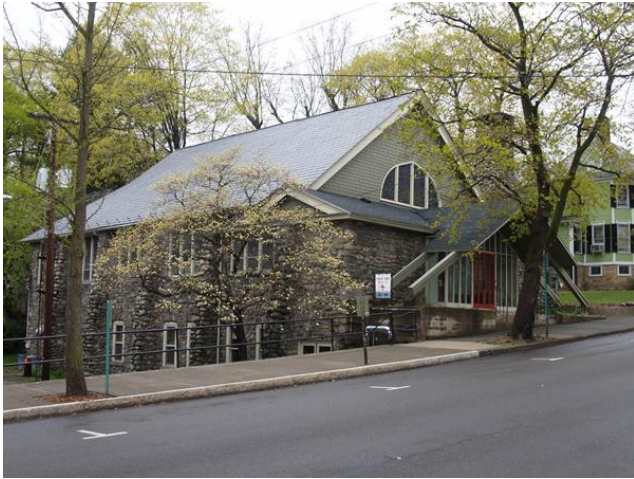


Christ Church Newsletter

March 2011



**WELCOME
TO CHRIST CHURCH**

***A WELCOMING,
COMPASSIONATE
AND HEALING COMMUNITY***

Service Hours:

***Wednesday: 12:00 Noon Holy
Eucharist & Healing Prayers***

***Wednesday during Lent: 1:00 The
Way of the Cross***

Saturday: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Children's Sunday school: 9:45 am

***Christian Education Hour for adults:
Sundays 9:00-9:45 am***

Phone: (570) 421-7481

www.christchurchstroudsburg.net

Inclement weather – Check Channel 13

A Message from Father Gaeta

To the Saints at Christ Church,



The Lord be with you!

For some, Lent is just a matter of 'giving up' something – chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, a special food, and so on. Then, to pick that all up again come Easter. Interesting...yet, what's the point?

In fact, Lent is a spiritual journey. When we begin a journey, we need to know where we're going and how we're going to get there. Approaching Lent from this perspective will help us on our journey through it as well as attaining our destination.

The destination of Lent – the 'where we're going' – is Easter, the Queen of Festivals. Let's look at this destination for a moment.

Easter is the celebration of life – the life of Jesus who died for us but who was vindicated and raised by the Father on the 3rd day. At Easter we celebrate his resurrection as something that happened and still happens *to us*. We all received this gift of new life through our Baptism into Christ. The gift of life radically alters our attitude toward everything...including death itself.

The character of this new life is love...the sacrificial love of God for us in Christ. This is the quality of love we have received, and that we now share with one another by grace.

Truth be told, this life of love is not always our daily experience. The fact is we lose and betray this ‘new life’ given us as a gift in Christ. Further, we often live as if Christ wasn’t raised, as if this unique blessing and gift of God has no meaning for us in our daily lives.

This happens because we’re too busy, we forget, things happen to us, and so our lives become ‘old’ again – petty, dark and even ultimately meaningless. Such is our weakness and the impossibility for us to live the faith given us in Christ on our own. It just happens.

If we understand this about ourselves and what Easter truly is, then we ‘get’ Lent and the blessing this Holy Season can be for us.

In Lent, the Church guides us by the grace of God through Scripture and worship on a journey of rediscovery and recovery of what God made us through our own baptismal death and resurrection.

As we journey through this time, we are prepared finally to hear the words of Jesus at the beginning of the great Paschal Triduum:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” John 13: 34
(From the Gospel for Maundy Thursday, the first day of the Paschal Triduum.)

The Holy Season of Lent carefully prepares us to hear those words and in the grace that God provides us to joyfully receive them as the core of our lives in Christ. The aim? That we might love one another as Christ loves us.

A most blessed Lent to you all.

Grace & Peace,

Gerard R Gaeta+



Customs of the Holy Season of Lent

The Lenten Liturgies have an intentionally austere quality that – along with Scriptures, homilies and hymnody – are designed to assist us in our journey of rediscovery and recovery of our baptismal lives of love in Christ.

Many of the characteristics of Lent Liturgies preserve features of early Christian worship before it was elaborated in later centuries. Some of the things done to preserve this austere quality that you’ll see, hear and experience are:

- All extra decorations such as flowers and candles (except at the Altar) are removed.
- There is less music, and what is heard is more reflective in nature.
- The fine Processional Cross gives way to a more simple cross.

- *The Great Litany* (BCP p. 148ff) or the *Penitential Order* (BCP p 351f) is used at the entrance rite.
- The *Gloria in excelsis* and *Alleluias* are omitted.
- There are extended silences after the readings, homily, at the invitation to confession, the breaking of the bread, and before the *Prayers over the People*.
- In place of the traditional three-fold blessing, the more ancient *Prayers over the People* is used.

