

**The Chimes**  
**The Newsletter of Christ Church**  
**Swansea, Massachusetts**  
**May/June 2007**



**From the Rector**

Dear People of God:

As summer approaches, I find I have one very important thing to say to you, and this is it - *Know that you are deeply, deeply loved by God, and take the gift God offers you to rest and bask*

*in that knowledge.* Summer can be a time of slowing down; and my deep hope is that each of you will find a way to do just that, in some way or another – so that you can allow yourself to be cared for by God and listen to God. “Be still, and know that I am God,” we hear the Holy One say, and indeed, in the sights and smells of a summer afternoon, or the gentle darkness of a summer evening with family, friends, or simply by ourselves, we can often have a profound experience of that. God loves you and wants you to know that.

And that is the message for now. As simple as a summer breeze. As short as the season itself. And, I hope, as welcome as the warming days and glorious flowers. Summer slow-down is a gift from the God who loves you and wants you to know it.

And so do I. As always, know of my prayers and love for each of you –

Faithfully, Beth+

**Outreach and Mission**

**Knitting Group Aids Veterans**

All last fall and winter, the Knitting Group met every two weeks at Esther Mello’s home. The knitters decided that as a group effort, they would make afghans to donate to the needy. Each week, they knotted squares of different colors and designs that would eventually become an afghan. When the required amount of squares was completed, the group decided how the

squares should be placed together for perfect color coordination. When the squares were all in their proper place, Diane Stains sewed them together and then crocheted a lovely edging around each afghan. Lorna Gregory then embroidered "Christ Church – Swansea MA 2006" across the bottom of each afghan and also embroidered a cross in each corner square. The finished afghans were truly beautiful.

The group contacted several charitable organizations about accepting the afghans and the Veteran's Hospital in Brockton was the organization chosen to receive them. On April 12, Mildred Hamlin, who had been the liaison between the Knitting Group and the Veteran's contact person, received a letter of appreciation from the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in Rehoboth. The letter thanked the Christ Church Knitters for the three warm and beautiful afghans the group had made and went on to say that they are giving comfort to those veterans in need.

The Knitting Group is happy to know that the afghans that were truly a Labor of Love are a comfort to those who have served our country so well.

*Lorna Gregory*

### **Outreach Opportunity June 10**

The Youth Group of Christ Church in Plymouth has invited our parish to participate in a Cape June Jubilee on Sunday, June 10, beginning at 1:00. Beginning at the Buzzard's Bay Parking Area, participants are invited to walk, bike, or roller blade the fourteen miles to Scusset Beach. At the end of the walk there

will be a barbeque. All proceeds from the Jubilee will go to help fight AIDS in Africa. This is open to people of all ages; and young people will be invited to a Youth Night for all youth groups that same evening at Christ Church, Plymouth after the barbeque, for more food and games. Please think seriously about being a participant – pledge forms for fundraising are available at the back of the church or through the office.

I think this will be a fantastic event; and I must admit to a bias, because it is being organized by a good clergy friend of mine, the Rev. Ted Cole, and by Dave Denekamp, with whom I went to high school in Foxboro, and with whom I enjoyed four fabulous years in the St. Mark's Foxboro Youth Group. Dave is now a lay leader at Christ Church Plymouth, working especially with the youth group. You see what Youth Groups can do! Anyway, let's plan to have a contingent from our own Christ Church! Please call the office or sign up in the church if you are interested, so we may be in contact. We will leave immediately following the 10:00 service on that day, so you will be WELCOME to wear your comfortable walking gear to church!

*Beth+*

### **Outreach News By Marsha Gauthier**

Easter Cards- Thank you everyone who participated in sending Easter greeting cards to our Homebound parishioners.

Family Shelter- An Easter breakfast was served and Easter baskets were presented to the residents of the Fall River family

shelter on Saturday, April 7th. Many thank you notes were given to Garry & Chris Gillett, Olive Ormerod and Joan Padrenoss and have been posted on the church bulletin board.

Bake Sale- Our Bake Sale/Raffle held on Sunday, May 6th was a huge success.

