



# The Good News

from  
Christ Episcopal Church

A Monthly Publication To Serve Our Members and Friends

July 2007

## **A new rector has been called to Christ Church.**

The Reverend Eileen Shanley-Roberts has accepted the vestry's call to lead Christ Church. Eileen grew up in southwestern Wisconsin and is familiar with the Chicago area because she has family here. She graduated from Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology and medieval studies and a Masters plus in Medieval Studies. In 2004 she earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The members of Ascension and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Wyoming, Ohio, have enjoyed her service as assistant rector from 2004 to the present. She has experience with children of all age groups and adults including those of us on the other side of maturity. She has good ideas about how we can achieve church growth. In her personal ministry statement she declares that she is "called to enhance community connections and outreach in an established parish setting and encourage strong lay leadership for parish revitalization."

Eileen brings to our parish family a delightful family of her own. She has two adorable daughters, Emily age 10 and Abigail age 4. Her husband Ross, who is a librarian, is most supportive of his wife's calling. The rectory will echo with the pitter patter of little feet (and hoofs if Abigail brings her imaginary horse with her.)

We, the people of Christ Church, welcome Rev. Shanley-Roberts and her family and offer our support during their relocation and tenure here. As we lift up our church family to God, we pray this will be a long, successful and exciting ministry for us all.

Jan Nelson

**Seeking, Serving, and Sharing Christ**

# The Good News

## CURATE'S CORNER

I subscribe to and read *Christian Century*, a biweekly magazine with news and essays about Christianity. The latest issue (May 20, 2007, pg 9) contained a thought-provoking essay about the tragedy at Virginia Tech; William Hawkins' focus is the bullying endured by the shooter as a child and our responsibility as a society for allowing bullying to continue. Hawkins writes, "When will we adults be honest enough to acknowledge that trampling on the sheer humanity of another person does only one thing: it breeds more of the same envy and hatred, sowing in their victims seeds of self-loathing." He goes on to say that we must be careful not "to rob (the shooter) of his humanity..." by assigning a label of crazy.

Objectifying others through bullying, name-calling or labeling, gossiping and blaming is a very seductive sin; we easily retreat to seeing others as less than fully human and we distance ourselves from others when we use labels, categorize or spread unflattering stories about others. When we feel bad, whether we are afraid, angry, grieving or just frustrated, it is natural for us to use any means possible to feel better. Seeing other people as less or telling ourselves that we are better than someone else temporarily eases the bad feelings, but the truth is that frequently what we most despise in others is what we most despise or are afraid to see in ourselves. We are no better or worse than anyone else; we are more alike than we are different. There is no ranking of sins and we are all sinful.

As Christians we are to resist even the easy, seductive sins. We promise in the baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of all human beings; bullying, name-calling, gossiping and blaming is not respectful of others. God's incarnation was not just for the Jews, not just for Christians, but for all of creation; the incarnation affirmed all creation's, all of humanity's, goodness in God's eyes. Jesus asks us to love one another as He loves us; we are to remember his example and His sacrifice of love for the entire world and to treat each other with love and respect. The "Golden Rule" is still a good yardstick against which to judge our words and actions.

Rebecca+

***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.***

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		Mr. Ken Hairrell
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# The Good News

## The Warden's Letter

Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> was a great day to be a member of Christ Church. I attended both the 7:30 and the 10:00 am outdoor service. I introduced the search committee during both services to announce the hiring of our new priest, the Rev. Eileen Shanley- Roberts. We were all thrilled, and you can feel the sense of excitement we have as we wait the arrival of our first female rector after all these years. Thanks search committee.

The service outdoors was amazing. The weather was sunny and beautiful. It stayed that way until we finished our service, finished picnicking and having lots of fun. I particularly like the outdoor service because it is wonderful to watch families being together while their kids are playing ball, chasing each other and having fun running around the church property.

We also had a group of visitors visiting from Battle Creek, Michigan, checking out Fr. Casky to see if they would like to hire him for their parish. What a day to check out Fr. Charlie; everyone was having so much fun, he must have looked like a genius on this day.

Just imagine, though, what it looked like for a visitor today— beautiful church, beautiful grounds, wonderful food and lots of fun. Sure sounds like a good place to be. We even got to play jeopardy with the Sunday school classes asking us Bible questions and passing out Hershey Kisses when we answered properly. I would have to say that Christ Church is a really neat place to be when we gather together worshipping and having fun. As a matter of fact, it is always a good idea to be aware of what we look like to visitors as they listen to what we talk about, how we treat each other, and how we worship. It is up to us to treat each other with the love and respect each one of us deserves because we are a family in Christ. I consider that my responsibility as a Christian, and I am glad that I have each one of you join me in Christ's mission here in Waukegan.

