

Spend a Day at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center

The new Diocesan Camp and Conference Center, named after retired bishop Barbara Clementine Harris, will open this summer for the first time for children in grades 3 through 12! Located in a glorious expanse of land with a lake, in Greenfield, New Hampshire, the Camp and Conference Center promises experiences of a lifetime to children and young people!

So that as many members of the diocese as possible can become acquainted with the Camp, a Diocesan Field Day has been planned for Saturday, June 21. Members of all parishes, children and adults alike, are invited to go up to the camp for the day, complete with picnic lunches, to swim, play games, have tours of the Camp and just relax and have fun! We will also celebrate Holy Eucharist, and participate in a blessing of the camp, with water brought from each parish. Let's plan on having a group from Christ Church go up! Our deanery will sponsor a bus for anyone interested, which will leave from the Ocean State Job Lot Parking Lot on the King's Highway in New Bedford at 7:00 A.M. and return at 6:00 P.M., at a cost of \$10.00 per person; or we can plan to carpool together.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church; please sign up

and plan to be a part of the fun! Our Priest-in-Charge, Beth, will be going; please feel free to call her with any questions.

Take My Hand

By Sue Carvalho

I wonder when as a parent do you know to stop saying, "Take my hand." When are your children old enough that they don't need to take your hand? Of course, I am being rhetorical when I ask the question.

I marvel at the young people in Christ Church. They are the future of our tomorrows and from the ages of three to early adults, I am amazed at the poise and the sensitivity and the maturity that they possess. Parents please take note you have some of the most wonderful children I have ever encountered.

I have been to Sunday school functions were the littlest ones showed no fear in singing their songs and they knew all the words. We have youth that perform the duties of the acolytes with respect and reverence. We have a teenager in our adult choir and another teenager who has been accepted to a sports fellowship to be held in Australia. The Lenten series was a small group yet on several occasions there were some teenagers in attendance.

The harvest festival every year has youth from our parish that volunteer their time to help. I remember several years ago one young girl helped me the day of the festival with the White

Elephant table. It is hard to believe she is now a sophomore in college. I still remember the cold Fall (very cold) Sunday afternoon a few years ago when several of the youth helped out with a day at a farm complete with hayrides and pony rides. One teenager so impressed me with how he helped the younger kids with a pony ride. Such patience he possessed. He will graduate from high school this year and will be going to college in the fall.

A few weeks ago, I heard a story of a four year old who held a yard sale to be able to give a donation to The Barbara Harris camp. There were several years the youth held a very successful spaghetti and Bingo supper every year in the parish hall.

I see their independence at a young age. I also see the respect. I see their parents supporting them, loving them, and letting them know "It's still OK if you need to take my hand." Every day you are doing your best to raise children you are proud of them and it shows. I want to thank you as it is always a pleasure for me to watch them grow, to see them learn, or carry on a conversation with them whether they are three or twenty-three.

Vestry

The Reverend Beth Grundy, Ex-officio

Stephen K. Carvalho Sr. Warden

Diane Stains, Junior Warden

Alan R. Scott, Clerk

Carlton Yates, Treasurer

Gladys Shaw, Financial Secretary

Peggy Deston

Elaine Gray

Lorna Gregory

Robert Hawley

Susan McMullen

James Medeiros

Chris Munro

Charles Reed

Ted Yates

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H. Edward Seaholm

Minister of Music

Anthony Melo

Sexton

Lori-Ann Bernstein

Sunday School

Superintendent

Submit your article by the 15th of each month:

Via email at

d.stains@worldnet.att.net

Or, leave in the parish house in the folder marked

Diane Stains – Chimes

Do You Have Old Photos from Past Harvest Festivals?

If you do, would you let Lorna Gregory borrow them for a feature she would like to do for The Harvester?

She promises to return the photos to you!

Please call her at 508-674-5967 or call Karen at the Church office if you can help!

Thanks!



A Get Well Wish to our former Senior Warden

Anyone interested in sending well wishes to Clint Jones (former Senior Warden)

Clint Jones

10 Whipple Lane

Goffstown, NH 03045

603-497-2507

Email

LJGCJ@hotmail.com



Social Club

We are looking forward to our next event scheduled for "Sunday June 22nd". Please save that date as we are planning a Tent Service with a Clam Boil to follow.

