

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



From the Rector

Dear People of God:

It is the end of August, and that really speaks for itself. Summer – my favorite season – draws to a close, and we begin the transition into fall. I hope the bounties of summer

gave you all some opportunity for fun and Sabbath time, and that you make this transition with a renewed sense of God's presence.

Transition is hard, however. Change of any kind is always hard, even if we anticipate it and know it is coming. Sometimes it is hard even if we look forward to it. We are such creatures of habit, and we always have the fear that we will lose something when a change comes. Whether it is a sadness at losing the beautiful days of summer, or a much more profound change in our lives or situations, with our humanity comes the fear that something central to our lives will be lost.

This sometimes is the case with change. But sometimes, times of change or transition can cause us to notice more sharply the presence and work of God in our lives. Perhaps this is because without the peg of familiarity on which to hang our hat, we are more watchful or observant. And sometimes it is because God has chosen to catch our attention! So, in whatever ways you are experiencing change or transition, it is my hope that you will find God there. And of course – God is always there, in both everything old and everything new – always doing a new thing, but always God. Let us remember, as we change from summer into fall, that in that greatest of all new things, the Word made flesh, God with us, Jesus Christ our Lord – we discovered that God is always at hand, in us and through us and over us. And that is our joy and sustenance.

It is always so important to have opportunities to learn and share our faith stories in order to continue to grow in the

Lord. So often, opportunities for Christian education and formation prove to be wonderful gifts for people seeking to deepen their faith. We have had some difficulty finding times and venues that work for adults here at Christ Church; and yet, I believe that we need this opportunities for adults to come together and learn and listen and pray. To that end, I am once again trying something new, and I urge you to join me! **Beginning in October, we will meet from 9:15 to 9:45 am on the first and third Sundays of the month, and have some learning and sharing about our lives of faith.** We will meet informally in the church, and we will have coffee! We will do this through December and see how it goes. During this time, I would like your input and feedback about whether the time works, if there is a better time, whether we should expand, provide child care, etc. I very much want to develop an adult Christian education program here at Christ Church, and I hope this is a way to make that change!

Don't forget that our great Sunday school is starting up, too. Please see Lori-Ann's letter and a registration form in this issue of the Chimes.

Please know of my joy in you and my prayers for you.

Faithfully,
Beth+

Worship

Baptisms

We will try to announce upcoming baptisms so you can offer your prayers and plan to be with us for these special days! Riley Cantafio will be baptized on Sunday, September 10, at 10:00, and Ethan Gifford will be baptized on Sunday, September 24 at 10:00. All best wishes and prayers to Steve, Bethany, Carter, and Riley; and also to Sarah, Bruce, Nathaniel, and Ethan! (And Al and Peggy, of course!)

Acolytes and Crucifers

We are in **need of children, young people, and adults to help expand our acolyte program.** We would very much like to have one or two acolytes and a crucifer (the person who carries the processional cross) at our 10:00 service. Generally around the third grade is a good time for children to become acolytes, and we welcome children and **young people all the way up through grade 12. Because our list of current acolytes is small, we would also like to invite any adults who would be willing to carry a processional cross to become involved, too.**

Finally, we are in need of an **adult or teenager or team of two who would be willing to coordinate the acolyte schedule, and work with the Rector in training acolytes.** This is a truly important ministry in every way. Please consider helping out and becoming involved, and speak to the Rector if you are interested. Many thanks!

Choir

Choir is starting up again, and really looking forward to a full and exciting year. Rehearsals will be held every **Thursday evening in the church from 7:00 – 8:15 pm, and Sundays from 9:15 – 9:45 am**. You do not have to be an experienced singer, only willing and eager to make music with a group of like-minded faithful people! Please do not worry if you cannot be at every rehearsal – simply speak to me about your schedule. And do feel free to speak to me if you are interested in any way. You can call me at 508-674-2245 or email me at aldeston@aol.com.

Al Deston, Minister of Music

Tuesday Service and Bible Study

Please remember that we have a regular service of Holy Eucharist every Tuesday morning at 10:00 in the church. We sit in the choir area near the altar, and pray Morning Prayer together, followed by Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to attend, and if you find that you are free at that time, we do hope you will join us. We also have a weekly Bible Study beginning at around 10:45, also in the church. We study the lessons for the following Sunday. We would love to see you.

Fellowship and Christian Formation

Christ Church Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, September 10, after church at 12:00 noon**. Please plan to be with us! Youth Group is open to anyone in grades 7 – 12. We would love to grow the Youth Group in numbers and activity, and we have a truly wonderful group of young people to start with. Please join us!

