



## **Christ Episcopal Church**

*"Our Doors Are  
Always Open"*

2000 Main Street  
Stratford, CT 06615  
Tel: (203) 375-4447  
Fax: (203) 378-1445

Email: [ccstratford@att.net](mailto:ccstratford@att.net)

Website : [www.christchurchstratford.org](http://www.christchurchstratford.org)

### **Interim Rector's Reflections**

At the Vestry meeting in September, I shared one way of seeing God's mission in the world. I've included it below and hope that you will reflect on your mission, since through your baptism, you are an important part of God's Restoration and Reconciliation of the world. May you also reflect on how Christ Episcopal Church's current ministry is a part of God's Restoration and Reconciliation of the world. How are you and how is Christ Episcopal Church fulfilling God's mission?

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Mary

#### **"PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION OF RESTORATION AND RECONCILIATION"**

##### **One Way to see God's Mission in 100 words:**

God created all things in love – the universe, earth, humanity. It was diverse, and it was good. Human sin entered in and distorted our relationship with God, one another, and creation. God seeks continually to overcome this alienation. This is God's mission. God chose and liberated a people, sent the law and the prophets. God came in Jesus, fully human and fully divine, to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. God sent the Holy Spirit, empowering the Body of

Christ. God commissions us in baptism to participate in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation.

#### ***How do you see God's Mission?***

*– Collaboratively written, and offered, by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut's Mission Discernment Initiative working group*

\*\*\*\*\*

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** – on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:00 a.m. service, we will have the annual blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Bring your pets for their blessing to the parish hall, where we will worship that day. *Pastor Mary also welcomes stuffed animals...*

**PET FOOD COLLECTION** – On October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Blessing of the Animals, the Church School will be collecting pet food for the Stratford Animal Rescue Society. Please bring your pet food donations on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a box to collect the food in the Parish Hall.

**APPLE PICKING** – the Stewardship Commission is sponsoring an 'Apple Picking' event on October 2, 2011. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at Beardsley Cider Mill and Orchard, 278 Leavenworth Road and Route 110, Shelton. Come and pick apples and enjoy some fresh cider and donuts.

**PASTA LUNCH** – the Outreach Commission is sponsoring a 'Pasta Lunch' on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> following the 10a.m. service. Proceeds will go toward supporting the ongoing outreach projects of the commission. Come and support our outreach and enjoy a delicious lunch.

## **YOUTH GROUP!**

### **PIZZA AND SALAD KICK-OFF PARTY!**

Christ Church's Youth Group is gearing up! Our first meeting is Sunday, October 9th from 6:30-8 p.m. Pastor Mary and Deacon Lee will be facilitating the Youth Group, with much input from the youth. We'll be meeting in the Meeting Room/Library. Our first meeting is a PIZZA AND SALAD KICK-OFF PARTY.

- The schedule, including dates for fun events such as skating, bowling, hiking, biking, skiing, and snowboarding, and opportunities for outreach projects and more will be provided on October 9th. All teenagers in GRADES 9 - 12 are invited. Please bring your friends. The more teens the more fun. Adult chaperones are most welcome, too.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ADULT EDUCATION:**

### **MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS**

Pastor Mary is offering a class on 'Major World Religions' beginning on Monday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. The class is four weeks: Judaism, Islam, Hindi, Buddhism. Though you do not need to take all classes, they do build on each other. In order to fully understand Islam, it's important to have the foundation in Judaism. In order to fully understand Buddhism, it's important to have the foundation in Hindi. Please R.S.V.P. to Sue Hovan or Pastor Mary prior to the first class so that the class materials can be copied in advance.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BURYING GROUND TOUR** - Come visit with those Christ Church "saints" from the past as they "come to life" during the cemetery tour on Saturday afternoon, October 22nd. The raindate is Oct. 29th. More details to follow.

## **ADULT EDUCATION:**

### **LET'S EXPLORE THE BOOKS NOT INCLUDED IN HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Do you know that to develop the "canon" of Holy Scripture, a group of men, sitting around a table in the 4th century (almost 400 years after the death of Christ) voted to include or exclude different gospels and letters ascribed to those close to Jesus? Let's explore these writings and see if we agree with the votes taken to establish what we now call "Holy Scripture." The class meets on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room (Library) beginning Monday, October 17th. Please RSVP to Pastor Mary or Sue Hovan.

