

The Chimes
The Newsletter of Christ Church
Swansea, Massachusetts
May 2006



From the Rector

Dear People of God:

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia, alleluia!

We are still in the heart of the glorious season of Eastertide, and our liturgy still resounds with this great acclamation!

Resurrection comes into our lives in many ways, and I pray that each of you is able to find the Risen Christ in your lives every day.

One day when the presence of the Resurrection was surely felt was April 27th, the day of our Celebration of a New Ministry. I don't think I will ever be able to adequately express the fullness of my heart or my sense of great thanksgiving for all you did that night, and especially for your presence. My friends are still telling me how much fun they had and what a joyful event it was! Thank you so much for the beautiful stole and chasuble; for your generous welcome to Bishop Cederholm, some of my clergy colleagues, friends and family; for the many gifts; for the incredible amount of work that went into the event; and most of all for once again demonstrating to me the love of Christ. You are an extraordinary group of people. I am so delighted to be a part of your lives and your ministry.

We have another special event to round off the great fifty days of Easter. On Sunday, June 4, the Feast of the Pentecost, Bishop Gayle Harris will be with us for a visitation. At the bishop's request, we will have one service that day, at 9:00 am, so that the entire congregation can be present and meet Bishop Harris. Immediately following the service, we will have a special Coffee and Conversation with pastries, fruit, and juice, and the Bishop will have a conversation with the entire parish. She will also meet with the Vestry following the parish gathering. Please mark your calendars now, and plan to be with us for the service and the

gathering with Bishop Harris – she is really looking forward to being with us!

May you continue to know the richness of God’s blessing in this season of resurrection!

Faithfully,
Beth+

Easter Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the Easter breakfast and the Easter egg hunt! As always – what a success and a wonderful time! And a heartfelt thank you to every person who made Holy Week and Easter so very special in so many ways. Musicians, readers, servers, altar guild, acolytes – and each of you who took the time to come and worship, pray and celebrate.

Book Group

The Christ Church Book Group will meet on May 31 at 7:00 in the Parish House. We will be discussing Snowflower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, June 4. The children will attend class and then join the congregation and Bishop Harris for communion. On Sunday, June 11, there will be a Sunday School recognition for children and teachers during the service, and the sermon will be geared towards the children. Please make sure you are with us!

Sacrament Class

There will be a two-part Sacrament Class on two Saturday mornings, June 3 and June 10, from 9:00 – 10:30 am. This class will focus on Baptism and Holy Eucharist, and is for children who would like to take communion for the first time, as well as those children who already receive, but who would like to learn a little more. Please let the Rector know if your child will be participating, or sign up in the church. We will recognize the children with some special prayers during the 10:00 service on June 11.

Sunday Forum on General Convention

On Sunday, May 28, the Rector will hold a forum on the upcoming General Convention, with a look at various issues which will be discussed and work to be done. The forum will begin at 9:00 and last until 9:45. Although it will not be long in length, it is to be hoped that it will give you some general information and spark your interest to keep track of developments at General Convention. There will be another forum held at some point following the General Convention, to share some of the work done.

General Convention is held every three years in the USA, and it begins this year on June 11 in Columbus, Ohio. It is always a lively and especially prayerful time of work and discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit. Your prayers are requested, as always.

Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center Work Day

There will be a work day at the BCH Camp and Conference Center on Saturday, May 20. People from all around the diocese are coming together to help get the Camp ready for the summer season, and it promises to be a great time. As a member of the Board of the Camp and Conference Center, Beth Grundy will be taking part in the Work Day, and would love some company. Please give her a call if you would like to go. People who enjoy working outside will especially enjoy this day.

Apply to Camp

Applications for the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center are at the back of the church, or can be found online at www.bchcenter.org. Several of our children and young people have attended Camp, and Caitlin Scott has worked there, and it is a wonderful experience. Beth Grundy will be serving as a Camp Chaplain this summer during the week of July 9 – 15.

Why Bishops?