Anglican Prayer Beads Workshop

There will be a workshop on making Anglican Prayer Beads on **Monday, September 18, at 7:00 pm in the Parish House**. Prayer Beads have a similarity to the Rosary, and like the Rosary, they are used as an aid to contemplative and focused prayer. They have a very interesting history, and they are often very beautiful. Please plan to join us and take home your own set of beads!

A Resource Day for Congregational Development

On **Saturday, September 23**, there will be a **Resource Day for Congregational Growth and Development**, held at Bentley College in Waltham. This Day is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. All clergy are being asked to bring teams from their parish, to participate in a variety of workshops on mission, justice ministry, Christian Education, welcoming of new people, incorporating families and children, stewardship, planned giving, and many other

areas of a congregation's mission and ministry. **I would very much like to bring a good-sized team from Christ Church, and hope you will consider joining me.** You do not have to be currently involved in any specific ministry, just willing to learn more and join in the mission to grow our congregation in mission! You can read about the many workshops and register online by going to www.diomass.org, and clicking on the Resource Day icon at the bottom of the page. If you would prefer to have me register for you, drop me an email or give me a call. Cost is \$20 for those who register before September 9, and \$25 for those who register later, and includes lunch. Financial assistance is available by contacting Lois Murphey at 617-482-4826, ext. 349, or by contacting me.

Beth Grundy+

Mt. Hope/Buzzard's Bay Deanery Opportunity

We are part of the Mt. Hope/Buzzard's Bay Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The deanery is comprised of 12 Episcopal parishes on the south coast, stretching from Swansea to Marion. The purpose of the deanery is to promote fellowship and common ministry among Episcopalians in the same geographical region. We meet as a deanery four times per year, and often participate in joint programs as well.

Although anyone may attend deanery meetings, each parish is entitled to up to five appointed representatives who have voice and vote at meetings. **Currently Christ Church is without any representation except for our clergy. Please**

consider becoming a Deanery Representative, especially if you are interested in sharing in the wider ministry of the diocese and engaging in fellowship with other Episcopalians in our area. You will be glad you did! Please speak to Beth Grundy if you are interested.

Christ Church Book Group

This is just a reminder that our Christ Church Book Group meets on the **last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm**, and everyone is welcome! We generally choose the book for the next month at our gathering, so you can call the office or check the Sunday bulletin to find out what we are going to read, any time following the last Wednesday of the month. Hope to see you at Book Group!

Knitting Group

Don't forget that everyone is invited to our Christ Church Knitting Group! We meet every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 at Esther Mello's home, and bring our various projects. Recently we completed a quilt for Our Sister's Place in Fall River. We also enjoy great company and Esther's wonderful hospitality. The dates for Knitting Group through the fall are: **September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7, November 21, December 5, and December 19.** Please join us.

Outreach ---

Jubilee Fund Thank You

Your generosity at the institution of our new Rector in April, and during the Rev. Maggie Geller's visit with us in June netted over \$400 from Christ Church for the relief of AIDS orphans in Africa. Many, many thanks for your response to our brothers and sisters in need. Please continue to pray for relief of AIDS in Africa, and ways we can continue to be part of the healing and hope that is needed.

Day School

The Christ Church Day School will open again on Tuesday, September 14. Please pray for a wonderful and successful year for the children and teachers!-

Two Mission Trips in 2007

In support of the mission strategy goals of our Diocese of every parish being in partnership with another church or organization in the Anglican communion, there will be two opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to participate in mission trips. One will be to El Salvador, June 16-25, 2007, with Bishop Tom Shaw, and one will be to Tanzania, August 18-31, with Bishop Bud Cederholm.

Those interested should submit a letter of application, and this application and all information can be found online at www.missiongoal.org. Applications materials are due October 6, and should be mailed to The Rev. Maggie Geller, The Episcopal Diocese of MA, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. For further information, you can also contact the Rev. Ted Gaiser at 617-782-1577 or at tgaiser@diomass.org.

October Medical Mission and Work Trips for Gulf Coast Relief

Two diocesan hurricane relief trips to New Orleans are being planned for October 8-14. One is a newly formed medical relief group called *Samaritans Now*, and they are seeking physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, chaplains, medical assistants, medical clerks, and possibly dentists. More information is available at www.diomass.org.

The second trip is a general work trip, for anyone at least 21 years old, in good physical condition, and allergy free, to help clean, paint, and restore homes. For more information, contact the Katrina Task Force coordinators, Barbara Stowe and Carol Kingston at 617-482-4826, ext. 354 or bstowe@diomass.org.

