

March 2010

Christ Church

Chronicle



Don't forget to spring ahead. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on Sunday, 14 March 2010

Lenten Practice:

On Ash Wednesday in the name of the church and for your own spiritual well-being, I invited you to a good and holy Lent. Practically, what this means is to plan for and make a sacred space in your every day. Why not begin spending 10 minutes here and now wherever you are, for every place is a sacred place?

Just remember that God is everywhere, all around us - that "Hound of Heaven" constantly reaches out to us, even in the most unlikely situations. To know this and with just a little practice we can pray anywhere. Remember Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer when they said, "Lord teach us to pray." He is anxious to teach us as well - just ask him.

I happen to think Lent is a time for testing our freedom. Try this with grumbling, talking about ourselves and all those petty habits that make us hard to live with. Lent is a time for regaining control - mortification is a good practice but I think it far more beneficial to get control of our lives especially in those areas which damage other people. Nearly all of us have habits, foibles, even addictions that keep us from God, ourselves and others.

Invite the Spirit to breathe life into your most intimate desires that we may each use the seven weeks before Easter focusing energy on improving!

Father Larry+

And while you are praying...

Please pray for Pat Donahue, Father Larry's wife. As of the writing of this newsletter, she is in Allegheny General in Pittsburgh with an as yet undiagnosed condition which, among other problems, interferes with her rheumatoid arthritis medications leaving her in constant severe pain. Please pray for those trying to treat her, Father Larry and their family as well.

Altar Servers:

March 7

EM: Ellen Gracie
Lector: Jeri Hogan
Crucifer: Jillian Gray
1st Server: Jodi Gray
2nd Server: Betty Reed

March 14 - Daylight time

EM: Shelley Huston
Lector: Rod Fernandez
Crucifer: Roxana Fernandez
1st Server: Carol Teresi
2nd Server: Shane Thompson

March 21

EM: Stuart Thompson
Lector: Leslie Work
Crucifer: Stephanie Onyeiwu
1st Server: Adrian Work
2nd Server: Jodi Gray

March 28 - Palm Sunday

EM: Elizabeth Weiss Ozorak
Lector: Alyssa Fernandez
Crucifer: Roxana Fernandez

Senior Warden sez....

Christ Church was incorporated back in 1825, just 37 years after David Mead set foot in what was to become this great city. Now, 185 years later, our church is at an exciting crossroads in our history. After years of having a supply priest each Sunday, we now have a part-time priest of our own, attendance is up about 10%, the Sunday School has almost doubled in size, the choir is much larger, college students attend regularly, there are new faces on the Vestry and the parish is fully participating in Diocesan programs.

OK, sounds like everything is good. Why are we at a crossroads? First, although we are growing, we are not growing quickly enough to support a part-time priest. Father Larry is being paid by using some unrestricted funds left to us by two former parishioners. We have been able and will continue to be able to use these funds through the end of the year without touching our endowment. This gives us some breathing room and puts us in a lot better shape than other churches in the Diocese. Nonetheless, we need to continue to grow and to find additional revenue sources as we look forward to 2011. How can we accomplish this? We are already good stewards of the bounty God has provided. Based on the number of active members at Christ Church, giving for the advance of the Kingdom is excellent. That said, stewardship is composed of three parts – time, talent and treasure. We are doing our part with the treasure part. We could use a bit more stewardship of time and talent. I know that we are all busy. I'm in my store six days/week. But, using a sports analogy, we need to step up to the plate a bit more to help out with Christian outreach. This is really the second crossroads. In fact, if we concentrate on the second, the first will take care of itself!

Tom Collard, Senior Warden

February Vestry Tidbits

The officers elected are Tom Collard - Senior Warden, Craig Smith - Junior Warden, Pauli Thompson - Treasurer and Shelley Huston - Clerk.

