

# The Good News

from  
Christ Episcopal Church

A Monthly Publication To Serve Our Members and Friends

April 2007

## Interim Rector's Corner

Change is all around us. Some changes are pleasant ones. I do not know anyone who has not been eagerly anticipating spring this year. Those first warm days in March were a sign that winter was losing its grip. Other changes are not so pleasant. No one looks forward to higher gas and electricity prices. As Easter approaches we are reminded that as Easter people, we are changed. We too are called to embrace the risen life of Christ in our lives. We are called to put our trust in the Holy Spirit and become evangelists, bearers of the Good News.

One of the recent changes at Christ Church is the beginning of the renewal of our parish house. Thanks to a very generous gift, we now have a new floor in Memorial Hall and the Undercroft open space that is the home of our children's worship twice each month. We are faced with a marvelous opportunity to have children's chapel each week, we just need another team of volunteers. The faith of the community depends on each of us being willing to share the faith with the next generation. Think about staffing for the nursery and Sunday School too. There are many exciting opportunities for service at Christ Church as well. Please consider how you might serve in new ways including the Community Meal, Elder Care, Altar Guild, Acolytes, LEMs and LEVs, Saint Margaret's Guild, all of our Christ Care groups, and many more.

At the Magnetic Church Conference in March, Andrew Weeks reminded us that "churches don't change people, only God does." He also said that the church that embraces change as *opportunity* and manages change well will thrive by recognizing the new and changing needs and gifts of all members. Christ Church will grow by changing to respond to those needs and supporting those gifts in new ministries.

During the season of Lent, we have focused on who we are as Episcopalians, the nature of our governance, our place in the Anglican Communion, and the challenges that will divide us or enable new mission and opportunities to share our faith. We will continue our journey of exploring our faith during the Easter Season in Memorial Hall. If what you have read in the newspapers or watched on television has confused or disturbed you, please join our discussion. As your Senior Warden says at the end of his message, Christ Church as an Episcopal church strives to be a place where ALL ARE WELCOME.

Join us for worship each Sunday and have a blessed Easter Season!

Charlie+



Seeking, Serving, and Sharing Christ

# The Good News

## CORRECTION!

Last month I published the wrong telephone number for Judy Bjoring in an article about the prayer support that she and Louise Powell provide. I sincerely apologize and hope Judy's son Lyle will forgive me. (It was his number.)

If you wish to put someone on the church prayer list, contact Judy Bjoring at 847-838-8051 or Louise Powell at 847-689-2383.

Jan Nelson

## *Holy Week Schedule*

**Palm Sunday, 4/1:** 10:00 a.m. only (no 7:30; no Sunday School)

**Wed. 4/4:** 7:00 p.m. *Holy Eucharist with healing*

**Maundy Thursday 4/5:** 5:30 p.m. *Gather in Memorial Hall*

6:00 p.m. *Potluck Supper—Please bring a dish to pass*

7:00 p.m. *Holy Eucharist in church with foot-washing*

**Good Friday 4/6:** 7:00 p.m. *Good Friday Liturgy*

**Holy Saturday 4/7:** Noon *Holy Saturday Liturgy in chapel*

12:30 p.m. *pizza and rehearsal*

**Easter: Saturday 4/7:** 7:00 p.m. *Easter Vigil*

**Sunday 4/8:** 10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*  
(no 7:30; no Sunday School)

### CARE

If you have concerns that need to be addressed by the CARE committee, contact Carol Niemi (847-356-3996), Cindy Tippet (847-746-5170), or Walt Givler (847-623-3485).

*If you're admitted to the hospital, please notify the church office so that your church family may pray for you. It will also assure a visit by our clergy or one of our Stephen Ministers.*

# The Good News

## The Curate's Corner

With spring slowly rolling in again, I am beginning my search for my next call; my two years here at Christ Church as your curate is over as of the end of August, 2007. As I knew it would, the time has flown by; I have learned so much from you all and come to love you. It will be difficult to leave and move on to a new congregation, but that is the nature of this Making Excellent Disciples program and usually the life of a priest. Our relationship and our connection do not have to end however; one component of the Making Excellent Disciples program is that the curate's parish remains in a mentoring relationship for at least five years, through the curate's next call.

My next step is to find a call as a "priest-in-charge" or as a rector; the difference is that a "priest-in-charge" is appointed by the Bishop for a specified period of time. In my case, that would be a three year commitment; the hope would be that at the end of the time the parish would call me as the rector. I have submitted my resume and information to five congregations here in the Chicago diocese. Because of the excellent grounding I have received here, I am excited about the opportunities that await me. Just as I am praying for you to find the right priest to be your rector, please pray for me in my search.

I have traveled a lot of miles since the end of January. Charlie and I went to California to The Great Church Conference with other Making Excellent Disciple curates and rectors; this was a wonderful experience. I particularly enjoyed hearing Reggie McNeal speak from his book *Practicing Greatness: 7 Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders*. The seven are self-awareness, self-management, self-development, mission, decision making, belonging, and aloneness. As he was speaking, I found myself congratulating myself on doing some of these; as he spoke about others, I found myself squirming in my seat because I fall far short. His point was that no one gets all of these right all the time, but that as leaders we always need to be aware and working on these areas.

