

**The Chimes**  
**The Newsletter of Christ Church**  
**Swansea, Massachusetts**  
**March/April 2007**



**Holy Week and Easter Schedule of Services**

**Sunday, April 1 - Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)**

8:00 am - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist\

10:00 am - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday in Holy Week, April 3**

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, April 5 - Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar, followed by watch before the Blessed Sacrament

**Friday, April 6 - Good Friday**

12:00 pm - Good Friday Liturgy with communion from reserve

3:00 pm - Children's Service of the Way of the Cross

7:00 pm - Good Friday Liturgy with communion from reserve

**Saturday, April 7**

6:00 pm - The Lighting of the New Fire and the Great Vigil of Easter (The first service of Easter!)

**Sunday, April 8 - Feast of the Resurrection – Easter Day**

8:00 am - Festival Holy Eucharist with music

10:00 am - Festival Holy Eucharist with music

**From the Rector**

Dear People of God:

How is Lent going for you? Are you finding it a time of reflection? Are you praying in a new way, or keeping a Lenten discipline? Or are you finding that it is just like any other time – harried, busy, and moving far too quickly?

I ask because I find that a combination of all of these is true for me during Lent. I am keeping some disciplines, and I always find Lent a time of introspection and self-examination, as I try to move close to the cross with Jesus. But at the same time, I get overly busy, or tired or distracted, and fall away from my discipline.

I want you to know that I think that is all right! Lent, like any season of the church year, calls us to new thinking and renewal. It calls us to turn again to God. But, like any season of the church year, it can also reflect the “craziness” of our lives. And I think it isn’t so much about completely changing our lives all the time – but about consciously making room for God. And we mean to – but how hard it is to remember!

Let’s all remember that the approaching Easter season is a time when we see what new things God is up to. God is always doing a new thing, making a change, turning things around. And that is true for our lives, too. When we fall short of our Lenten disciplines, may we remember the new thing that is always around the corner. Forgiveness. Mercy. It is OK. God is always making another chance, doing a new thing. And there is no more wonderful, amazing testimony to this than the events of Calvary and the empty tomb toward which we move. It is God’s new thing. It is ours, too. I truly hope that you will take advantage of all our Holy Week and Easter services to discover this again. These services are for *you*. God’s love and mercy and gift of new life are for you, too. May you each be blessed with that knowledge abundantly in this Easter season.

Please know of my love and prayers for you.

Faithfully,  
Beth+

## **Christian Formation**

### **Thanks to the Stewardship Committee**

And to all who attended and helped out with our Stewardship Brunch on March 25. We have much more planned for the rest of the year!

### **Lenten Program**

Our Lenten Program, “*Serving the Body of Christ*” will hold its last two sessions on **Tuesday evening, March 27** in the Parish House. We will be studying how the Anglican Church is responding to the AIDS crisis in Africa and also what the Episcopal Church can do to respond. We begin at 6:30 with a simple supper, and the program begins at 7:00 pm. Please join us!

### **“Change for Change”**

There are still some “Change for Change” cans in the church for anyone who would like to participate! Remember, this is a joint project between Chris Munro and our Sunday School children to collect money to help buy supplies for children in Africa, to be taken over when Chris travels to Tanzania with the Diocesan Mission Team this summer!

### **Inquirer's Class**

The Rector will continue a six-part **Inquirer's Class** on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm** in the Parish House through the month of April. The course will run for six consecutive Wednesday evenings, and is designed for any adult who would like to be received into the Episcopal Church when the Bishop comes to our deanery in May; or simply for anyone who would like a refresher or would like to know more about the Episcopal Church. Adults and teens are most welcome!

## **Worship and Liturgy**

### **Handbell Choir**

Our friends at St. Mark's in Fall River have graciously given their permission to our Minister of Music, Al Deston, for Christ Church to borrow their set of handbells to see if we can start a handbell choir! Several people have already expressed interest, and we are looking for YOU! You do not have to be able to read music to play handbells – just love God, church, music! Please let Al Deston know if you are interested.