The Way of the Cross

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is based on a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death.



The rite will be available for us at 1 PM each Wednesday during Lent.

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is March 13th – 1st Sunday in Lent



Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is a special opportunity to live out the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant, by demonstrating our commitment to care for

people who are hungry, sick or living in extreme poverty.

Of particular concern in recent days are the people of Haiti and New Zealand. While these are upper most in our minds, there are many other people around the world with whom Episcopal Relief & Development is present and active. On our behalf, this fine agency responds to the needs of so many.

Our church will celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on March 13th, the First Sunday in Lent. We will collect an offering to support the Episcopal Church's mission to heal a hurting world. Offering envelopes will be available in the bulletins that Sunday.

Your generosity will have an impact on the lives of many!

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Farewell, Lori, and thanks for the gift of you!

Lori Vant Hoogt has served as the Administrative Assistant here at Christ Church for just a year.

Recently, she was able to secure a full time position (with benefits!). While she wanted very much to continue her ministry here with us, the stresses of a full time post simply prohibited that intention.

Thus, with sadness all around, Lori left the Administrative Assistant post in mid-February.

We are deeply grateful to her for her organizational skills and careful attention to the needs and concerns of parishioners. While we miss her, we rejoice with her that she was able to get a full time post.

Welcome, Louise Bach

Upon Lori's departure as Administrative Assistant in mid-February, Louise Bach began as the new Administrative Assistant to the Rector. Louise is the Executive Director of Premier Administrative Resources through which she provides virtual office support for several clients.

Currently becoming acquainted with the demands of the position here, Louise does not have regular on site office hours beyond being at Christ Church Office on Saturdays. Once all requirements are clear, a regular schedule will be established.

Should there be need to contact her on other occasions, Congregants are asked to use the Premier Administrative Resources office number – 570.588.4113.

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Worship during Lent

All liturgies (Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) and times remain the same throughout the Season of Lent.

An additional liturgy is added to Wednesday at 1 PM - the Way of the Cross. This important Lent liturgy is scheduled for every Wednesday at 1 PM through Lent.

Search Update

Submitted by Patti Alleger



The next step of the search process is moving along. The Vestry has approved the search committee. Serving on the committee are: Patti Alleger – Chair, Lisa Baatz, Keith Branch, Barbara Cramer, Robby O'Brian, Janet Ullo, Michael Shands, Julie Tom Wing, Steve Whiteley, and two junior members, Natori Tom Wing and Jake Whiteley. The members represent a cross-

section of the parish so many voices can be heard.

The individual members of the committee will be open to hearing your concerns, questions and ideas during the search process, but please remember that they are working under the strictest of confidentiality. They will report only to other members of the committee and our Diocesan Representative, Rev. Canon Jane Teter.

The Profile is in its final stages and should be ready in the near future to send to the Diocese for approval. Once approved, we will be posting it online for all to see. Printed copies will also be available.

A meeting was held after church on February 27th to share the results of the Parish Questionnaire.

Please keep the committee and the process in your prayers while we move forward in our search for a new Rector.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Tuesday, March 8th

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Donation:

Adults \$7.00 Seniors \$6.00

Children 3-12 \$5.00

Children 3 & under are free

Hosted by: The Acolytes & Youth Group of Christ Church

Come & join us for dinner.



CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Thursday, March 17th

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM



Entertainment: Irish Sing Along

Donation: Adult \$10.00
Seniors \$9.00
Children 3-12 \$6.00
Children 3 & Under – Free



Sign-Up Sheet is in the Narthex

TEEN GROUP FORMING!!!

Calling all Junior High & High School Students!!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Sunday, March 13th 6PM in the Library



CHRIST CHURCH OUTING..

Bus Trip to Carnegie Hall's

2011 Winter Concert

Featuring the Award-Winning New

York Youth Symphony



Sunday, March 13th
– the bus leaves

Christ Church at 11:30 am

Cost of \$45.00 includes: Bus Ticket, Concert Admission, Lunch/Snack



Call the church office or email your reservation ASAP

Only 25 seats are available

For more Information

visit:<http://www.nyouthsymphony.org/performances/orchestra.ph>

Share, Save, Spend Seminar

Saturday, April 16th

Joan Duckloe, Sharon Kessler & Chris Potter will be conducting a Share, Save, Spend seminar. It is designed to help parents, children and grandparents understand the relationship of money, values and habits in today's hyper-consumer culture and move toward financial sanity.

More information to come.