Have a Blessed Holy Week and Eastertide!  
Rebecca+

## Where is my new Directory?

By Peter Lukas

About six months ago we all began signing up for pictures for a new church directory. Many of us had our pictures taken in October while others had to wait until November. OK, so that was November... where is our new directory? Well, the buck stops here. When I volunteered to put the information together little did I know that on December 14<sup>th</sup> Abbott would announce that it was buying another company, and that the next two and half months of my time would be consumed with integrating the products into the Abbott main stream.

In January Olan Mills sent the photo disk with additional instructions but unfortunately I had other priorities. Thankfully Karen started providing ideas and gathering photos and on March 6<sup>th</sup> we were able to submit the directory to Olan Mills. We should receive the proof back in about two weeks, and after we approve it and return it, then it takes about a month for the directories to be completed. Based on the timeline we should have our directories by the end of April. I appreciate your patience and apologize if I have inconvenienced anyone.

### GOD IS GOOD

Every once in a while I am reminded how good He is when some of the simplest things happen. This letter was received at the church office on February 15.

Please use the enclosed check where most needed. We truly appreciate your continuing to send us your newsletter. It helps us to keep up with old friends and to pass on ideas for our current parish. We can remember when the boiler broke down at Christmas time years ago, and we all had to "bundle up" for the church service because there was no heat! Sure hope your fuel fund has reached its goal.

Peace be with you,  
Al and Barbara Armstrong

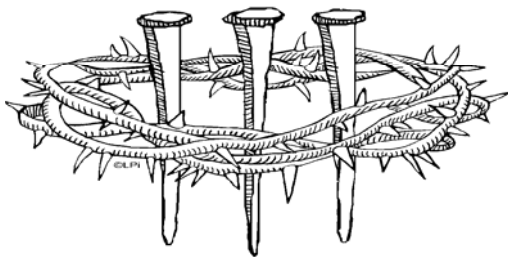


**St. Margaret's Guild** wishes to give a great big THANK YOU to all the men and women of Christ Church for their hard work and support of the recent caramel candy project. Special thanks to Cheryl Ptasienski for devoting a week of her vacation time to see that everything went according to plan! We also want to thank Brian Melin for explaining just what it means to be "busy as bees" at our February meeting!

## SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Your search committee is making progress. We have interviewed by telephone several candidates and have only a few left to do. Applications are still coming in however slowly. Once they are all completed, we will contact some of their references and proceed to visitations. We hope to start visiting prospects after Easter. Keep praying for us and our church.

*Lent*



## SURPRISE!

What a surprise I was given. On Sunday February 18, my oldest son called me and said his wife had received four discount tickets to the Waukegan Yacht club. Chad said he had never been there but had heard the food was pretty good. We pulled up in the parking lot that was jammed with cars; I told Chad the food must be fantastic. I was clueless even as I spied a sign welcoming Steve. My first clue was once inside I recognized a few people from Church and some people from my league volleyball team, as I looked across the bar there was another sixty or so people. The first to stand out was my former boss from Don's Finest Foods. I was with Don's for just over 20 years. I was the meat manager when my cancer was discovered and was forced to retire. It was great to see owner John Ruffolo and head bookkeeper Jana along with long serving employees Paul and Livingston and my friend Bruno from the meat department, this was my first realization this is for me.

What a great surprise to have so many of my church family and friends and family in one place. There were 112 give or take. This is an honor I will never forget. I thank the members of Christ Church. I know this had to have been planned months in advance, and I did not leave office as senior warden until January 21. Man, can you keep a secret! Secrets were also held by my friends and family and wife.

What a humbling experience to have so many people in one room who have prayed, sent food, given words of encouragement, sent cards; it just doesn't get any better than this.

I don't know everyone who was responsible for this surprise but I am sure I want to thank Father Caskey, Mother Crise, Marty, Cindy, and Walt. I am sure there are a lot more so I thank everyone who put this together. A special thank you to Malcolm and Dorothy Layson for the wonderful print of Christ Church and the border mat signed by every one at the party. This is a great framed addition to my living room.

The only problem I had with the party is that there were so many people in one place that I was not able to share my time with everyone. I tried not to miss anyone. God bless everyone who was able to attend and those who could not make the party. Thank you and God bless all of you for your prayers; you are also in my prayers.  
Stephen W. Niemi

# The Good News

## From the Senior Warden

I would like to share with you two days of my life at Christ church. I was at the church working with my employees removing the old tiles in memorial hall and preparing the floor to put in new tiles. I felt good knowing that the work we were doing was going to be part of Christ Church for a long time.

As the day went on Hank, Fr Charlie, Frank, Ed and Walt were working like beavers emptying out the community meal storage room, so Frank and Ed can paint it the following day. Earlier Hank and I were emptying the hall in the undercroft so we could work on the new floor. We weren't the only ones in the church that day. I saw Preston, Don, Walt, and Harvey laughing and working upstairs in the treasurer's office. I got a big hello from them.