Committees

Alter Guild	Volunteer
Acolytes	Volunteer
Audit	Volunteer
Cemetery	Volunteer
Day School	Appointed
Financial Advisor	Appointed
Harvest Festival	Volunteer
Hospitality	Volunteer
House	Appointed
Out Reach	Volunteer
Property	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer
Search	Volunteer
Social	Volunteer
Ushers	Volunteer
Visitors	Volunteer

If you are interested in becoming a member one of the above committees please contact the parish office, Steve Carvalho or Diane Stains.

New Prayer Books Arriving Soon

The Vestry has become aware that many of our prayer books are in poor condition due to age and use. Therefore, they have authorized the purchase of new prayer books and church members will be given the opportunity to make a donation to defray the cost of this expense. Giving a prayer book in honor of or in memory of a loved one is a thoughtful gift that will be put to good use. A bookplate will be attached inside the new prayer book identifying to whom it is dedicated. Detailed information on how you can participate in this gift giving will be available during Sunday services and in future issues of the Chimes. You may also call the church office to indicate your interest in this project.

Outreach Committee

Many thanks to those who have participated in the Outreach Committee's program of collecting food for the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry at Fall River's Church of the Ascension and also the stuffed animal drive for the Swansea Police. More of both items are needed; food may be left in the box marked "Food Pantry" just inside the right hand door of the parish house; and new teddy bears or other animals may be left in the box just inside the front door of the church.



Pentecost

Don't forget that Pentecost Sunday is June 8th! This is the Sunday we celebrate the "birthday of the Church," when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples after Jesus' ascension. Please wear something red if you have it; red is the color that symbolizes the Holy Spirit! We will be recognizing those children who completed the Sacrament Class, and those children who will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Members of our Sunday School will also be invited to process into the church for our celebration at 10:00. They will meet in the parish house, and then walk into the church with their teachers and the other

ministers. Please plan to join us on that day!

Harvest Festival Boosters

Help make this year's fiftieth annual Harvest Festival the biggest and best ever. Do your part by donating \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to the Harvest Festival Boosters Association. Please send your check payable the Christ Church Harvest Festival to Robert Hawley, 69 Stoney Hill Road, Swansea, MA 02777. Last year over \$6200 was raised by Booster donations. Let's try to do even better this golden anniversary year.

Harvest Festival Auction

Please remember to set aside items for the Harvest Festival Auction. We cannot use major appliances or most upholstered furniture. Items for the auction should be used but not abused and in working condition. If you, or someone you know is moving, downsizing or just cleaning out, remember the auction, call us for assistance if needed. Items may be left at the Parish House during regular office hours and on Sundays after services. For other times, please call the church office, 508-678-0923 or Bob and Libby Hawley at 508-379-9873. Please remember that we must pay for disposal of

unusable items, so please don't leave broken or otherwise useless things for the auction.

Christ Church Web Site

Thanks to the technical work of Charles Michaud and web mistress, Sue McMullen, Christ Church now has a web site. To visit our new home page, open your Internet browser and go to <http://christchurchswansea.org>. Here you will find a welcome page with essential information, current announcements, worship service hours, and links to other areas of the web site. In fact, you can even read this issue of the *Chimes* from our new web site! You can also locate information about the history of Christ Church, educational opportunities, and community service. For newcomers there is a contact page and directions. The link to *Parish Life* offers information on the various church committees. If you are serving on one of these committees, please pass along any information that you would like to have available from the web site to Sue McMullen. What a great way to publicize upcoming events to our parishioners and community! Perhaps you would even like a special web page just for your committee or even provide photos of church fellowship. Just contact Sue by mail (10 Musket Road, Swansea), e-mail (suemcmullen307@hotmail.com), or telephone (508-677-2699) to let her know what you would like to see on our new web site. You may also link to the new Christ Church home page through the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts web site (<http://diomass.org>).

Worship: or “Why Do We Do That?”

This month’s issue of the Chimes offers the first in a series of brief commentaries on various parts of our Episcopal liturgy and tradition. I hope you find them illuminating and enjoyable as well!

