of God. But what happens when concepts of matter, energy and humanity change with scientific advances? In this course we shall consider sacramental thought in the light of the sciences, challenging and enriching our understanding for the 21st century.

Tutor: The Revd Dr Shaun Henson is Lecturer in Science and Religion in Oxford University's Faculty of Science and Religion, and Chaplain to St Hugh's College, Oxford.

Spiritual Renewal:

In addition to catching up on some theological reading at home, I will also spend an additional week in England visiting sacred sites including Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, Canterbury Cathedral, Lambeth, and St.

Paul's. During that week, I will be staying at a convent in London. I will also be attending services at many different churches on Sundays, taking in what others are doing well, and experiencing different models of worship.

Ministry:

I will be participating in an advocacy training and action in Washington DC on immigration and refugee justice. The Love God, Love Neighbor: Advocacy in Action is a two-day interactive training that offers messaging practice, direct Congressional advocacy, and networking. This conference is designed for those interested in gaining advocacy tools and having an opportunity to directly advocate to members of Congress and their staff about protections for refugees. Those attending will be trained on issues specific to refugee and asylum-seekers and we expect those will be the primary topics participants convey in meetings with members of Congress and their staff. Sponsored by the Office of Government Relations, in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries, "Love God, Love Neighbor: Advocacy in Action" will be held Thursday-Friday, June 27-28 in Washington, D.C. Attendees are also welcomed and encouraged to attend the One Journey Festival on June 29th at the National Cathedral and which The Episcopal Church is sponsoring.



Rest:

I hope to get some much needed rest, playing golf, going kayaking, and spending more time with family and friends.

Praying For Each Other

A sabbatical begins with a sending forth by the parish in which the parishioners pray for the priest. We will do this on Pentecost, my last Sunday with you all before going on sabbatical. During the sabbatical we pray for one another. You will not be far from my thoughts, and always in my heart. Upon my return on October 1st, I will share some of my experiences with everyone.

How will pastoral concerns or other things be handled?

Your Wardens, vestry, and the staff will take care of things while I am away. The Rev. Deacon Sharon Hausman will provide wonderful pastoral care. Sundays will feature a wonderful array of terrific preachers. We have a strong foundation of leadership here, and all will be well.

This sabbatical summer will be an enriching opportunity for me, and for all of you. The hope is that I will return to Christ Church in the Fall ready to reengage in ministry renewed by the experiences I will have, sharing that with all of you. I will also look forward to hearing all that you have done in Christ's name while I was away, and how that has touched your heart, and renewed your call. I know that when we come back together again, we will have so much to share with one another.

Mtr. Diana+

A Few Highlights

Celebrating Palm Sunday with our Eco-Palms,
Dzieci's inspiring performance of The Passion,
and stuffing Easter Eggs with the youth.





Shrove Tuesday, all the fun and behind the scenes. Ash Wednesday with our Nursery School.





Our All-Church Pageant, Mother Diana talking to our Nursery School children about the church at Christmastime, and Lexi the Church Dog!



Upcoming Events and Services



June 2: LGBT Sunday

June 9: Pentecost

& Mass on the Grass...with Brass

August 5-9: VBS/Day Camp



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.

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