Stewardship

Stewardship Gathering of Food and Fellowship

The Stewardship Committee is making plans for a **Fall Dinner and program** for all members of the church. It is tentatively scheduled for the evening of **September 28 in the Parish House**. All are welcome! As this is a Thursday evening, and we know it is a school night, it will begin promptly with supper and end at a very reasonable time for families. We are also planning to have child care and companionship available, and a place for children to finish

their homework and have some goodies as well. Plan NOT to cook that night, and join us! More information will follow!

Vestry Notes

At its June and July meetings, the vestry worked on the following items:

- After hearing about a presentation of \$9,000 to all Episcopal parishes in Bristol County from the Case Trust, initial discussion was help on use of the money, as it is hoped by the Case Fund that it will be used for outreach and mission purposes, not for operating expenses. This will be continued at the September meeting, including next steps with the parish and vestry.
- As further mold testing by vestry member Jacki Laxon showed mold still in the basement, the Property Committee will remove studs and wood and continue cleaning in order to render the space healthy and useable.
- We received gladly the news that we had received a grant from Hathaway Trust for capital work; and also a diocesan grant that Beth applied for, to be used towards our new sign and for some parish work with consultants on long-range planning.

The vestry did not meet in August. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, at 7:25. Please remember that all vestry meetings are open to any member of the parish, and that minutes and financial reports are posted and are also

available through the parish office. We want you to be informed as to what is going on – please also do your part by looking at minutes, requesting them, or dropping by meetings. We will be continuing to look at ways in which we can keep communications flexible and transparent. Many thanks!

The deadline for the October issue of the Chimes is Wednesday, September 20. Please have anything you would like printed to Beth Grundy by that date. You can drop off hard copies or send items to reveag98@aol.com.

Harvest Festival

Count Down Until Harvest Festival I'm getting butterflies, not because of nerves, but I'm just so excited and looking forward to a spectacular day on Sept. 9th.

Everything is falling into place. If you've been in the parish house, you'll know that we have collected lots of treasures for the white elephant tent and the auction. And there's still more to come! The clothing racks are full, the books are in abundance, and the toys are piling up. The freezer is plugged in and waiting for the ice cream, and the crafts are ready to be sold. Everyone has been so generous with their time, donations and work. Thank you.

The raffle tickets are selling well, and the booster pledges have been spectacular!

If you haven't already received a call from the telephone committee, you will.

The Harvester is out, and it's terrific. Thank you Matt and Kelly.

Don't forget the parade. We hope to have a great turnout. Make those jams, jellies, and pickles, and don't forget to bake for the bake sale.

We're still looking for lots of volunteers to help in all areas of the festival. Please let Diane Stains or me, Sherry Shea know if there are new parish members who may have expressed a desire to participate in some way.

Our last festival meeting will be on August 29th, at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcomed. If you are a committee chair person, please make every effort to attend.

We'll need lots of help setting things up on Friday the 8th. Extra hands will be appreciated.

Watch for signs, posters, banners, and newspaper articles about the festival. Tell your friends, co-workers, and families to join us for a great day.

We've been blessed with a loving, caring and willing parish family. This Harvest Festival will be proof of these gifts. Thank you everyone.

Sunday School

Sunday school will begin another exciting year on September 17 at 9:45 am. Children in grades preschool through nine are invited to enroll. Registration can be completed with the form enclosed in the Chimes, or in person on Sunday September 10th.

This year our Sunday school will, again, be utilizing the Workshop Cycles Curriculum. Workshop Cycles enables students to devote 4-6 weeks to a particular topic. This allows children to invest and focus more time on a given area to really learn the material presented. The children learn about each subject through a variety of educational forms including drama, music, art, story telling, writing, movies, games, and cooking. It is an exciting, fun, and informative way to learn about our church, religion, and Bible.

Our Sunday school is also looking for fellow parishioners to share some time and themselves with our children. You do not have to be a teacher for the entire school year. Also, you do not have to have any prior teaching experience. You just have to have a willingness to share yourself with us! So, if you have any interest in drama, music, art, story telling, writing, movies, games, or cooking...and are willing to share your interest with us for 4-6 weeks please stop in and see us! We are always excited to share our projects with others and would love to have you share yourself with us.

Christ Church, Swansea, Massachusetts Directory

The Right Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE
Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts

The Right Rev. Roy Cederholm
The Right Rev. E. Gayle Harris
Suffragan Bishops

The Rev. Elizabeth Grundy
Rector

The People of Christ Church
Ministers