



The Clarion

June 2012
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Christ Church on Quaker Hill

Pawling, New York

About Christ Church on Quaker Hill...

Christ Church on Quaker Hill is an ecumenical Christian congregation, open to all persons on a journey of faith. Our worship follows the traditions of the Reformed Protestant Churches, centered on scripture and sacraments and enriched by music and prayer. The purpose of Christ Church is to provide a nurturing environment in which all people can grow in personal faith, discover their gifts, and use them to become living examples of God's vision through Jesus Christ. We hope you will visit us Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM

The Clarion, Newsletter of Christ Church on Quaker Hill, is brought to you September through June.

What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?

A Sermon Series on What Matters Most

summer sermon series



This summer our sermon series will be based on a recent and thought provoking book by Rev. Martin Thielen. The provocative title comes from a conversation Rev. Thielen had with an atheist friend, who eventually came to see that Christianity was not what he thought. Many people in the twenty-first century hunger for an expression of Christian faith that is different from the caricatures they see on television or in the news.

This book, and our sermon series, explores ideas that are not essential to Christian belief, and then what is really at the heart of our faith. A great benefit of these beliefs is that they provide promising answers to life's most profound questions including: What matters most? Where is God? What brings fulfillment? What about suffering? And is there hope?

This series will begin July 1, and will run through most of the summer.

Calling All Children & Parents—

Summer Sunday School

June 3—August 26 (excluding July 1)

Children ages 4 through 5th grade will once again be able to participate in Summer Sunday School. (The nursery will be available for children under the age of 4).

Our regular Sunday School teachers are getting a much-needed break this summer, but as we've done for the past three years, we want to provide our families with the same worship and education experience they are used to.

This summer our theme will be "Summit Seekers: Following Joshua into God's Promises." Once again, our class will be held in the youth lounge that the children will help to decorate.

This program will depend on volunteer help. Parents, grandparents,

any adults who love children - all are urged to sign up to teach for one or two weeks. Teaching in pairs is a great idea as we often have a range of ages in our class. All teaching materials and craft ideas will be provided. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Atrium with the available dates listed.

Summer Sunday School will begin on June 3rd and will run through August 26th, with the exception of the July 4th weekend.

Barb Allan will coordinate this program, assisted by Maggie Everett and Camille Ludington. Please call them (or the church office, [845] 855-1188) if you have questions.

Clarion Call



“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

Stephen Ministry

If you are in need of a caring Christian friend who will listen, empathize, encourage, pray, provide confidential care, and patiently support you as you work through a crisis or if you know someone who could benefit from this type of care, please contact our Stephen Leader, Rev. Allan.

Fellowship Meals

This ongoing ministry brings a meal to members and friends of the congregation who are experiencing surgery or illness. Contact Nancy Reilly, if you are interested in participating.

Driving Ms. Molly

If you can provide transportation for Molly McLean from her home in Brookfield, CT, to church & back, please contact Liz Allen or the Church Office.

Prayer Chain

You may request prayer for yourself, your family, a friend, for anything that is on your heart.

Please e-mail Patsy at pwcowie@comcast.net or phone (845)855-5745.

Creative Blessing— Project Linus

Creative Blessings meets on the third Sunday of every month, from 4:00-5:30 pm in Lankler Hall. Whether a beginner or advanced fiber artist, all

are welcome. If you wish to join in donating to Project Linus but are unable to attend these meetings, please speak with Barbara Vogel via email:

vogelmusik@mags.net. For more specific information about Project Linus, please visit their website: www.projectlinus.org.

We are Recycling

The church is now participating in a recycling program! Any recyclable plastic, cardboard, glass, and aluminum that you may bring to the church may be placed in one of the orange-lidded containers that are located outside by the dumpster.

“Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat!”

Christmas!?! In the June issue of *The Clarion*?!! First, please consider the author of this writing: I’m the person who always asks what the 25th day of each month means! Second, The Annual Christmas Bazaar at CCoQH, always held on the first Saturday in December, is The Event you want to put on your calendar sooner rather than later.

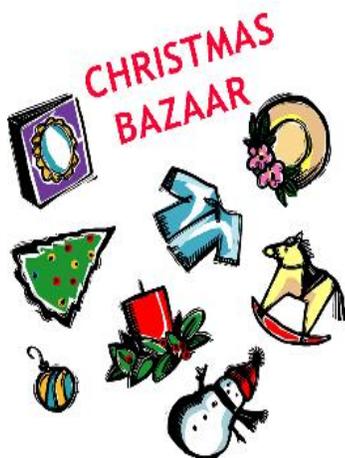
For those of you who are new to Christ Church the purpose of the Bazaar is to fund the benevolence portion our Outreach Program

with the monies being distributed to local, national, and international organizations. 2012 marks the 48th year of this amazing event! The Christmas Bazaar has grown into that proverbial well-oiled machine, and some planned innovations for this year will only improve the workings of this annual happening. If this last thought nudges your curiosity, please feel free to give me a holler with any comments and questions you have. The best way to connect

is via email: vogelmusik@mags.net. More details will be forthcoming in the September issue of *The Clarion*.