**HALLOWE'EN PARTY** - The Sunday School is hosting a Halloween Party on Saturday evening, October 22nd from 6:30 PM to 10 PM. There will be games, music, a Haunted House, food and snacks. Admission is free provided you bring a snack or desert item to share. This party is open to families and friends of Christ Episcopal Church. The more - the scarier!!! Please RSVP to Walt or Debbie Baker (203) 386-9583. Costumes are a must!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **THANK YOU CHARLOTTE MATTHEWS!**

The clergy of Christ Church would like to sincerely thank Charlotte for her many years of service as Coordinator for the Lay Eucharistic Ministry.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar have always been supplied by members of the parish, either in memory of a loved one or as a thanksgiving. The cost is \$35.00. You may take them home after the service or if you choose, one of our parish visitors will take them to a homebound

parishioner. There is a Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the hall, so you can see what weeks are open. If you would like to give flowers please call Sue in the office at 375-4447. We ask that they be paid for the week before the flowers are on the altar. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW WORSHIP EXPERIMENT

We are now in the midst of our new worship experiment and are grateful that four new families are worshipping with us at the 10 a.m. service. Together, Dottie Cameron our Music Director and Steve Cinque, our Music Consultant, have done a fabulous ministry of bringing the absolute best out of our now 13 choir members and 7 instrumentalists. The music has simply been superb. Thank you to everyone for making The Joyful Voices Choir everything it can be.

- As the experiment continues to unfold, the Wardens and Worship Commission will enjoy receiving your feedback and input. It is very much a "work-in-progress" and subject to adaptations and tweeking as we go along. Your input is valuable. Survey forms are available from the ushers and in the office. Thank you for your input.

In Peace, Pastor Mary

\*\*\*\*\*

## Free Community Meals: Please Help

The Stratford Clergy Association is hosting free community suppers at Christ Church each Wednesday from 5:00 -6:00pm. Every week a different church will host the supper. We need our parishioners to provide hospitality by unlocking and locking up and showing the other churches where things are. Please help! Call Sue Hovan to sign up.

## FROM THE WARDENS

The Vestry took important actions at its September meeting. As you recall, two parish meetings were held in March focused on discerning the way forward to assure adequate operating income in our call of a new rector. While current giving levels do not support the call of a full time rector, it is our hope that they will in the future. In all likelihood the rebuilding effort will take from 5-10 years. The consensus that emerged from the March meetings was to liquidate a combination of endowed funds and property. At its September meeting, the Vestry voted to remove the Vestry Restriction on the Ruth Shippee bequest (\$113,000) that is a Vestry controlled fund. Secondly, the vestry also reaffirmed its vote to take the necessary legal steps to unrestrict a portion (\$400,000) of the Botsford bequest. Taken together, the two represent about 27% of our endowed funds.

In late August, Tom Riley led the parish in Faith Stories Retreat. Before "Irene" blew through, we enjoyed his inspirational story telling that encouraged us to reflect upon our own faith.

The Lord's Kitchen, a feeding program sponsored by the Stratford Clergy Association and hosted here at Christ Church, has grown to up to 55 weekly guests. Vazzano's Four Seasons continues to generously donate meals when we (Christ Church) take our turn in the rotation of local churches.

Peace,  
Judy & Felix

\*\*\*\*\*

## MUSIC NEWS

Our music program got a boost this summer--- we had 13 singing in the Joyful Voices Choir for our debut on September 11th plus we had about 7 instrumentalists adding energies to the choir -- flute, guitar, bass guitar, synthesizer, autoharp, and bongos. Our repertoire is inclusive of traditional hymnal material, LEVAS selections, folk and liturgical songs we

have been singing for a long time, and newer contemporary Christian music.

Over the years I have heard many requests for newer music, from choir and non-choir members alike, so that in some ways this move is a fulfillment of that wish. All of our newer music that can be found on YouTube is presented for rehearsal and enjoyment purposes on the Christ Episcopal web site under "Music Ministry" (click) and another click away on the "Joyful Voices" subtitle box. Check it out!

