

# Christ Church Chimes



## The Episcopal Church of Swansea

57 Main Street, Swansea, MA 02777  
508-678-0923

### February 2004

#### **From the Priest-in-Charge**

Dear people of Christ Church:

We have come through another year, and I rejoice that we went through most of it together! On March 2, it will be my one-year anniversary of being your Priest-in-Charge, and I continue to be grateful for every moment we have spent together. As you know, my contract with Christ Church is for a three-year term, with the possibility of becoming your Rector when that time is up. These next two years are crucial in our determination of what our future together is to be. As we move together into our second year, our task will be to begin to take a new look at who we are as the Body of Christ here in Swansea. Some of the questions we will be asking ourselves might be: What is our mission? What are the ways in which God is calling us to be the Church now, and how might God be calling us into the future? St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians that there are many gifts and ministries, but one God who encourages and activates them in everyone. As we explore these questions about our mission and our future, we will always be encouraged to remember that God loves all our congregation's gifts, and calls us to offer them freely for the work of Jesus Christ in the world – the unified Body of Christ, the Church. I am so looking forward to beginning this exciting

time of discernment with the parish of Christ Church.

As well as our discernment as a parish, we will continue to be an active part of the Mission Strategy plan for the Diocese of Massachusetts. Each vestry in the diocese has been asked to participate in a one-day vestry retreat, to spend some time working in community on issues of stewardship, evangelism, and what it means to live lives that are steeped in the knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ. Our own vestry will attend the retreat on Saturday, February 7, in Charlestown, and I ask you to keep all of them in your prayers as they engage in this important time of reflection and planning. We will be sharing this work with you in various ways, such as adult education forums, discussions, and information in the Chimes, as constant communication and information within a parish setting is especially vital at this time. To that end, we will also be publishing "Vestry Mini-Minutes" regularly in the Chimes; so that everyone will know, what work the vestry is doing on behalf of the parish. These should be very helpful to you, and I hope you will enjoy them! In the meantime, we will post a copy of the recent vestry minutes on the bulleting board next to the kitchen in the Parish House.

Finally, as most of you know, I had a very bad case of the flu at the end of December. Because of that, I was not able to visit people during the Christmas season as I would have liked, and I offer you my apologies. If you are homebound, please know that I will be on my way to you very soon! I would also like to encourage anyone who would like a visit from me – to please feel free to let me know that, or invite me to your house. I am unable to visit everyone on a regular basis, as much as I might like to, but I would be more than happy to make myself available. Also, we will be having a series of "Coffee and Visiting" evenings starting in the next few months, and they will be excellent opportunities for more of you to get to know one another, and to get to know me better as well! Speaking of getting to know one another, for those of you who do not know, I have moved to Swansea permanently. I live at 205 Hortonville Road, and my phone number is 508-567-2003.

Please know of my blessings for each of you to know God's peace and joy in your lives. And please pray for me as I do for you.

Faithfully,  
Beth+

## 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

Albert Deston  
Minister of Music

Karen Remine  
Parish Secretary

Anthony Melo  
Sexton

Lori-Ann Bernstein  
Sunday School  
Superintendent

## Committees

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

Visitors

Volunteer



## Girl Scout Cookies

Susan Carvalho

During this time of the year, it seems as if there are all sorts of order forms to buy Girl Scout cookies. There are order forms in the work place, and often times in some of the establishments that we may patronize whether it is the hair salon or our local stores. When I was a Girl Scout, we had to go door to door to sell the cookies. I realize today there is a safety factor involved in going door to door to sell the cookies. Nowadays the parents take the order form to their place of employment if possible to sell the cookies. I thought what does that teach? Then I realized that there is more and more Girl Scout's at every corner selling the cookies at the local stores. They try to catch you as soon as you walk in the door. "Would you like to buy some Girl Scout cookies?" they ask in unison. Their mothers are standing close by but the girls are doing all the work. They are dressed very nicely, sometimes in their uniforms, most times not. They all have a big smile on their face and they always say "thank-you" when you make a purchase. I usually comment to the mothers on how poised the girls are. I try to but at least one box of cookies every time I am asked. The other day when I was asked I very politely told the girls "I am very sorry but I just bought some cookies yesterday" They all got a little quiet and then one little girl said "That's OK, Thank-You, anyway!"

It was in that moment that I realized how hard it must be to ask person after person "Would you like to buy some Girl Scout Cookies?" Just asking is hard enough, and yet they always seem to be so upbeat and cheerful. They never seem discouraged, always asking as if you were the first person they asked that day. I commend these young ladies for

continuing a tradition, being fearless and tireless in there asking and I commend the parents for taking the time to share with their daughters, teaching them good manners and helping them to be poised in their presentation. I guess they are not just Girl Scout cookies after all.



## Choir Sunday February 22

Are you interested in music? Do you love to sing? Have you thought about joining the choir, but feel that you aren't able to make rehearsals regularly? If so, then **Choir Sunday** is for YOU! On **Sunday, February 22**, anyone who would like to make some music is invited to come to church at **9:00 A.M.** and join the choir for a rehearsal of a piece of music for the 10:00 service. Our choir is a warm and wonderful bunch of people, and everyone is welcome. Please plan to come and join the choir for a day! (You might even find you want to stay!)

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers

We are blessed to have three wonderful lay leaders (Sue Pavao, Sue Carvalho, and Jim Medeiros) who have assumed the responsibility of serving Christ Church as **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**. This ministry involves serving as the leader of the Prayers of the People, and assisting the priest in the distribution of communion. Sue Pavao is also licensed to lead the Daily Office (Morning Prayer). We would very much like to have at least two more "LEMs," as we call them, so that everyone can be on a rotating schedule for both services, and serve generally once every four or five weeks. Please speak to the

Priest-in-Charge if you are interested.