One more thing about Christmas: Do you know which hymn poetry is based on Psalm 98? The author did not intend for this to be a Christmas Carol. Who among you will be able to give me the title of the hymn in question along with the author’s name? There may be a prize!

In the meantime – Merry Everything! ☺
--Barbara Vogel



Founders Day

Each year, near the end of June we celebrate, in different ways, our "Founders Day". It is usually the Sunday closest to June 20th which was the day, in 1895, when our church was founded.

Such days are important ones to mark. We gain much by looking at our past. At the same time, it causes us to look forward. What can we carry with us? What lessons can be learned? How did our ancestors deal with certain things? It is important to keep alive that spirit of our ancestors in faith. In their day, they looked ahead and did things that we are the beneficiary of. Regardless of wars, depressions, upturns, downturns, changes in attendance, they kept steady in the faith and they have entrusted that faith, and this church, to us.

So too, we need to continue to look forward into the future God holds for us. We always stand at the intersection of the

past and future. As a church, we trust God is with us in this moment. And we know our responsibility to keep our church strong and faithful, for today, as well as for the days that will follow.

I hope you might consider joining those of us who will be giving to our matching campaign tied to Founders Day. We face a budget deficit as we look towards year-end. It is also around that same time that we will be preparing the budget for next year. Now is the moment to decide if all of us will support our church and the level of programming and services we have come to appreciate, or if it necessary to reduce those things and cut the budget.

But the issues are bigger than just numbers and budgets. Founders Day is a time to ask what our church really means to us and what part each of us play in keeping it strong, growing and vital. I know, just as our

Rev. Mark Allan

forefathers here knew, that the best days of Christ Church on Quaker Hill lie ahead of us, not behind us!

As we enter the summer, a time when things slow down, we seek to continue to be a faithful and welcoming presence here on Quaker Hill. We will, again this year, offer Summer Sunday School, so as to provide children's Christian education all year long. I will also be offering a Sermon Series, as I usually do during the summer.

As I write this, we approach Pentecost - a day the church celebrates the Holy Spirit coming upon the church and, in a sense, making it come alive. I pray, in these coming days of summer, that you might find rest and renewal, and that we all might feel a renewing wind blowing through our church and our hearts.

Peace,

Rev. Mark+



Christ Church Holy Land Pilgrimage—*Update!*

Many of you have inquired about the trip Barbara and I are leading to the Holy Land this November, and several have already signed up. There will be a short informational meeting on June 10 at 5:30 PM for those who have signed-on AND for those considering going.

If you were considering joining us, this would be a good time to get the information that you just might need to make your decision. Barb and I will talk about some of the details of the trip and answer any questions. This may be the only opportunity we may have to offer this trip to the Holy Land. Please, don't miss the deadline!



Sunday Worship



Psalm 100 has been described as a “primer on worship. It tells us to shout, to sing, and to praise God for his faithfulness. When we worship we are to do it with joy and gladness and thanksgiving.” Verse 1 in the King James Version reads, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.” The NIV tells us to “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.” In The Message, Eugene Peterson’s translation exhorts, “On your feet now – applaud

God!” You can read several translations of Psalm 100 at www.biblegateway.com and find William Kethe’s poetry on page 200 in our hymnal. The tune is “Old Hundredth” attributed to Louis Bourgeois, and commonly used for the singing of the *Doxology*. In I Corinthians, we are instructed to worship together, to share our gifts, and be strengthened.

This month we will celebrate Communion, the Bell Choirs, Fathers, and Founder’s Day on June 3, 10,

17, and 24 respectively. Your presence is a ministry, a gift of strength to our congregation, and we look forward to seeing you Sunday mornings.

Please visit our website at www.ccoqh.org and click on “Calendar” for all of the Summer Worship Happenings in July and August.

--Christ Church on Quaker Hill-- an extended family that gathers regularly to worship Our Father, and journey together. All are Welcome!



