

The Chimes
The Newsletter of Christ Church
Swansea, Massachusetts
July 2007



From the Rector

My dear people of God,

I had the most wonderful thing happen to me recently. Leslie Ann forwarded me an email that had come into the office through the parish web site. It was from my all-time best

friend, Dianne. I met Dianne at a camp where we both worked – Rainbow Camp in Hanson, MA, which some of you will know – in the summer of 1976, the summer I turned 16. We became fast friends, kindred spirits, really, and saw and spoke to each other constantly through the early 1980s. And then, as is so often the case, we fell into the pattern of our own lives, and began to be in touch only intermittently. It has probably been about eight years since we last spoke. And neither of us was sure where the other was. Dianne knew I was a priest, and decided to track me down – and found me through our terrific Christ Church web site. I am so very grateful that she did! We have so enjoyed beginning to catch up, and already we have fallen back into really meaningful discussions, just like we always had. I don't think we will ever lose touch again, for we know how precious this kind of friendship is. And what a wonderful feeling to know that someone cares for you enough to never give up on finding you! I am so very glad that Dianne's faithfulness to our friendship persevered. She has – as she always has – taught me a new lesson and given me a great gift.

You know, this is what God is like. Always seeking us, never forgetting us, caring so much that God will never, ever let us go. There are times when we might feel as if we have fallen out of touch with God – but God is always calling us back, and seeking to establish and reestablish a relationship with us. “Remember, Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew's Gospel, “I am with you always, even to the end of the ages.”

Summer is a great time to reconnect with the God who has always loved you and always will. Set aside some quiet time

each morning to pray. Check out our “Mass on the Grass” schedule and plan to join us. Bring your family to church at 9:00 am on Sunday, or go for a long walk on the beach to see the glory of God in the world about us. Whatever you do, reach out and check in with God. You will be so glad you did. You know those faithful and loyal earthly companions that never let you go? That is our God!

This is a somewhat shorter issue of the newsletter than usual, because as well as sending you my greetings and thoughts, we wanted to make sure that you were all tuned in to particular events and schedules for the summer. Our August/September issue will be quite lengthy – but, we hope, enjoyable!

Yours in Christ,
Beth

Summer Worship Schedule

Don't forget that in the months of July and August, we are having **one** Sunday service at **9:00 am!** Please plan to be with us. And, on several Saturday afternoons at 5:00 pm, we are h\once again holding our popular “Mass on the Grass” (always outside, weather permitting). The dates for this service are as follows:

Saturday, July 14
Saturday, August 11
Saturday, August 18
Saturday, August 25

Vacation Bible School

The Re. Pat Zifcak and the Rev. Beth Grundy are pleased to welcome our children to Vacation Bible School! The program for this summer will be held **August 6 – August 10**, from 9:00 am to noon each day. Registration forms are available at the back of the church, or through the Parish Office. Pat and Beth will lead the Vacation Bible School, with assistance from other adults from time to time. The week will focus on “Finding God in Nature!” It will center around the church and nearby outdoor areas and will include a ministry project which we will plan and complete during the week. Of course, getting to know one another and having fun together is the most important ingredient of the program! You do not need to be a member of the church to participate, so do let your children's friends know about this. There is no fee for the program, but we may ask parents to help out with snacks now and then. Please see Pat or Beth if you have any questions!

Summer Notes from the Rector

Many, many thanks to all of you who were so patient and helpful during the time in June when both Leslie Ann and I were away – and especially for your kindness to me in understanding that my “secretarial” skills are not my strong suit! I do realize that I was remiss in consolidating the 8 and 10 services into one service the first few weeks, when it came to those of you who offer yourselves to serve, and I was also not able, as Leslie Ann does so faithfully, to send out service reminders. So again – my heartfelt thanks to you for your understanding! This is true Christian community!

Also, I want you to know that I will be away from July 22 – August 4 for some continuing education and vacation. I have once again been accepted into the Summer Program in Theology at Oxford University, so I will be in England until July 28, and then on more vacation. There will be ample clergy coverage while I am away, and I will really look forward to being back with you in church on August 5!