Since Bishop Bud Cederholm was just with us for our Celebration of a New Ministry, and Bishop Gayle Harris will be joining us on June 4, it seemed a good idea to reflect on the importance of bishops for our church. We are called the Episcopal Church, because we are a church of bishops – the word Episcopal comes from the Greek word *episcopos*, which means “bishop.” The New Testament makes reference to the presence of those who were designated to be bishops, or chief

pastors in the early church, and for us, the practice continues to work well. The bishop is a sign of the unity of the church – when we are with a bishop, we see his or her shepherd’s crook, and we are reminded that as she or he has oversight of a whole flock – called the “diocese” – and that we are connected one to another, every one of us as a member of the diocese. The bishop is the chief pastor to the clergy, a role which has been very important to me since I was ordained. In our ordination vows, we promise to obey our bishops, and we share with them in the ministry in our particular parishes.

Our diocesan bishop is the Right Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, and our suffragan (assisting) bishops are the Right Rev. Roy “Bud” Cederholm, and the Right Rev. Gayle Harris. Since we have 196 parishes, missions, and chaplaincies in the Diocese of Massachusetts, it is really important to have the presence of all three of our bishops. They spend each weekend making visitations to the various parishes, and again, we are looking forward to having Bishop Gayle with us in a few weeks. Please come and hear more about the bishops’ work on our behalf, and the work of our diocese!

Outreach News

By Marsha Gauthier

Christ Church Outreach Group provided an "Easter Breakfast" for the Fall River Family shelter on Saturday Apr 15th. Members of our group once again made a delicious breakfast for these families. We also presented the children with Easter Baskets containing an assortment of toys and goodies. Many thanks to all who helped.

A Teddy Bear Stuffing Party was held in the parish house Wednesday evening April 19th. Nine ladies shared coffee and treats while stuffing and naming 38 bears for those living with cancer. A remarkable feat for so few ladies. These bears will be distributed to St Anne's Oncology Center and Hawthorn Radiation Center as well as individuals when we are notified of a need. Thank you ladies for your dedication to this cause. Several of these bears will be sitting in the pews among the congregation. Please pray with them until they are given to someone in need. Feel free to take one to anyone you know who has cancer. They are free of charge. Please let Marsha Gauthier know in order that she can replace it.

Wednesday evening, May 3, there was a Prayer Shawl Knitter's Tea. Those in attendance were Ruth McCarthy, Sue Baker, Betty Traynor, Pauline Doane, Ann Beltran, Florence Lawrence, Carol Turner, Rev Beth Grundy and Marsha Gauthier. The Spectator Newspaper came to do an article regarding the purpose of this group. There are several other ladies who have made these special shawls. They are Caitlin Scott, Rochen McMahan, Joan Padrenoss, Olive Ormerod, Mildred Hamlin, Jackie Vincent, Kelly Croft, Cindy Brown, Sue McMullen, Gladys Shaw, Diane Stains, Sue Carvalho, and Shelagh Gouveia. These shawls are presented to those who need a "hug from God". If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving one please contact Betty Traynor or Marsha Gauthier.

Please continue to bring non-perishables to church for our Food Bank/Soup Kitchen mission. We received a letter of thanks from Agatha Goodson, coordinator of the Soup

Kitchen at the Ascension Church site. It will be posted on the bulletin board at the rear of the church.

We held a Bake Sale/Raffle on Sunday May 7th as a general fund raiser for Outreach missions. It was a huge success. We raised \$646!! Thank you all for making it happen! A special thank you to a generous member of our parish who matched the first \$500 making the grand total \$1146. We will be able to accomplish so much with this amount.

We are planning a "Sing a Long" at the Somerset Ridge Nursing Home. Please notify Marsha Gauthier if you would care to accompany us. We have a tentative date of Tuesday June 27th.

We will be hosting a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross. It will be held the first week in October. Last year we collected an amazing 55 pints of blood!

We are planning a supper in October to raise money for our Honduran sister church. (Possibly to be a shared donation for Katrina victims) It will be held on a Friday evening towards the middle of the month. Take outs will again be available.