Jeri Hogan asked if we should discontinue our participation in Soup Kitchen if more don't volunteer. She said the oven in the Walker Room doesn't work. The format of this year's annual meeting was discussed and adopted for the future. The Parochial Report was presented, approved and signed. Copies of a revised contract for rental of church property were handed out for study. The fiscal year for the contracts has been changed to April thru March to allow for possible changes at the annual meeting. The bishop has requested a special offering for seminarians in our diocese which will be on 14 March. The value of the Christ Church Chronicle was questioned. Reorganizing church committees was postponed.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY

10 AM Holy Eucharist
11:15 AM ECW (Second Sunday)
11:15 AM Vestry (Third Sunday)

TUESDAY

10 AM (Third Tuesday) Northwest
Spinners & Weavers Guild
Noon Open AA Meeting

WEDNESDAY

Noon Open AA Meeting
7:30 PM Choir

THURSDAY

10 AM Soup Kitchen (First Thursday)
Noon Open AA Meeting
7 PM Red Door Quilters

FRIDAY

8 AM TOPS
Noon Open AA Meeting

SATURDAY

9 AM (First Saturday) Northwest
Spinners & Weavers Guild
10 am 3 Colors Group (Third Saturday)
8 PM Saturday Night AA Meeting



March Birthdays

9 Joan Byham
11 John Bainbridge
16 Gerry Carnes
17 Bill Witherup
19 Gloria Ciesielski
James Heald
25 Nancy Bluxome
Gladys Gordon
31 Bill Johnson

Don't forget:

To help at Soup kitchen 10 am at Stone Methodist Church on Thursday, 4 March. Please add your name to the list of volunteers by notifying Betty Reed. She will call and remind you. At least 4 people from Christ Church are required to do all the work. More would be greatly appreciated.

To bring canned goods and personal products – like toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. – for Women's Services on the first Sunday of the month. There is a basket at the back of the church for your donations.

To bring a check to help support our seminarians on Sunday, 14 March.

To reset your clocks for Daylight Time on 14 March.

Thanks:

To Fr. Doug Dayton and Fr. Bob Samuels for supplying us during Fr. Larry's absence.

To the people who contributed \$184 to the Bishop's appeal for Haiti.

How You Can Help...

Take photos of events related to the church and give them to people who can use them for the internet and Chronicle.

Learn to blog to publish online information of interest to the parish. Shelley Huston will teach you. If you can email, you can blog. If you don't know what a blog is, you can see Christ Church's blog [here](http://christchurchmeadville.blogspot.com/) or at <http://christchurchmeadville.blogspot.com/>

Check the birthday list on the easel bulletin board by the office and make any corrections needed.

Check the list in February's Chronicle for more needs.



The annual Christ Church Auction

will be held in late April this year. While you are doing spring cleaning, remember to reserve a special place to store all those items you know or even suspect someone else can use or might ~~ever~~ need. Only high quality items will be accepted. Save the other stuff for the fall rummage sale. The date is tentatively set for Friday, 23 April. Since the Y will no longer cater the dinner and Christ Church has too few volunteers to both prepare and serve the dinner, the vestry is investigating alternative ways of providing it. More specific information will be in the April Chronicle.

Internet Resources:

[Christ Church](http://www.christchurchmeadville.com/) - <http://www.christchurchmeadville.com/>

[Diocese of NW PA](http://www.dionwpa.org/aboutus.htm) - <http://www.dionwpa.org/aboutus.htm>

[Cathedral of St. Paul](http://www.cathedralofstpaul.org/), Erie - <http://www.cathedralofstpaul.org/>

[The Episcopal Church](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/index.htm) - <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/index.htm>

[The Revised Common Lectionary](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/) - <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

[The 1979 BCP](http://www.bcponline.org/) - <http://www.bcponline.org/>

[Hymnal 1982](http://oremus.org/hymnal/82.html) - <http://oremus.org/hymnal/82.html>

[The Anglican Communion](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/) - <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/>

Reply and you may win:

Fill out the questionnaire below and bring it to church so we have it by Thursday, 18 March 2010. No record of your answers will be kept so don't worry if you don't read the Chronicle. Just be honest, please. All responses with the requested information will be put into a box and one winner drawn. The winning entry will have the privilege of choosing one of the hymns for each Sunday in May.

Name: _____

I read the Christ Church Chronicle Yes No Some of it This is the first time I've seen it

I see the Chronicle On the web In the mail At church

I use the calendar Yes No

I think the Chronicle should: Be mailed to everyone Be available on the internet only

Be mailed only to those who request it Be discontinued

I would like to see it continue and read the following information in the Chronicle _____

I check the [Christ Church website](#) Regularly Occasionally Never What is that?

I have seen the [Christ Church blog](#) Yes Never I will check it out What is a blog?