# LENT

## Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday is **February 25**. There will be two services of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, at **12:00 noon**, and again at **7:00 P.M.** There is a possibility that we will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 24, where we will also burn last year's palms to make this year's ashes. Stay tuned!

## Lenten Series and Supper

Once again, this year we will observe Lent with a mid-week series and supper. We will gather at 6:00 in the Parish House for a simple supper of soup and bread (and perhaps dessert!) and then gather from 6:30 to 7:30 for a time of learning and reflection. This year, we will have a series of guided meditations on listening for God's voice in our lives as he calls us to follow him. There will be an opportunity for listening, sharing, and even some artwork for those who are interested. Plans are underway to have an offering for children as well. The dates are the following **Wednesdays: March 3, March 10, March 17, and March 24.**

# MARDI gras

at Beth's

Since Beth had to cancel her Epiphany Open House due to her flu, she is rescheduling it for a pre-Lenten celebration! Everyone is invited to attend a **Mardi Gras Open House** at Beth's home, 205 Hortonville Road in Swansea, on Sunday, **February 22, from 3:00 – 7:00 P.M.** If you are able,

please bring a snack or a treat to share!



## Pastoral Care

### *Pastoral Care Team*

Christ Church engages in wonderful ministry to its members through the efforts of the Sunday Visitors, and the many cards sent to out homebound parishioners arranged by our Outreach Committee. Because there is so much heart for care at Christ Church, we would like to expand our ministries in this area. Jesus reminds us that whenever we feed someone, or visit someone who is sick or in prison, we do it for him. Care for one another is essential in Christian community for all of us; and yet there are many people whom God has gifted in a particular way to do this kind of ministry. Might you be one of those people? We would like to form a Pastoral Care Team to serve in the ministries of visitation, phone calls, and occasional meals or errands for those with family members who are ill, or who have lost loved ones. There will be a gathering of all interested folks on Sunday, February 22, at 9:00 A.M. in the Parish House. Please note that this is a short meeting between services, so that folks from both the 8:00 and 10:00 congregations can attend. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, but

are unable to be present at the meetings, please let Beth Grundy know.

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers "B"

There is an essential ministry in the Episcopal Church where lay people are licensed to carry Holy Communion out to those who are ill or homebound. They are "**Lay Eucharistic Ministers B.**" At Christ Church, there are no licensed "LEM Bs," as they are called, to distinguish them from those LEMs who serve at the altar during worship, but there is a great need for this ministry! If you feel you might be called by God to share in people's lives by sharing Eucharist with them, then you may want to consider becoming trained as a LEM B. There is a one day training required, after which the Bishop will license those who are qualified. There will be a **training day held on Sunday, April 17, 2004, at Grace Church in New Bedford. It will run from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.** Please let Beth know if you are interested.

## Prayers of the People

This is just to remind you that there are forms at the back of the church for anyone who has a prayer request for someone to be named during the Prayers of the People. If you fill this out as you come in, our Greeters will make sure that it gets to the clergy or Lay Reader. Thanks!

## Fellowship and Community Life

### *Annual Meeting*

Our parish's **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 8, at 11:30 A.M.** in the Parish House. Coffee, juice, fruit, muffins, and bagels will be served. Please make every effort to attend the meeting, to hear about what is going on, and

to realize and appreciate once  
again that you are a vital part of

the Body of Christ!

**Jan 04, 2004**

Dear Friends,

*The Episcopal Diocese has given us a vision for the way in which we can live in Christ, the credo which has inspired much of the workings of the church is this; Inviting, Forming, Sending and Serving. As part of this vision the YLA, the Youth Leadership Academy of which I am a member is planning a mission trip to Tegucigalpa Honduras to serve the community there. Our group has dedicated ourselves to forming leadership skills and developing relationships with others as well as a strong relationship with Christ. The culmination of our group's work is a final trip to Honduras and the developing Episcopal community in that region of the world, which is still in need of the basic human necessities that make up our everyday lives but seem gifts to the people of this simple place.*

*The government of Honduras is slow to action and does not serve its citizens as we are treated by our government in the United States, their needs are ignored, and their requests dismissed. In Tegucigalpa it is common for up to as many as 10 people to live in a single room house, they would not have running water and would walk a mile and a half to the nearest water source. They have no community facilities such as churches or schools, and their hospitals are dangerous and dirty places. Yet, the spirit of the Gospel thrives in this place and the people are beautiful and kind, offering all they have with pride. The Episcopal Church regards Tegucigalpa as just another Deanery, one that with our help and effort can grow into a community, which enriches and supports its members and offers hope to our brothers and sisters.*

*I ask for your help in this venture of achieving our group's financial support for the trip, the largest sum that makes up the total cost is a project cost, which goes directly to the people of Tegucigalpa. The group as a whole is attempting to raise a sum of 61,000 dollars, of which the cost of one individual is 1,600. I ask your help in being able to take part in such an opportunity, one that will transform the community and me our group will serve. My group and its 38 participants will be able to evangelize with our labor and love, extending our hands for the Episcopal Church, and individually our own congregations such as Christ Church Swansea. You are also part of this opportunity for you can be stakeholders in the growth and happiness of a needy people. Their growing community will be a testament to the love which all of us extend to the family of Christ around the world. With your help, we will build perhaps a church, a school, or perhaps bring water to a community. I am so excited to be able to meet and worship with the people of Honduras, help them build what they need, and above all to meet Jesus in an incredible and life changing way. I thank you so much for your support and I hope I may return with the stories of how your gift affected, changed and served the people of Honduras.*

Yours in Faith,

Caitlin