This month’s topic is the reading of the Gospel. As you know, this refers to the last reading that we hear during our liturgy of the word, from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The word “gospel” comes from the Greek word *euangellion* found in the New Testament, and it is translated “good news.” Thus, the reading of the Gospel each week is the gift to the assembled community of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and as such, it holds a very special place both in the service of the Holy Eucharist and in the hearts and minds of the hearers. The reading is always treated with a special enthusiasm and reverence. Like the other lessons, the Gospel is always read from a place of prominence. It is very appropriate to read it either from the pulpit; or from the lectern, where the other lessons are read; or from the chancel steps; or from the center of the aisle in the congregation, where I have been reading it lately. The practice of processing the Gospel into the midst of the people has been in practice recently, and has been viewed

as very symbolic of the Word coming to the people. The Gospel is generally read from a special Gospel Book, signifying its place of honor. It is often accompanied by candles and music. We do not have a Gospel Book at Christ Church; but there is some interest in getting one, and if we do, you will see the Gospel procession take on an even more festive tone.

We stand at the proclamation of the Gospel to pay special honor to what we are hearing; in much the same way as we stand during the Pledge of Allegiance, or to take oaths of office. The reading of the Gospel is both preceded and concluded with acclamations: “Glory to you, O Christ,” and “Praise to you, O Christ.” Notice that these acclamations are directed *to* Christ, rather than simply referring to Christ; this indicates our acknowledgement that Jesus Christ is present in the Gospel. Because of this fact, it is extremely important that we make these acclamations boldly and reverently. It is easy to forget which one comes where; so I encourage all members of the congregation to do what I always do whenever I am seated in a congregation rather than leading the service; turn to page 356 for Rite I and pages 357-358 for Rite II, so that you can read the proper acclamation.

Several people have asked me about the signing of the cross which they have seen me make

on my forehead, lips, and breast at the time of the proclamation. This is part of our Anglican tradition as we have received it through the years, including the years before the Reformation in the 16th century; which is why you will also see it in Roman Catholic practice. It is important to note, however, that this gesture is *not* specific or exclusive to Roman Catholic liturgy, although it was out of practice for some time in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition. It has been recovered primarily in the last 25 years or so, and is a sign that the Gospel is on our lips, in our minds, and in our hearts. It is a matter of personal choice whether one chooses to make this gesture. I always say that if it is meaningful to you, do it; if not, it is perfectly acceptable to refrain.

I do hope that you will continue to enjoy these brief educational forays into our liturgy and tradition; and if there is anything in particular you would like me to write about, please let me know!

Beth+

From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear friends:

By the time you read this, you will have received the letter from your vestry informing the parish that after much prayer and consideration, they have asked the bishops and the archdeacon of the Diocese for permission to appoint a Priest-in-Charge, rather than an Interim Priest. As you know, this was affirmed, and, having been asked if I would consider such an appointment, I have accepted with much enthusiasm and thanksgiving to God for the privilege of being among you!

I have had several requests for a little more detail about how a Priest-in-Charge's position differs from that of Interim or Rector, so I'd like to honor those here. As you saw from the vestry's letter, the position of Priest-in-Charge lasts for three years. It is an appointment by the Bishop. At the beginning of the third year, the Priest-in-Charge and the parish begin together to work on a process of discernment and self-study, to determine where they are in their journey, and whether God might be calling them to continue their life together as parish and Rector. If it is determined that this is indeed what all believe is best for the life of the parish as they seek to know Jesus Christ and make him known, the parish may call the Priest-in-Charge as Rector. If the

discernment process leads the community and/or the Priest-in-Charge to believe that it is time for the parish to move in a different direction, the Priest-in-Charge will help the parish begin the process of creating a parish profile and beginning a search for a new rector.

Generally, a Priest-in-Charge is appointed to a parish that feels it has other important work to do besides a search, and it is a mark of the general strength and health of the parish that the vestry has acknowledged this need here at Christ Church. The Priest-in-Charge program has been very successful in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and I am confident that our participation in it will do a great deal to further the good work that you have already been doing here at Christ Church.

Once again, please know of my delight in having the opportunity to serve among you for these next several years! And please know of my ongoing prayers for all of you and for our life together.

Faithfully,

Beth+