We raised \$675 while having a great time. This money will be donated to Chris Munro to purchase mosquito nets to help with the prevention of Malaria and AIDS in Africa. Chris will be going on a mission trip this August. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in any way. Best of luck to Chris as she travels to Africa for this wonderful mission.

Sojourn Teddy Bears- On May 16th twelve ladies and one gentleman attended a Teddy Bear Workshop in the parish house. A time of fellowship and refreshments were enjoyed while stuffing and naming Sojourn Teddy Bears for those living with cancer. 50 bears are provided each month to local hospitals. Please contact Marsha if you would like a bear for someone you know who has cancer.

African Violets- Florence Lawrence and Marsha Gauthier delivered 45 beautiful African Violets to 45 residents at the Somerset Ridge Center on May 18th. Cards were attached wishing them a Happy Spring from Christ Church Swansea Outreach.

Back Packs -The congregation is invited to participate in a Swansea area school's back pack project. For a \$10.00 donation you can sponsor an 8 year old child who will receive a quality

back pack containing a spiral notebook, crayons, pencils, pens & a ruler. Please sign up at the back of the church.

You will be notified when to submit your donation. Many thanks to Pauline Doane and Florence Lawrence for their hard work on this mission.

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 them. Please contact Betty Traynor, Marsha Gauthier, or the church office if you know of someone in need.

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

## **Worship and Formation**

### **Christ Church Handbell Choir**

ars on Saturday, June 2, at 9:30 in the church. All are welcome, and you do not have to be able to read music to do this – it is easy to learn!

### **Sacrament Class for Children**

The Rector will be holding a two-part “Sacrament Class” for children on **two consecutive Saturday mornings, June 2 and June 9, from 9:30 – 10:30 am**. This is an opportunity for children to grow in their understanding of the two great sacraments, Baptism and Holy Eucharist. It is a great

opportunity for children who would like to receive communion for the first time, and also for children who just want to know a little more! Please remember that in the Episcopal Church, there is no “First Communion,” as we invite all people to the altar to receive communion at *any* time after their baptism. However, we will acknowledge the children who participate in the class with a special prayer and recognition during our **10:00 service on June 3**. Please let Beth know if you will be participating by calling the office at 508-678-0923.

## **Summer Plans for Church Folks**

### **Vacation Bible School**

We will be holding our first ever Vacation Bible School at Christ Church this summer! It will be held in the morning of the week of August 6 - 10, and the theme will be “The Face of God in Nature.” More information will follow shortly; but we hope you will mark your calendars now!

### **Barbara C. Harris Camp**

Applications for Camp are now available at the back of the Church and online. This is an experience not to be missed, and there is generous financial aid available. Beth will be a chaplain the second week of July. Please check out the Camp, and give Beth a call if you’d like more information!

### **Summer Worship Schedule**

During the months of July and August, we will once again combine our two Sunday services into ONE: to be held at 9:00

am. We will also have our popular “Mass on the Grass” whenever the Rector is in town, and we will also have two services of “Mass on the Grass” in June – Saturday, June 23 and Saturday, June 30, at 5:00 pm.

## **Around Town**

### **Swansea Public Library Event**

The Swansea Public Library will be hosting a Book Sale and Bake Sale from 10:00 – 3:00 on Saturday, June 2. Please stop by!

## **Day School Notes**

Spring is finally in the air and no one could be happier than the children at Christ Church Day School!!

Springtime has sprung both inside and out as the children admire the fruits of their labor. Everyone has been enjoying the beautiful flowers the students planted in the fall. How wonderful the front of the school looks surrounded by yellow, pink and purple flowers! Daffodils, dandelions and tulips are also ‘popping up’ inside as the students are hard at work creating beautiful spring masterpieces. Butterflies and green trees also adorn classrooms as the children experience how ‘April showers bring May flowers’!

We were fortunate to have two wonderful guest readers again this month. Mrs. LePage and Officer Pacheco each shared their child's favorite book with the classes. Their enthusiasm and wonderful storytelling brought bright eyes and big smiles to the children's faces. The walk to the library was made extra special when Officer Pacheco arrived in his policeman's uniform and escorted the children safely to their destination!

