

# The Main Spring

August/September 2015

## From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Christ Memorial,

Another *Main Spring*, another season of transitions. Vacation time is giving way to back to school and back to work, as we prepare to give up the lovely breaks in our routine that Summer brings. The weather is still warm, but we know that September always brings the onset of cooler weather. The gardening season is ending, harvest is in full swing. One of the things that always seems to accompany transitional times is stock-taking. What did we accomplish or experience that we are grateful for; what do we want to schedule more time for next year. I pray that each of you, as you move into the next season, is able to bring with you pleasant memories and a sense of peace as the Summer fades.

During the past months your Vestry has also been joining other Parishes in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts in engaging in some stock-taking about the health of our congregation here at Christ Memorial. All the Parishes in the Diocese are using a study guide called "Marks of Congregational Vitality" to engage in an assessment of our strengths and weaknesses as a parish. The guide has a series of questions based on the Baptismal vows in our Book of Common Prayer that we are asking ourselves to see how we are doing at fulfilling god's mission for the world. One Baptismal question asks, "Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?" then that question is broken down to ask about our worship services, our times of prayer, our hospitality, our stewardship. There are lots of questions and it is taking the Vestry several meetings to go through this exercise. The result is that both our strengths and weaknesses show up—what we can build on, and what we need to build up in order to be a healthy and viable congregation. As a subcategory of another question, ("Will you proclaim by word and example the good News of God in Christ?"), the guide

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## Bishop Fisher's Annual Visit to Christ Memorial

Bishop Fisher will make his annual visit to be with us at our regular 9:00 am service on Sunday, October 25, 2015. The Bishop will preach, celebrate Holy Communion, visit with us at coffee hour, and meet with the Vestry after coffee hour. He will, in addition, Confirm or Receive anyone who would like to become a member of Christ Memorial Episcopal, and baptize into the Body of Christ anyone, young or old, if they have never been baptized. Please let Pastor Paula know if you would like to be Received or Confirmed or Baptized. Adult Formation classes are beginning on Sunday, September 13, from 10:45-12:15.

## Vestry News

We purchased a snow blower which will make snow removal easier. Our yard sale and Chicken Barbecue was a success. The large lectern was removed and stored making more room for the choir. Bishop will be visiting Oct 25, 2015 at our regular Sunday service time. I was on vacation in July we went to Scotland and had a great time I missed everyone here and it is good to be back home. Vestry decided to meet during the summer months. Our monthly outreach monies went to the following causes: Mapong Babies Home in Ghana, Victims of Nepal earth quake, Wounded Warrior Program, Stop Hunger Now Program, and Tri-Valley Meals on Wheels. Your Officers, Wardens and Vestry are trying something new as a way to exchange ideas and broaden our horizons. On October 3 we will have a day-long retreat with the Wardens and Vestry of Christ Church Rochdale led by Canon Rich Simpson. We will give you a report after we meet.

Mary Martin, Clerk

asks “What is our mission statement?” “Does the parish know it?” “How do we live it out intentionally?”

And so, I ask you, my brothers and sisters in the parish, to answer these questions for yourselves. In case you don't know the Mission Statement of Christ Memorial, you can find it elsewhere in the Main Spring. It is also on our website. Our Mission Statement is supposed to say what we stand for and are committed to doing. I would really be pleased if you spent a bit of time thinking about this statement and I would be even more pleased if you shared with one of your Vestry members some ideas about how you would like us to live it as a parish. There are lots of other questions we have to answer, some about how we use the building, some about how we treat each other and visitors who come, and some about the quality of our worship. If anyone wants to see the whole study guide, it can be found on the Diocese of Western Mass website. We will have more to share with you about the results of our stock-taking when the process is finished. For now, please thank your Vestry representatives for their ongoing efforts in representing you, and share your ideas with them. Part of the results of our stock-taking is already evident. We already are a HEALTHY CONGREGATION, but we have lots of areas where we can grow and improve.

May the Lord who has already blessed us all richly continue to bless us, our congregation and our families.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Paula+

## Christ Memorial Episcopal Church Mission Statement

Through worship, prayer, education and loving service, we at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church strive to reflect the love and teachings of our Savior Jesus Christ, both in our life together and as we share his message with others, near and far.