PRAYER CHAIN

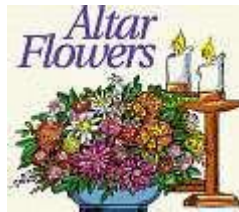
Intercessory prayer is a quiet, hidden ministry ~ so hidden, in fact, that you may not know Christ Church has a Prayer Chain. In addition to the Prayers of the People in worship, there are a dozen faithful and committed people on our Prayer Chain who pray each day for those concerns and others which are kept completely confidential.

If you or someone you love needs prayer, you can feel safe adding your concern to the Prayer Chain. Call or e-mail Barbara Cramer at 424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net. There can never be too many intercessors. Let Barbara know if you would like to be a part of this hidden ministry.

Altar Flowers

Submitted by Kathy Miller

To request flowers, contact me at 421-0763 or send an email to kathmark89@hotmail.com



Or you can call the church office at 421-7481

The cost is now \$35.00

Available dates:

May 1, May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12, June 19, June 26, July 24, July 31, August 7, August 28, September 11, October 2, October 16, October 30, and November 6.

January Altar Flowers were:

9th: In memory of a loved one by Antonia Harewood-Harris

23rd: In memory of **Hilda P. LaBar** by her family



February Altar Flowers:

6th: In loving memory of **Thomas P. Shoemith**, son of the Rev. Thomas Shoemith, uncle of Kathy Miller, by his daughter Jo Shoemith

13th: In loving memory of **Brenda Barnak** from John, Alison and Victoria

20th: In memory of our loving father, **Edward Lew**, from June, Aubrey and Betsy

March Altar Flowers:

13th: In memory of our loving mother Noreen, from June, Aubrey and Betsy



There are no altar flowers during Lent.

Adult Forum: Led by Fr. Gaeta; meets every Sunday from 9:00am – 9:45 am in the Parish Hall.

Nursery: During the 10:00 am service – For any child age 4 and under. Located downstairs off the Parish Hall. Volunteers are needed to help out in the nursery from the start of the service to approximately the Peace. Signup sheet is on the nursery door. Any questions, please contact Kim Mars at 424-3266.

Newsletter articles:

may be e-mailed to me, or called in to me at 421-0763. All articles must list their source.

kathmark89@hotmail.com



The more news we can share, the better in touch we are!

Dates to Remember:



3/08/11: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

3/13/11: Youth Group Meeting

3/13/11: Bus trip to Carnegie Hall

3/17/11: Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner

4/16/11: Share, Save, Spend Seminar

WEIS Markets Register Tapes

Keep bringing in those Weiss register tapes.

The stores give us 1% of the receipts. It's a great little money maker!!



A BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- (2) Jenny Collier
- (4) Nick Ullo
- (8) Aurora Figueras
- (9) Natori Tom Wing
- (11) Ralph Roth
- (12) Fred Duckloe
- (15) Ted Farver
- (15) Emily Miller
- (16) Rayland Decaires
- (16) Derrick McKay
- (17) Jolen Nortey
- (21) Russell House



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- (1) Thomas Wetklow
- (4) Margaret Giese
- (11) Stephanie Papa
- (12) Janet Ullo
- (14) Mark Miller
- (14) Richard Pierce
- (16) Noel Nelson
- (18) Michael Casey
- (24) Jenifer Berger
- (26) JoAnn Baumann
- (26) Dean mars
- (26) Mitchell mars
- (27) Alejandro Gomez-Miele
- (27) Kyle McKeown

****Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday. We'd love to add you to our list.****

COFFEE HOUR

Every Sunday.....

Immediately following the 10am Eucharist.

Please join us for coffee and conversation.

Spend time with family & friends!

There is a sign-up sheet for host families to provide a light snack to go along with the beverages.



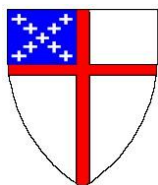
ASH WEDNESDAY

**Eucharist at: 12 noon and
7:30 PM**



CHRIST CHURCH

*A welcoming,
compassionate
and
healing community.*



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh Street

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Phone: 570-421-7481

Office Email

christchurchsburg@verizon.net

Administrative Assistant: Louise Bach can also be contacted at Premier Administrative Resources office number – 570.588.4113.

Website

www.christchurchstroudsburg.net

Father Gaeta: rgaeta@aol.com

Home: (610) 419-9422

603 Diehl Avenue

Bethlehem, Pa 18015.4303

Kathy Miller:

Kathmark89@hotmail.com

**Inclement Weather - Please check
Channel 13 for cancellations.**

Christ Church Vestry

Cheryl Cloke; Senior Warden

Bob Nelson; Junior Warden

Frank Colletta, Jr.

Sharon Kessler

Andrea McQueen

Michael Shands

Ardelle Starnadori

June Sucre

Jennifer Sutherland

Stephen McQueen - Treasurer

(Not a vestry position)