**Our Joyful Voices music consultant, Steve Cinque,** is a practicing and performing rock musician in New York and Connecticut venues, and is a member of three (count 'em) rock bands. He is teaching all of us about instrumentation, vocal arrangement, and vocal settings. He is also outfitted the choir with microphones and sound equipment that is good quality, second hand, under budget, and expertly manipulated to take advantage of all the sound we can produce. This new sound equipment really makes a difference in the Church. You may have noticed that no matter where you sit in the Church, it sounds as if you are in the middle of the choir and band, a tribute to our new choir microphones. We are extremely lucky to have Steve and his many musical gifts; he is making us work, and we are enjoying it! Please welcome him! He is the 6 foot 4 inch person behind the sound mixer at the back of the church, and hard to miss!

Our web page is a valuable tool for choir members. Our webmaster, Meredith Kay, scanned in annotated copies of all the music, so that we will never lack for a copy, and she has posted the YouTube links for anyone to use as references, since our version of the music approximates the arrangements found in the videos. Check it out at ([www.christepiscopalstratford.org](http://www.christepiscopalstratford.org))

We rehearse on Sundays at 9 AM and usually at 7 PM Thursdays during the week. It is always best to make the Thursday rehearsal, as we love to see a shining face; but if you can't make it, come Sunday at 9 AM and sing with a joyful

voice! Occasionally, we need to move our rehearsals. We will try to announce our schedule as much as possible in advance, as we know people need to make plans.

Steve and I would like to thank all the choir people who have rehearsed on long hot nights through the summer to make this fall possible --

Leah Datcher, Julia Seeber, Ruth Munson, Meredith Kay, Penny Longway, Beth Langhammer, Fred Langhammer, Barbara Sampson, Doreen Moffat, Mary Padgett, Alexis Porter, Sam Longway, David Canavan, and instrumentalists Myra Sampson, DJ Porter, Elizabeth Cameron, Andrew Diguigno and Jeremy Marcone. Sometimes we only had a few, sometimes we had almost the whole choir, but every practice helps. We are a "work in progress", still feeling our way to use this new music ministry to its fullest capacity.

We will be repeating our selections, so that the congregation can get to know them and sing with us, much as we know our traditional hymns. It may be worth it to point out that the choir is learning about twice as much music a week as it has in the past, so that we NEED to repeat songs! It is a joy to sing something familiar, and we can always do it in a new way.

Dottie Cameron

\*\*\*\*\*

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Some of the highlights from the Summer and early Fall:

The Golden Rooster Shop wanted a replacement for garage that burned. The Vestry authorized it and a shed was purchased at Home Depot for approx. \$6,000. It's been painted, shelves put in and the electrical hooked up.

Because of damage from Tropical Storm Irene, Rayzor's Edge removed 3 trees in back of G.R. building; 2 large trees in back of 1995 Main, 2 trees in rectory yard, and 2 of our trees that were

dead and leaning over neighbor's homes. The cost was \$5,650.

The roof over the parish hall is in very bad shape. Buildings and Grounds recommended to the Vestry that DJ Roofing be hired for \$15,000 to replace the roof with 50-year shingles. Vestry voted affirmatively.

Sunday School rooms need painting. Dave LoPresti will do the painting. Barbara Sampson would like to be on B & G Committee and has volunteered to do painting. Barbara has already begun painting the wrought iron railings around church. Signage for church and parish hall needs to be done so that newcomers can easily find their way around. We also need to map the building.

Steve Cinque will be asked to look into sound system in church and parish hall.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard on Saturday, Sept. 10. We appreciated your help.

Sincerely, Wilma Andrews, Chair

\*\*\*\*\*

**Remember the food pantries!** Please continue to bring grocery items for Sterling House and Spooner House. Items can be left in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We recognize and thank **Vazzano's Four Season's** restaurant for so generously supplying the food for our turns at hosting the Lord's Kitchen. The number of people coming to supper has been increasing; the first week we served 3 people and on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 55 people were served! The food from Vazzano's, which is delicious, has been very much

appreciated. Thanks as well to all our Christ Church folk who help.

During the summer Anne Minatti took on the project to provide back packs and school supplies to local children in need. Christ Church members responded very generously to the request for the supplies, which were then given to Sterling House. Thanks to Anne and to all who contributed. In the spring Sterling House put out a desperation plea for food for their much-used pantry. The committee gave \$200 to help them resupply.

We will again support Smile Train, the organization that does cleft-lip surgeries on children around the world. Plans for fund raising are under way. More to come.