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### **Participate in Holy Week and Easter Liturgies**

Holy Week and Easter is a time of great solemnity, joy and drama for us as Christians, and our liturgies throughout this week reflect these emotions and our spiritual journey with Christ. We will be in need of people of all ages to take a role in the liturgies, especially with readings, dramatic

presentations, and assisting with services in various ways. As well as our regular liturgical ministers, we want to present opportunities for as many people who wish to be involved. All ages welcome – please sign up in the Church.

### **Acolyte Training**

All acolytes and those who would like to be – there will be an Acolyte Training on Saturday morning, **April 7, from 9:00 – 10:00 am** in the Church. Remember, being an acolyte or crucifer is open to children, teens, AND adults!

### **U2charist Coming to Christ Church**

During the Easter season, we will be having a “U2charist” here at Christ Church. You may have read or heard about how some churches have found new life in their liturgy especially for young adults, through the music of U2, and the commitment of its leader, Bono, to the eradication of poverty in the world. The U2charist is the brainchild of the Rev. Paige Blair and the people of St. George's Episcopal Church in York Harbor, ME. Our service will be a way of rounding off some of our prayer and thought and giving around relief of AIDS in Africa, and will most likely be held on a Sunday evening. Stay tuned!

### **From the Diocese**

The Rev. Elizabeth Grundy, Rector of Christ Church in Swansea, has been appointed dean of the Mt. Hope/Buzzard's Bay Deanery. She succeeds the Rev. Robert Woodroffe.

Bishop Bud Cederholm, in announcing the appointment, expressed gratitude for Beth's and Woody's gifts for leadership and willingness to serve.

There will be an opportunity for a diocesan budget conversation with the bishops on April 17 at the Church of Our Saviour in Middleborough.

## **Vestry Notes**

**At its February meeting, the Vestry discussed/acted on the following:**

To approve the budget for 2007 to be presented at Annual Meeting.

Planned Brunch for Annual Meeting.

Determined that the Rev. Pat Zifcak would begin her ministry with us on Feb. 11.

**At its March meeting, the Vestry discussed/acted on the following:**

Unanimously approved that work begin on restoring the parish house basement to useable and comfortable Sunday School and meeting space, using money already obtained through grants, donations, available capital for maintenance. We will apply also for another Hathaway grant.

Heard from Pat Zifcak on her plans and hopes for engaging in ministry with us, particularly in the area of children/family ministries.

Determined the date of the Vestry Retreat to be March 31.

Please remember Minutes are posted and you can always obtain your own copy through the parish office. Thanks!

## **Outreach News - March/April**

By Marsha Gauthier

Prayer Beads - Sojourn Teddy Bears - On February 28th several ladies attended a Prayer Bead Workshop in the parish house. It was a very peaceful gathering. We enjoyed each other's company while stringing beautiful beads. Some were for ourselves and some are to be presented to those who are ill.

A Teddy Bear Stuffing Party- will soon be held in the parish house. The date will be announced soon. People of all ages have a great time socializing as well as stuffing bears. These bears are to be presented to those living with cancer free of charge. 50 bears are provided each month to local hospitals. Please contact Marsha at 508-678-6486 if you would like a bear for someone who has cancer.

Greeting Cards- Sunday, March 25th names will be available for the congregation to send Easter cards to our Homebound

parishioners. Look for Cindy Brown at the 8AM service and Olive Ormerod at the 10AM service. Thank you everyone who participates in sending these messages of cheer.

Prayer Shawls- Many shawls have recently been presented to those who are ill or in need of a spiritual lift. We currently have a waiting list for requests for shawls. If you are able to knit or crochet, please get your fingers busy. Patterns available upon request. Many thanks to those who have made them.

Family Shelter- An Easter breakfast and Easter baskets for the Fall River family shelter will take place on Saturday, April 7th. The following menu has been planned: Strata (Egg casserole), baked beans, coffee hash browns, bacon, coffee cake, bagels & cream cheese, munchkins, small boxes cereal, juice, milk, cream, fruit salad, and French toast with syrup. We will also fill Easter Baskets for the children.