As the flowers bloom, so do our wonderful students! Teachers are amazed to see how much the children have learned and how tall they have grown! Our three-year-olds have gone from toddlers to pre-schoolers, and are so very proud to be turning 4! They, too, watch in amazement as 'the big kids' become members of 'The 5 Club', with Mrs. Neville leading the way! Kindergarten screenings have been completed and the students have proven themselves ready for their big step into grammar school!

The children celebrated springtime and the letter "T" with a 'Teddy Bear Tea Party'. Pretty hats, springtime dresses and handsome ties are always a reminder that the school year will soon be coming to a close. As the students happily rehearse for their closing programs, the teachers are planning for summer birthday celebrations, family picnics ... and happy memories! We are still accepting applications for the 2007 – 2008 academic year. For more information, please call us at 508-678-7788.

## **Harvest Festival**

The warmer weather is creeping in and before you know it, it will be time for Harvest Festival. If you've never been to a festival, you have no idea what you're missing. It has to be one of my favorite experiences. There is such a bonding of family and friends. I hope each of you will take time to be part of this day this fall. Alan Scott and I are striving to make this day one of the best. With your help, we can make this day like no other. Won't you join us and help in some way? There will be more information coming. Alan and I are available for any questions or suggestions. You can reach us by phone or email. Check our website [www.christchurchswansea.org](http://www.christchurchswansea.org) for updated info. Mark your calander for Sept. 8th.

Peace,  
Sherry Shea  
Alan Scott

## **Vestry Notes**

At our May meeting, the following items were on our agenda:

Work on the basement is moving along and almost completed!

We discussed and voted on the establishment of a vestry sub-committee to examine our ministries yearly and to write and submit requests for diocesan grants to enhance our mission.

We will sponsor a special dinner in October for fundraising for Christian education.

We established a sub-committee from Vestry to serve as a liaison with our Day School.

We voted to once again have one Sunday service in July and August, supplemented by “Mass on the Grass” to be held when the Rector is not on vacation.

We received detailed information on plans for the Harvest Festival.

Always remember that YOU are welcome at Vestry meetings; and copies of minutes can be obtained through the office!

## **Trip to New York**

### **Broadway Musical “Rent!”**

Christ Church is sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the Broadway musical “Rent!” The trip will be on **Saturday, July 21**. We will leave at 7:00 am all together on a bus, and arrive in the city in the late morning, where we will have several hours available for lunch, shopping, or sightseeing. At 2:00 we will meet at the theatre for a matinee show, and then take the bus back to Swansea. The cost for the show is \$65 per person, and the cost of the bus is \$40 per person. There is some financial help available if you make yourself known to the Rector. This is a tremendous bargain for a wonderful day, and we hope you will consider making it a part of your summer plans! We need at least 40 people to make this trip viable – so plan to attend and invite your friends! Please sign up in the

Church if you are interested, or call the parish office to reserve a place at 508-678-0923. Many thanks to Sue Baker for gathering this information for us after our recent Confirmation sermon which featured our confirmands singing a song from the musical!

## **A Sinners Palette**

I was thinking about how many letters from A... I could write, and the answer was; that there probably was quite a bit of subjects that I could think of, and the main reason I could do this was because I am a sinner.

We are all sinners, who are trying our best to live our lives in the way we believe Christ has taught us, but because of our sin nature we will always fall short, our persistence to succeed is what is important.

The stories and reflections that I share with you each month are painted with all my sins, transgressions, doubts, fears, love, hope, faith, These traits are the colors on my sin palette. I draw on these emotions so that I can paint the stories I share, and hope to be able to change not only my life, but also the lives of those who may make a connection with what I have written.

The grays and blacks that I paint my reflections with represent the dark times, the hatred, anger, fear, and the loneliness The blues on my palette come in every shade imaginable and not only represent my downs but also my ups. The yellows are the times when I can see the nature of God in my life (The yellows

are so bright they hurt your eyes). The reds represent love, excitement, and motivation. The greens in my pictures represent our planet home our extreme gift from our Creator.

The whites are the high times of my life, when I feel the strongest connection to God.