## Please update your church telephone directory

Fran Derby  
325 Ashland Ave #5  
Southbridge, MA 01550

Bill & Gloria Jordan  
Life Care Center of Wilbraham  
2399 Boston Road  
Wilbraham, MA 01095

William & Marie Salsman & Ayden  
691 Dennison Road  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
[wsalsman@gmail.com](mailto:wsalsman@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Paula Winsor Sage  
220 Providence Road #214  
South Grafton, MA 01560



**The fall tag sale will be held on  
Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am –  
2pm. The rain date is Saturday, October  
3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any good used or new  
items to donate, you can bring them into  
the garage of the rectory.**

## FREE

If anyone wants some free water kefir grains Cheryl Ingram has extra to gift. She is also happy to teach people how to use them to make their own water kefir.



## United Thank Offering (UTO)

United Thank Offering is a long-standing tradition in the Episcopal Church. By placing “thankful” coins in the Blue Box (or bills in the Blue Envelope), together we give hope to people all over the world. Every coin from every Blue Box is given away in grants. There may be a few minutes each day when each of you can find a moment to remember how lucky you are, say a prayer and drop a coin into the Blue box. Keep the Blue Box where it can be seen as a reminder each day to give thanks.

Blue Boxes and envelopes can be found in the vestibule. If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to “The UTO” and use the blue envelope. The boxes and envelopes can be dropped in the collection plate, or given to me. This year, the Fall Ingathering will be held on October 15. We will need to gather these by October 3.

Some thoughts on things to be thankful for: Friends who care, a fulfilling job, a cat or dog who loves you, someone to share your dreams, a healthy family, getting a special hug, waking up and feeling good, your car started, a garden full of flowers. And always remember, God loves you.

Respectively,  
Sandi Nurek  
U.T.O. Chairperson

## Altar Guild

Last year we had a plan to have some of the worn, tarnished brass altar items restored. We have now had the items stripped, sandblasted and buffed. The result was incredible. In addition, we have now had most (not all) of the items powder coated which will protect the polished brass from finger prints which causes oxidization and tarnishing. The items that were not able to be coated were the flower vases, large candleabras (in each corner of the Altar), Baptismal Font and the Paschal Candle holder. In order to have them powder coated, they need to be able to be hung a certain way and these items do not have what was needed. These will need to be polished after handling to insure no marks are left on them which will take hardly any time at all. Previously, we would have a “Polishing” party that took the ladies of the Altar Guild several hours to do. Thank you again to all that we able to contribute to our appeal to have this done.

On another note, you may notice that several Sundays throughout the year there are fresh flowers on the Altar. These may be given in memory of someone, or just being thankful for something. If you let me know, I will be happy to take care of ordering etc for you. These fresh flowers usually last for 2 Sundays and cost \$35. On the Sundays with no fresh flowers, we have a large assortment of artificial flowers and vases that are used. As I am personally challenged when it comes to arranging flowers, if anyone would like to volunteer to do this, it would be welcomed. You need not be a member of the Altar Guild. Please see me if you are interested.

Pastor Paula has now blessed the recently purchased white funeral palls which cover the casket or urn.

Thank you to all the wonderful ladies of the Altar Guild for all their work and support throughout the year.

Sandi Nurek  
Altar Guild Directress

## Church cookbooks for sale!

These are cookbooks that the ladies and gents of the church made. They are \$10.00 if anyone is interested in purchasing one please contact Stacey.



## Chicken Barbecue

With everyone's help this year, our Chicken BBQ had a record sales total of \$1,058.91! Great Job Everyone! The weather was great, sales were up from last year (155), costs were up slightly from last year, but the "after the barbeque" sales and donations helped tremendously.

Year after year, we have so many wonderful people that help support this annual BBQ by selling/purchasing tickets, setting up, biscuit making, strawberry cutting and of course, working the day of the BBQ all through clean up. Thank You All for working together to make this a great day.

God Bless You.

Sandi Nurek

## Prayer Shawls

After a summer hiatus, the Prayer Shawl gatherings will begin again on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The first gathering is Thursday, September 17 in the Undercroft beginning at 1 p.m. Hope to see you then! Reminder to all parishioners: The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a nationwide undertaking of faith. In our church, we have given shawls at times of loss, sickness, caring and blessings. Shawls have been given to adults and children including newly baptized infants and newly confirmed members. This is an outreach ministry to all within and without our parish congregation. To request that a shawl be given, please contact Pastor Paula Sage, Ginny Grenier or Pat Zegarra.