Just a reminder that the money received at Coffee Hour goes to Outreach to enable us to help with a variety of needs, both local and afar.

Marian Knight, Chair

\*\*\*\*\*

## Milestones

### September Birthdays

2	David Knight
4	Trevor Jones
6	Veronica Sheftic
8	Eric Scholl
10	Jancee Pust-Marcone
10	Michael Piatak Jr
10	Shirley Ruskay
14	Sally Canavan
15	David Seeber
16	Emily Stebbins
16	Matthew Stebbins
16	Gavin Nagel
17	Nicholas DeLieto
20	Amelia Brennan
22	Carrie Longway
23	Marian Knight
28	Betty Applegate
30	Jill Kuzmich

## October Birthdays

3 Michael Lombard  
4 Myrtie Hall  
4 Sandra Rivera  
10 Diane Piatak  
12 Ricardo Rivera  
16 Rebecca Kuzmich  
19 Kenneth Warrington  
21 Dorothy Bergen  
20 Mikenzie Norton  
23 Daphne Opdyke  
24 Kyle Davin  
26 Richard Roth  
27 Marilou Lengel

## September Anniversaries

7 Sue & Ed Hovan  
17 Debbie & Chuck Stebbins  
21 Debra & Walter Baker  
26 Lori & Trevor Jones

## October Anniversaries

3 Michael and Laura Nagel  
10 Madge & Bob Turley  
10 Sandra and Ricardo Rivera  
18 Fran & Fred Hulley  
20 Richard and Gail Roth  
26 Rick & Jodi Tripodi  
29 Robin & Kevin Smith

*If we've missed your birthday or anniversary, or have the wrong date, please call the parish office 375-4447.*

*Please keep our friends and families in your prayers for God's healing and their continued recovery: Kyle, Lillian, Betty, Karen, Anna, Isabella, Julia, Miguel, Diane and Erik.*

## Schedule of Twelve Step Programs

**AA**  
10:00a.m. Sunday – Harry Rosen Group  
4 p.m. Sunday  
8:00 p.m. Tuesday  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday (Back to Basics)  
6:30 p.m. Harry Rosen Speaker  
12 Noon Friday

## Alateen

8:00 p.m. Monday – North Parish Hall

## Alanon

6pm – Monday – E.C.W. Room  
8pm – Monday – Basement South Parish Hall

## Overeaters Anonymous

10:00 a.m. Saturday – Basement South Parish Hall

## Staff

The Rev. Mary Canavan, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Lee Forshaw, Deacon  
The Rev. James Wilson, Resident Priest  
Dorothy Cameron - Organist/Choir Director  
Marilyn Olbrys - Hand Bell Choir Director  
Susan Hovan - Administrative Assistant

## Office Hours

9am to 3pm – Monday through Thursday  
9am – 12 Noon - Friday

## Vestry and Officers of Christ Church

Senior Warden	Judy Kurmay
Junior Warden	Felix Esposito
Treasurer	Louis DeCilio
Clerk	Yvette Tajudeen
Financial Secretary	Marilyn Olbrys

## Vestry

Walter Baker	Leah Datcher
Richard Marcone	Bonnie Paradise
Coleen Blanchard	Beth Brooks
Yvette Tajudeen	Sally Logan
Charlotte Matthews	Donald Millberry

## Schedules

### Services

Sunday 8am & 10:00am with children in church  
Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