Beth+

Outreach News

By Marsha Gauthier

Summer Greeting Cards- The congregation will soon be offered the opportunity to send summer greetings to our Homebound parishioners.

Sojourn Teddy Bears-Sojourn Teddy Bears are made by many members of our parish for those living with cancer. 50 bears are provided each month to local hospitals. Please contact Marsha if you would like a bear free of charge for someone you know who has cancer.

Back Packs-Our heartfelt thanks to all who sponsored one or more 3rd grade Swansea students. They recently received a back pack from us filled with school supplies. It is not too late to make a donation for this cause.

Please place your contribution of any amount in an envelope provided at the back of the church and place it in the basket marked "Outreach Back Packs".

You may also mail you donation to the church office clearly marked "back packs". The delightful thank you notes received from these children will soon be on display for all to enjoy.

Prayer Shawls-Many shawls have recently been presented to those who are ill or in need of a spiritual lift. If you are able to knit or crochet consider joining this great mission. Patterns available upon request. Many thanks to those who have made, and continue to make them. Please contact Betty Traynor, Marsha Gauthier or the church office if you know of someone in need.

Hope House-Your Outreach Group will be hosting a cook out for the residents of Hope House, a residence for those living with AIDS/HIV, in Fall River in mid-August. Without your support this mission would not be possible.

Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen-Thank you for continuing to bring food in for those less fortunate than we are.

Upcoming Events:

October 5th Meat Pie Supper & Gift Basket Auction

October 16th American Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next quarterly meeting will be Tuesday, July 24th at 7PM in the parish house. Please consider joining us and enjoy a great experience.

Book Group

We will be reading Ann LaMott's *Traveling Mercies*, and will meet at Muriel Driscoll's house at on **Thursday, July 19, at 7:00 pm**. All welcome!

Knitting Group

We continue through the summer, and will be meeting at Esther Mello's home on **Tuesday, July 17 at 6:30 pm**. All welcome!

Recent Vestry Minutes and Financial Reports can be found at the back of the church. The Vestry will not meet in August, but will resume in September.

Harvest Festival

Dear Parish Family,

This letter is to update everyone about the annual **Harvest Festival** which will be held on **Saturday, September 8, 2007!**

Beginning on **July 1**, there will be two storage containers placed near the Parish House; one will be for Auction items and one will be for White Elephant goods. Auction items should be placed directly into the container. White Elephant items must first be brought to the Parish House. These will be priced and placed into the container.

Drop-off times are posted on the door of the Parish House . and in the weekly bulletin. Drop-offs will be available on **Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00 am**, and on

Mondays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. You may also drop items off during regular office hours, 9:00 – noon, Monday through Friday. We ask that you please be sure that your items are clean and sellable. Items that are dirty, damaged, or moldy cannot be accepted.

If you have **White Elephant** items to donate, but cannot deliver them yourself, please call Sherry Shea or Shirley Stasiowski for pick up arrangements:

Sherry Shea
Shirley Stasiowski

For pick up of **Auction** items, please call Ted Yates or Bruce Hawley.

Ted Yates
Bruce Hawley

We will once again have a **parade** to kick off the Festival. Everyone is welcome to participate in the parade, especially children. The parade will begin at 9:00 am.

Once again, please consider being a **Harvest Festival Booster!** Give Bob Hawley a call.

Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is a list of all the chairpersons for the Festival. Please call the appropriate chairperson for your donation, whether it is baked goods, craft items, vegetables, jams, or pickles for the country store, or clothing for the boutique. He or she will be able to answer your questions.

We are still in need of many **volunteers** to work on the day of the Festival. I don't know every member of the parish yet; but I would be thrilled to meet you and have some

volunteers! Please call or email me at the number and address above!

Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to help with the expense of running the Harvest Festival. Please make your donations to the "Christ Church Harvest Festival" and note on your donation "Festival expenses." Donations can be mailed to the Parish Office or placed in the collection plates on Sunday.

More news to come later! Thank you and God bless,

Sherry Shea,
HF co-chairman

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