That evening the Stephen Ministers gathered for supervision and friendship. Since the next day was my birthday, I was given a card signed by the Stephen Ministers and wished a happy birthday. We left after ending our meeting with a prayer.

The next day I arrived at the church to work on the floor and I was presented with another birthday card signed by Fr. Charlie, Mother Rebecca, Walt and Susan and given some fantastic cupcakes. Ed and Frank were working hard painting, and I was greeted with a big hug and wished a Happy Birthday. Ken Hairrell was also around working on a project. I felt loved and part of a community as we were all working.

A few minutes later two people who live on the street came in wearing boots that Christ Church provided for them. They were asking to see Fr. Charlie. He wasn't in so Ken helped them until Fr. Charlie showed up.

During lunch time workers were cooking on the stove enjoying lunch, and George was around working on a project like he always does. Dick Bairstow came by and so did Bill and Nancy Ashley

As you can see life really happens at Christ Church and community; love and kindness truly exists in our home. What a great place to be and as we say ALL ARE WELCOME!

Marty Goldman

## “Labor Pains” for Site Plan/Resurrection Garden

by Bill Ashley

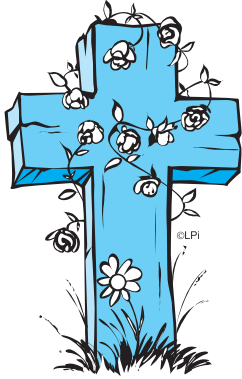
In January 1994, the vestry voted to retain the services of Mankoff Equipment, Inc. to remove the fuel oil tanks located under the parking lot directly north of the Lady Chapel. The negotiated price to remove the tanks was \$3,230.75 contingent on there being no soil contamination.

On February 14, Mankoff began the excavation. By the end of the day, they found the 2000-gallon tank, supposedly filled with sand years ago, completely full of fuel oil. Removal and transportation of the oil to a refinery for reclamation would be borne by Christ Church.

The smaller 1000-gallon tank, left with an unknown quantity of oil in it years ago, had corroded and leaked into the surrounding area causing soil contamination. The Environmental Protection Agency required removal and transportation of approximately 432 cubic yards (24 truckloads) of contaminated soil to an approved waste site. The final cost to Christ Church for the removal of the tanks, the oil, the contaminated soil, and refilling the hole was a staggering \$62,000.

The removal of the oil tanks cleared the way for the rerouting of the sewer line to prevent future disruption of the Resurrection Garden, which was necessary before work on the parking lot, or the Memorial Garden could proceed. By the end of June, the two remaining rental properties on Grand Avenue were vacated and demolished clearing the way for the parking lot construction and grounds landscaping to commence.

Brinkman and Associates, the designer and contractor for the parking lot and landscaping project, used two local firms as subcontractors. Astro Electric, owned by parishioner Robert Dixon, did the electrical work. McClure Engineering vice-president, Charles McBride, and site engineer, Ed Huesing, both Christ Church parishioners, would direct the engineering portion of the work.



The church has an old tripod projection (movie) screen that is about ready to fall apart. It wasn't used for years, but now we find ourselves using it more and more for presentations with the computer projectors. Before we run out and buy a new one, this may be the type of thing that someone has that they no longer use. The right size would be about a 6 x 8 foot. There are smaller screens, like the old pull-down one we had in memorial hall, but they aren't nearly as versatile. It needs to be in good shape.

Thanks,  
Peter Lukas

### Emotions of a Mother

by Bill Ashley

Her heart filled with fear as the Angel came near  
and told her she'd conceive a child,  
she wondered how this could be  
but her faith was strong and she believed.

Her heart swelled with pride as she watched the boy child  
laying in that manger bed,  
tears of joy ran down her face  
and love filled that lowly birthing place.

Her heart filled with awe and wonder  
as she watched him in the Temple,  
age twelve, discussing theology,  
he made it sound so plain and simple.

Her heart filled with sorrow as she gazed upon the cross  
where her son was dying a painful death,  
oh, how terrible the cost,  
how could she ever survive such loss?

Her heart filled with joy, pride, fear and wonder  
when she heard the stone was rolled away,  
and her precious Son walked out of the tomb  
on that very first Easter Day!

### Have you heard?

The entire Sunday school was swallowed by a 25 foot long inflatable whale which Chuck Dixon helped create. Happily, like Jonah, we were all regurgitated when the bell rang.



Come, walk in the door  
Check out our new floor  
The shine makes your eye sore  
Those big cracks are no more  
A salute to our old floor!  
That poor floor of yore  
You served us so well  
But our new floor is swell.

Felicity Dixon

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: (847)662-7081

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday

Hours: 8:30a.m.-1:00p.m.

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00 a.m.

Family Eucharist

10:30 a.m.

Adult Forum



The deadline for the May newsletter is Monday April 9.

Christ Episcopal Church  
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Waukegan, Illinois 60085

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