Thursday 9am

### Children's Choir (ages 5+)

Rehearse Sunday 11:30am

### Children's Bell Choir

Rehearse Sunday 11:30am

# Calendar of Events - October 2011

Date	Activity	Leaders
Oct. 2 8:00 am 10:00am 10:00am 11:30am 1:00pm	<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Blessing of the Animals Sunday School Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal Apple Picking Beardsley Orchards	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan Walter and Debbie Baker Marilyn Olbrys Stewardship Commission
Oct. 3 7:00pm	Buildings and Grounds Commission Meeting	Wilma Andrews
Oct. 4 7:00pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal	Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 5 5:00pm 6:45pm	Community Supper – The Lord's Kitchen Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal	Stratford Clergy Association Marilyn Olbrys
Oct. 6 9:00am 7:00pm	Holy Eucharist – Chapel Senior Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 7 1:30pm	Worship Commission Meeting	Ruth Munson
Oct. 9 8:00 am 10:00 am 10:00am 11:00am 11:30am 6:30pm	<b>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School Pasta Lunch Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal Youth Group! Pizza and Salad Kick-Off Party	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan Walter and Debbie Baker Outreach Commission Marilyn Olbrys Pastor Mary and Deacon Lee
Oct. 10	<b>Office closed in observance of Columbus Day</b>	
Oct. 11 7:00pm	Vestry Meeting	Judy Kurmay
Oct. 12 5:00pm 6:45pm	Community Supper – The Lord's Kitchen Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal	Stratford Clergy Association Marilyn Olbrys
Oct. 13 9:00pm 7:00pm	Holy Eucharist - Chapel Senior Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 16 8:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:30am	<b>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan Walter and Debbie Baker Marilyn Olbrys
Oct. 17 11:00am 7:30pm	Adult Education – Do They Contain Heresy of Truth? Books not included in Holy Scripture Adult Education – Major World Religions - Judaism	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan
Oct. 18 7:pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal	Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 19 5:00pm 6:45pm	Community Supper – The Lord's Kitchen Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal	Stratford Clergy Association Marilyn Olbrys
Oct. 20 9:00am 7:00pm	Holy Eucharist - Chapel Senior Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan Dorothy Cameron

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Leaders</b>
Oct. 22 2:00pm 6:30pm	Cemetery Tour Sunday School Hallowe'en Party	Judy Kurmay Walter and Debbie Baker
Oct. 23 8:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:30am	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan Walter and Debbie Baker Marilyn Olbrys
Oct. 24 11:00am 7:30pm	Adult Education – Do They Contain Heresy of Truth? Books not included in Holy Scripture Adult Education – Major World Religions - Islam	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan
Oct. 25 7:00pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal	Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 26 5:00pm 6:45pm	Community Supper – The Lord's Kitchen Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal	Stratford Clergy Association Marilyn Olbrys
May 26 9:00am 7:00pm	Holy Eucharist Rite II, Chapel Senior Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 30 8:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:30am 11:30am	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist, Rite II Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal Youth Choir Rehearsal	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan Walter and Debbie Baker Marilyn Olbrys Dorothy Cameron
Oct. 31 11:00am 7:30pm	Adult Education – Do They Contain Heresy of Truth? Books not included in Holy Scripture Adult Education – Major World Religions - Hindi	The Rev. Mary Canavan The Rev. Mary Canavan

## Schedules of People Serving the Lord – October

<u>Time</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Chalice Bearers</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u> Team 1	<u>Counters</u> Team 1	<u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Oct. 2 8 a.m. 10:00am	B. Flash M. Fiore	T. Jones K. Davin B. Flash A. Minatti	B. Flash D. DeCilio	J. Kuzmich J. Seeber E. Cartwright	G. Matthews F. Esposito D. Stevens	OPEN	B. Brooks D. Scholl J. Scholl
Oct. 9 8 am 10 a.m.	B. Ball J. Scholl	B. Blanchard R. Marcone S. Sampson	M. Flash B. Kuzmich	Team 2 L. Schneider G. Schneider A. Minatti	Team 2 M. Blake C. Moffat R. Kuzmich	OPEN	D. Felix M. Olbrys J. Bettini
Oct. 16 8 a.m. 10:00a.m.	G. Schneider A. Varvella	G. Roth J. Kuzmich C. Stebbins	C. Stebbins D. DiGiugno	Team 3 C. Blanchard B. Brooks B. Brooks	Team 3 S. Cameron S. Hovan	OPEN	B. Brelsford B. Sampson P. Diamond
Oct. 23 8 a.m. 10:00a.m.	C. Stebbins J. DePalmer	T. Jones M. Knight D. Opdyke	K. Davin D. DeCilio	Team 4 C. Matthews S. Hovan R. Munson	Team 4 B. Flash J. Bettini	OPEN	B. Brooks D. Stebbins C. Stebbins
Oct. 30 8 a.m. 10:00a.m.	B. Flash M. Fiore	B. Blanchard K. Davin R. Marcone A. Minatti	R. Marcone D. Canavan	Team 1 J. Kuzmich J. Seeber E. Cartwright	Team 5 J. Marcone W. Baker L. DeCilio	S. Hovan A. Taylor C. Taylor	D. Felix M. Fiore A. Varvella