Peace,

Marty Goldman

## Outside the Church

By Janis Pearce

If you have been to church lately, I am sure that you noticed how beautiful the grounds look. If you haven't, I can assure you that the churchyard looks lovely. I should know, I see it every day. I live on the church property, and I have enjoyed watching the spring blossoms turn to green leaves. Splattered with other colors, it all looks so beautiful. The grounds crew is doing a wonderful job making the yard look nice, weeding, trimming, etc. And the Ptasienskis are doing their part with the two other properties, as well. Thanks to all the hard workers who are making the outside as beautiful as the inside of our magnificent church.

I remember when we were first tearing down the houses to get ready to add the parking lot. I told a friend that I was looking forward to the new parking lot. He asked, "How can you be excited about a parking lot?" Next time he's in town I am going to invite him over to see.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Thursday, May 10, *News Sun* printed an article reporting that Jamie Dunstan, age 31, and her 54 year-old mother, Dorothy McCaffrey, won a mother-daughter look-alike contest. Both were very happy they looked so much alike and had such a good relationship. They received a gift certificate for dinner for two at Madison Avenue restaurant in Waukegan as a prize.

The Barkers celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 6<sup>th</sup> with a trip to England, Scotland and Ireland.

Frances Caldwell will celebrate her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 14.

Michael Bennett is a Schuler Scholar at Waukegan High School.

## The Good News

### An "Urban Legend" at Christ Church

by Bill Ashley

According to Wikipedia, "An urban legend is a kind of modern folklore consisting of stories often thought to be factual by those circulating them." Does Christ Church have an Urban Legend" in the stories about the Russian Chalice?

You be the judge!

The Russian Chalice is the tall silver chalice used on feast days and special liturgical occasions to administer the consecrated wine. After questioning several long-time parishioners and former priests, there are two different yet similar versions of the legend.

One version has the chalice being stolen from Russia and brought to a western European country. It was either purchased or confiscated from there and brought back, probably by a US soldier at some undefined date and given or sold to Christ Church. It is also said that Fr. Savage would not use this chalice because of its dubious acquisition.

The second version has the chalice being stolen from one of the Wisconsin cathedrals by someone passing as a priest. This imposter attended Christ Church for some time. He offered to sell the chalice to Dean Ganster during this period. The Dean purchased it for the parish and the imposter left soon afterward. Music, please, as the plot thickens – the bishop of the cathedral from whom the chalice had been stolen attended a service at Christ Church. He recognized the Russian chalice that was in use that day much to the Dean's embarrassment. The Dean offered to return the chalice. The Wisconsin bishop understood that it had been obtained in good faith. He was happy knowing the chalice was in good condition and in use in a proper church. He said the chalice should remain with Christ Church. Amen!

If you know the true story PLEASE contact Bill Ashley at [bgashley@comcast.net](mailto:bgashley@comcast.net) or 1-847-548-0391.

## *Magic!*

On Sunday, May 21, just because we're so awesome, we decided to have a magician at the forum. No, not the kind Elijah took out in the Old Testament, this guy was good. He was D.J. Ehlert of Kenosha Magic.

He did his show during the Forum and the incredible coolness factor attracted teenagers and guests from Our Lady of Guadalupe. Some of us were even roped into the act. Little Julia Athans acquired an amazingly cute hat that appeared from a handful of torn up bits of tissue paper. Zachery Andersen helped to turn many terrycloth headbands into one very large multicolored one. Violet VanPelt assisted with an astounding card trick. Ryan LaForge's arms became those of the magician once he put on the magical tux.

For his popular finale, D.J. Ehlert made balloon animals for all the children. Thank you D.J. Ehlert!

Don't forget the PEP group activity for July.

**Chicago Botanic Gardens**

**July 21st**

Contact Peter or Karen Lukas  
For details

# The Good News

## Summer service/picnic schedule

The first Sunday of the month for June, July and August will be the outdoor service at 10:00 with a picnic immediately following. The first of these summer services was a beautiful morning. The threat of rain was in the air, but it didn't start until right after the very last thing was taken inside. It couldn't have been planned better. I think we had someone pulling strings for us with the weather.

The regular service included awards for best in each acolyte position culminating with Josh Goldman receiving the Bill Dowden Acolyte of the Year award. The Sunday School passed out recognition awards with a gift card to Borders. Father Caskey recognized Shirley Figeas for Children's Chapel and Charlie Dixon for his work on getting the church Web site up and running.

After the service Frank Winans and Marty Goldman had grilled hot dogs and hamburgers ready. There was plenty of food for everyone including out of town visitors. While the grown-ups ate, the kids played football. It was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship. Be sure to attend the next one on July 1 (Fran Holliday will be leading the service that day!)