Bake Sale- Our bake sale/raffle will take place on Sunday, May 6th. We need donations for the raffle please, and of course baked goods. Details to follow. Please save your bakery boxes.

Back Packs -The parish will soon be invited to participate in a local area school's back pack project. More details to follow.

Service Personnel- We are looking for the names of local Service Personnel, serving in Iraq, in order to send cheer packages once again.

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

## Reflections

### **Victim or Victor?**

The other day someone very close and dear to me shared with me something they are going through. It seems they are struggling with some issues and were sharing their feelings with another friend. After they had spoken for a while, the other friend said to this person that although they were touched and concerned, it seemed that the person was speaking like a victim. This made my friend very upset, but after some reflection, this person realized the friend was right; as it was relayed to me, the realization that one can choose to play the part of a victim, or approach a situation with the knowledge that the fight has already been won for us.

This person's exact words to me were: ***“Instead of the victim, the victor – there is a song about Jesus that says we don't have to worry because we have already won, so we should act accordingly; his love is assured, so hope and victory are ours to have if we will see them.”***

This all touched my heart more than this person could know, because just a few weeks prior to this, I was going through something very similar and sharing my thoughts with someone else, who said almost the same thing to me about sounding as if I enjoyed being a victim. This also made me furious, as I have always prided myself on being a strong

person. After reflection, I too saw the wisdom in their criticism.

I am sure that all of you may have experienced something similar in your lives, and although it is hard not to play the victim after you have been victimized, we all have the choice and ability to react differently. Some things we deal with take so much energy for us to keep them from consuming us that it can cause us become tired and more susceptible to illness. When these times occur in our lives, perhaps you and I can remember that Victory has already been won for us, and if we will be willing to turn our problems over to God, he will sustain us and our attitudes will change for the better.

My prayers and hope for you and myself is that when we have been victimized, and are feeling down, that we can turn it over to Christ and remember to be the Victor, and not the Victim.

In Victory!!!  
A...

### **I'm Not A Morning Person**

The other morning, I was up early, as I was serving as Eucharistic Minister at the 8:00 service. I am not normally an early riser. I noticed that in the quiet of the morning, there was almost a reverence to how I felt. The roads were quiet, and the dew of the morning felt comforting and calming. I

am not a morning person, but I thought of how God draws me sometimes to the things I am not accustomed to. I feel uncomfortable and yearn for my routine, yet somehow, I find myself letting go and letting God lead me. New adventures filled with learning lessons (I need to be still to understand) – how exhilarating is that! Not all of my adventures have been fun?!? – yet I have learned from them and I know that with God leading the way, although I may not understand now, I will when the adventure is over. Serving as Eucharistic Minister at 8:00, I've met more parishioners, heard the quiet of the morning (or the lack thereof), appreciate the music at 10:00 all the more, and know that although I am not a morning person I will always (try) to let God lead the way.

*Sue Carvalho*

### **The Bell**

Author Unknown

I really hope you take the time to read it all. I've held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that, I still possess.

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing. If

nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field.

Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray.

When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the guide horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see.

Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

Please listen for my bell and I will listen for yours.

### **Things That Make Me Smile**

When I serve as Eucharistic minister and feel so blessed and honored to perform this ministry.

Finishing another Prayer Shawl (don't look too closely!)

Watching *Gray's Anatomy* on Thursday night.

When the cat sits in my lap and I can hear her purring.

Six grandkids, two great stepsons, and two wonderful daughters-in-law.

Knowing I will be married ten years in October.

When I do something kind for someone, even better if they haven't been kind to me.

Shopping at thrift shops.

My Weight Watchers Meetings on Wednesday.

Ballroom dancing with Steve.

Watching *Lost* on Wednesday night.

The week of Holy Week and Easter services is almost here.

That I am blessed – truly, truly blessed.

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