“A Spiritual Feast for the Hungry” Feeds Over 20 Area Women

The Congregational Life Team’s Gail Orser, Mimi Hedwig, and Linda Chase spearheaded a very successful retreat on a most significantly beautiful Saturday, May 12. Guest Speaker, Major Lauren Hodgson of the Salvation

Army focused on how women need to each find and celebrate their own unique body, soul, and spirit. Each aspect of our lives needs to be fed and nourished for balance. There was time for listening, sharing, singing, praying,

and for some delicious food. Look at the smiling faces below. There are many familiar faces and some new ones that you may soon meet. Perhaps you might like to attend a retreat. There will be more! Thank you, Team!!



Christ Church Volunteers Help Rebuild New Orleans

--Robert Reilly

Early in the morning on May 5, a group of volunteers met at Christ Church on Quaker Hill. Seven members of this group were about to begin their trip to New Orleans, Louisiana (often called NOLA). They were not going to attend Jazz Fest, certainly a good reason to fly there. They were going to work rebuilding homes still left devastated by hurricane Katrina. Every year since the hurricane destroyed much of the city on August 29, 2005, Christ Church has sent a team to help rebuild.

Karen Belfontaine, Susan Berlandi, Maggie Everett, Susan Horton, Terry Iorio, and John Lyons, all led by Bob Reilly, did not stay in any fancy-schmancy hotel. They bunked (literally) down at Camp Restore, a Lutheran Church and school that has been converted to dormitory style volunteer housing. Camp Restore provides "three hots and a cot" along with fellowship and, well, it IS a Church after all.

The group worked with the Saint Bernard Project (SBP), an award-winning rebuilding, nonprofit organization. The subject house for the Quaker Hill group was part of SBP's "Opportunity Housing" program. SBP has thus far purchased 20 abandoned properties from the City of New Orleans. These properties are restored and then sold through the Opportunity Housing Program, creating affordable homeownership opportunities for residents. This has the added benefit of rehabilitating blighted

properties and strengthening neighborhoods. It is a win-win-win situation.

Monday through Friday the group worked transforming bare sheet rock into walls and ceilings ready to accept a top coat of paint. Under the supervision of David Komoroski and Jennifer Rogerson from SBP, gallons of spackle were applied, and pounds were then sanded off, leaving smooth surfaces free of holes and seams. On Friday, some of the team was able to apply the first coat of primer. They returned to Camp Restore at the end of each day tired and dirty.

Several neighbors took time to stop by and thank all those working to help improve their neighborhood. Each had a terrible story to tell of their experiences during and after Katrina. These memories won't soon be forgotten. Ms. Ruby Joseph confirmed the water depth reached ten feet at both her

home and the subject home.

But all was not work and toil for the group. After a shower, the City beckoned. Five of the seven evenings in Louisiana were spent helping the local food service industry. Dinners were not limited to the French Quarter. Mid-City, Gentilly, and the Business District have wonderful restaurants that provided delicious meals too.

On Wednesday afternoon, the group was invited to the "Welcome Home Celebration" for Lama Ngawang, a student of the Dali Lama. Lama was a victim of contractor malfeasance as well as the hurricane. SBP came in and fixed the problems caused by the first contractor and literally raised the home two stories above the ground.

After work on Friday, the group visited the "Katrina Museum." The lobby displays Fats Domino's ruined Steinway grand piano. Within the

museum are many rescued artifacts, photos, videos, and personal accounts of both hurricanes Katrina and Rita (remember the area was hit twice in one season). Everyone on the team was moved, some to tears. The reasons for traveling 1,500 miles to work for free, reconstructing homes, for complete strangers were made crystal clear.

The next morning held the trip back north. The team returned home to Pawling tired, but fulfilled with a job well done, and ready to return to the Big Easy.

*For more information contact: Christ Church on Quaker Hill www.ccoqh.org Saint Bernard Project - www.stbernardproject.org Camp Restore www.camprestore.org

Shown below, from left to right are: Bob Reilly, Maggie Everett, House Captain Dave Komoroski, Susan Horton, Susan Berlandi, Karen Belfontaine, John Lyons, and Terry Iorio



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To Our Dedicated Teachers--

Special Teachers

by Sarah McBride

Special teachers are always kind.

They always know what's on our mind.

They've honestly shown how much they cared...

especially when we're really scared.

Their warm, affable demeanor

encourages the most unfeasible endeavor.

Special teachers inspire dreams and see they come true.

They amend our countless mistakes or what we misconstrue.

They abound in amity...

without ever compromising their integrity.

They're an extraordinary pleasure;

they're what our hearts adore and lives treasure.

Special teachers are rare.

Special teachers are an answer to a prayer.



JUNE

Christ Church on the Air

Sunday Morning Radio Broadcast

6:00 a.m.: WDBY 105.5 FM

7:00 a.m.: WPUT 1510 AM and

WINE 940 AM

Or listen online:

www.940espradio.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ccoqh.org

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