Janis Pearce

## The Relay for Life Cancer Walk/Run

Many members of Christ Church have been affected by this dreaded disease and many gathered to support the efforts of the American Cancer Society. The Survivor's Lap honored those who have survived and the Luminaria Ceremony remembered those we have lost.

Tina Mathews lead the team which included:

Kathy Brown	Carol Niemi,
Mona Brown,	Chad Niemi,
Shirley	Jason Niemi,
Figeas,	Steve Niemi,
Lucy Fonseca,	Suzanne Niemi,
Walt Givler,	Janis Pearce,
	Donna Schelfaut,
	Michele Smith,
	Kelinda Willcox,
	Kevin Williams

### **CHRISTCARE GROUPS**

**Looking for a place to fit in?**

**Want to get to know new people?**

**Need to lead a more spirit-filled life?**

**There is a ChristCare Group for you. Call Jan and Brian Melin to find the times and places of the ChristCare meetings.**

The newsletter staff would like to thank Fr. McCarthy, Fr. Shoulders, and Fr. Mazjrak for answering our request for their memories. We have already published Fr. McCarthy's article and Fr. Shoulders's is in this issue. Look for Fr. Al's in the next issue.

My memories of Waukegan center on the significant importance of Christian community that represented the best of Christ Church. The Sunday community meal, and the groups organized around the needs and interests of the various age groups were significant in introducing Ruth and me to what was “really going on” at the church.

For example, the Stephen Ministers were ably led by Marlene Graham. This group of men and women had been trained to pay attention to the pastoral needs of people in the parish. The Altar Guild was a group of dedicated women divided into weekly teams and assigned duties related to preparing for and tidying up after the liturgies of the parish. Beyond the women who were regular members of the Altar Guild, every so often a “polishing party” would be scheduled, and men of the parish participated along with the women in polishing, dusting, and otherwise making sure that the liturgical vessels, the altar, the sanctuary, and the stained glass were all kept presentable to our worship-- a definite sign of “community.” The young people and Happening, the Church School and the children, the P.E.P. (“People Enjoying People”—an alternative name the couples club settled on because there were singles, widowers, and widows who wished to be included), and the St. Margaret Guild caramel candy making and sales were still other signs of attention to the church community.

Another sign of the investment of Christ Church in the health and good leadership of the parish were the clergy staff: the Reverend Don Moon, part-time pastoral assistant, and the two deacons, the Reverend Marilyn Dixon and the Reverend Leo Graham. To my mind and heart, they represented Christ Church, Waukegan, in ways that spoke “community.” In all aspects of Christ Church’s life and ministry, these three served the needs of the parish sometimes quietly, sometimes behind the scenes, sometimes in their preaching and teaching, and sometimes by just being companionable to others who sought out their counsel.

When I arrived at Christ Church and began to become familiar with the chancel and sanctuary, the parish hall, and basement classrooms, the “storage” floor of the parish hall, and the rectory, I was impressed with the care that had gone into their upkeep. Then as I became aware of the interest, commitment, and plans for the Memorial Garden and expanded parking, I was even more excited.

The plans for the landscaped parking lot included saving as many of the trees—red maples—as possible. There were two 25-30 year old trees that were dug up and stored on the rectory lawn to be planted again in new spots next to the parish hall. The gazebo and planting, the reconfiguring of the rectory “parking lot” and the new parking lot with its beautiful shrubbery, flowers, and mature trees, and the gated, fenced-in Memorial Garden were excellent “green” additions to downtown Waukegan. The Church was recognized by the civic community for its commitment to revitalizing Waukegan’s center.

When I arrived the small chapel was shown me with great pride, and I recognized it as a place for smaller liturgies, weddings, week-day services, and a quiet place for individual devotions. There were beautiful stained glass windows, a resurrection window over the altar, and a small prayer corner that had been used in the past for children’s liturgies. But I missed a representation of Saint Mary the Virgin, the Mother of our Lord—since after all, it was titled the Lady Chapel.

Ann Mathews, when she was hospitalized and lay gravely ill, had in her hand a medal of Our Lady, and on her bed stand an icon of Virgin and Child. In her memory and sponsored by Les Mathews, “Our Lady of Vladimir” was installed in the corner to the right of the altar. Now the chapel was complete, thanks to the Mathews and the openness of the parish to accept a new item of devotion.

Christ Church, Waukegan, remains for me an “icon” of community—the community of Christ trying to be true to the Gospel, true to individual callings and true to representing Christ to all who would enter and share in the blessed sacrament of holy community.

David Shoulders  
(The Reverend Canon, retired)

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 August newsletter is Monday, July 10.**

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