Every canvas that I paint my story's on are white, the white is pure like the lamb of God so white that you cannot see any imperfection in the reflection. When my stories end, and my paintings are finished I always try to leave the fringes of the painting with the white canvas showing, creating a frame of holiness in the exposed perimeter.

When you read my reflections see if you can connect with all the vibrate colors, they come from the heart of a sinner, they are as honest in the grays and blacks as they are in the bright yellows, and I hope and pray that you will be able to see that fringe of white in every painting.

God keeps us All!

A.....

### **Green Mohawk Sue Carvalho**

Stopping at the Venus de Milo last night I needed to pick up a gift certificate.As I was walking toward the office I couldn't help but notice the colorful array of gowns and tuxedos. There

was orange and pink and black and white. It was the Durfee High School Junior Prom. Pausing for a moment, wanting to sit and just watch the teenagers in the entire splendor. Ah life in a simpler time. Not having to rush home to mow a lawn, or fix dinner or do a load of laundry.

There were boys in fedoras, there was a couple, her in a orange strapless gown and him in a white tuxedo with a matching orange shirt the same color as his dates dress. There was one girl in a white tuxedo with a blond Mohawk and her date in a matching white tuxedo and a green Mohawk. Perhaps green is one of Durfees school colors. Some were dressed "traditionally" and some were "bolder" as in the green Mohawk. All of them were beautiful, not a look of stress or worry on their face(at least for the moment). Hours were spent on the perfect hairdo, primping in front of the mirror before getting into the limousine that would take them to the prom. My dream is that there night was filled with magic and wonder and that their life is full of hope and promise.

For me seeing they caused me to reflect a bit. I never went to my proms. I was an overweight nerdy teenager who never quite fit in. Today were all embraced for who we are. There were prom goers of all sizes and shapes. There were no color barriers or cookie cutter looks. How refreshing, my hope is they have learned tolerance and we all have something to offer. Life is not the prom, but life is full of the promises that the prom will hold. May you enjoy the next dance?

### **How Many Hours? Sue Carvalho**

If you were to have told me I would look forward to spending 5-7 hours in one week at church services I would have told you that are crazy. What a wonderful experience once again to be a part of Easter week services. You don't want to miss it. Do you want to know how Jesus felt on the cross? Do you want to feel the somber moment and utter helplessness of that death and in the same week feel the utter joy of his resurrection?

Do you want to know why we need Jesus in our lives? Questions? Unanswered? Wanting to know more?

Sounding like an infomercial that you don't want to miss? The only thing it will cost you is your time, of which most of us have little of. I know for me, this is a fuel for my soul, a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus made for you and me.

If you were a part of the services during Easter week then you know of what I speak, if you were unable to attend for whatever reason, then you only need to wait until next Easter. If however you can't wait then join us during Sunday services to get a taste and feel of what I am talking about. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the Spirit. Alleluiah! Alleluiah

## **Post It Note Sue Carvalho**

Anyone who has ever used a post-it-note knows how there is just enough "stick" so you have a reminder but not too much "stick" so it is hard to remove. My grateful and joyous heart is like that. I hold onto the joy just long enough for it to linger for awhile and then I find myself wanting to give that joy to others.

Often times my husband will ask me "Why do you seem to be compelled to do things for others? Why can't you just sit still and relax?" I live my life with such a joyful heart, a heart filled with gratitude for all that I have, it is not the things in my life that make me happy but the people in my life who give me such joy.

That is the beauty of giving, when you give it away, it always come back to you. Perhaps it comes back in the gratitude a person feels in what you've done, or someone will do for another because they are so moved by what you have done. Sometimes when I give I find I have a better appreciation of what the other person is going through, or exactly what they need.

I sometimes laugh to myself when people tell me that I always seem to be doing for others. The secret, life is a gift I live every day. For every action I take for others, every gift I give, every moment spent doing with others, God is in my heart. That is the source of my never ending joy. Felt the sun on your face, received a much needed hug, laughed until you cried, well that how God in my heart feels.

What I give, I always seem to get back ten fold, so now you know my secret, giving is joy and God is my fuel for that.

**Christ Church, Swansea, Massachusetts**