We are always open to new ideas. Please let any member of the group know if you have a suggestion. As always thank you for your support.

Harvest Festival

Dear Friends of Christ Church, spring is in the air, the flowers are blooming, and I'm sure you're all anxious to start spring cleaning. You'll be glad to know that we have acquired a storage space for any of those things that you wish to donate to the Harvest Festival auction on Sept. 9, 2006. Esther Mello, 545 Marvel St. has graciously allowed us to use her garage-barn for storage so that we may start early with our auction item collecting. Starting on May 6th, you may drop off items to be stored. Again on May 20th and June 10th you may drop off any items at Esther Mello's. Drop off time will be 10am to 12pm. We're looking for good used furniture, antiques, and anything that would make a good auction item. By starting early, we hope to have a larger and better selection of things for the auction. If you have large items to donate but cannot transport them, please call the parish office and arrangements will be made to pick up your donation. Starting on July 1st, we will begin drop offs at the parish house. The parish house will be open on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. and on Saturdays from 10 to 12. On May 30th, we will hold our first organizational meeting at 6:30 pm in the parish house. Please come, have pizza, and brainstorm with us. We'll need lots of help and welcome any new ideas. Most of the committees already have chairmen. We've had a fabulous response from everyone. Diane Stains and I, Sherry Shea, will be co-chairmen for the Festival this year. We're very excited and anxious to bring our church family together on this fun filled and gratifying day.

Co-chairmen, Diane Stains and Sherry Shea

Chocolate Sale

A heart-felt "Thank you" goes out to all of the generous parishioners and friends of Christ Church who made the St. Patrick's Day/Easter Chocolate sales such a success. A total of \$458.50 was raised, to be divided equally between the Operating Budget and the Discretionary Fund. This is more than I had hoped for.

Thank you, All!

Martha H. Fournier

Day School Notes

The school year is rapidly coming to an end and we are busy finishing projects and practicing for our closing program. We will miss our 4-5 year olds as they head off to kindergarten but know they are confident and prepared and will make many new friends. We thoroughly look forward to another year with our 3-4 year olds and to welcoming 25 new students!

The beautiful spring days find us playing outdoors and we have Mr. Tony Melo to thank for repairing the gate to the playground. We are looking forward to celebrating summer birthdays and our family picnic.

We wish everyone at Christ Church and Christ Church Day School a wonderful summer and we'll see you in the fall.

Enough Church Already

By Sue Carvalho

Didn't we just get done attending church for several days during Easter week and now we need to attend church again during the week? April 27, 2006, on a Thursday was the "potluck" dinner and service to celebrate the induction of Beth as our Rector. What a glorious event. Needless to say Chris Munro came in like a whirlwind that afternoon and magically prepared a delicious feast. I managed to somehow transform the parish hall into a lovely vision, full of white tulips. The meal was well attended (over eighty) by both new parishioners, seasoned parishioners and by families as well. The service afterwards was also well attended and was an emotional, heartfelt wonderful event.

There we clergy who shared in the service, some parishioners from Beth's old parish were on hand, Bishop Cederholm was also there to participate, and there were numerous Christ Church parishioners as well. The church was filled, not only with people but with joyousness for this new Ministry that we are embarking on. WE are family, and how grateful I am to be a part of this family, and be able to have participated in such a glorious event. "Go forth into the world rejoicing in the spirit!" Alleluia, alleluia!

Taking for Granted

By Sue Carvalho

Do I take for granted that I can open that can? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that I can clap my hands? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that a day without pain is a good day? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that my husband loves me as much as he does and will always take care of me? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that tomorrow is another day? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that God is ever present (even though I wonder sometimes) in my life? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that those I love will be there tomorrow so I can tell them then? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that I don't need to tell people that I appreciate what they do? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that I can get more done in a day than I really need to? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that my attitude affects your attitude? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that what I have is precious and needs to be shared with others? Not anymore.
Do I take for granted that every day is a gift from God? Not anymore.....