

Christ Church Chimes



**The Episcopal Church
of Swansea**

**57 Main Street,
Swansea, MA 02777**

508-678-0923

May 2004

From the Priest-in-Charge

As I write this, we are still in the heart of the Easter season – a period of fifty days (often referred to as the Great 50 Days) between Easter Sunday and the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' followers, thus heralding the beginning of the Church. You will have noticed some aspects of our liturgy that stand out at this particular season. The Paschal Candle is lighted at every service, and remains visible at the front of the chancel area through Pentecost. We are still singing some of the old Easter favorites for our Sunday hymns – and all of the hymns celebrate the good news of our life with Jesus Christ. We are omitting the Confession of Sin for a few more weeks choosing to focus on the forgiveness that we have been assured in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. And our liturgical colors remain white and gold – the glorious colors of festival and celebration!

You have probably noticed that we have had a LOT of baptisms! Easter is one of the seasons of the Church year where baptisms are particularly encouraged. The early church provided the Sacrament of Baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter for candidates who had been preparing for two years. Baptism represented – and still does – the dying of our old life, and the rising of our new life in Christ. So the Easter symbolism is evident, and this remains a most wonderful time for us to welcome new Christians into the household of God.

We also have another wonderful event coming up – Confirmation. We have several young people and adults from Christ Church who will be confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 15. In the past, Confirmation has sadly been the event which precipitated the leaving of many young people. Probably the idea was that since they were confirmed, they were free to choose whether to attend and be committed to church. While it is true that we always have a choice, it is equally true that the Church needs these young people, and we have a responsibility to do our part in making sure they understand themselves to be full members of the household of God. My very great thanks to you for the ways you support and encourage our young people, and I urge you to attend Confirmation on Saturday, May 15, at 10:30 A.M. at Grace Church in New Bedford. We will also have a special recognition and party for our young people after our 10:00 service on May 16th

Despite the celebration of Easter continuing, we are in the same in-between mode the disciples found themselves in between Easter and Pentecost. They must have been asking, "what next?" It is always good for the Church to be asking that, and it is a good time for us to be asking that here at Christ Church. God has showered grace on us in so many ways? What is God calling us to do and to be in the next phase of our life together? Like the disciples, may we find that Christ continues to be revealed to us, continuing to show that he is the way to the abundant life God has in store for us!

Faithfully,

Beth+

Godspeed to Roger and Marianne Owens

Most of you know by now that Roger and Marianne are in the process of re-locating permanently to Florida . They will be greatly missed in so many ways! Roger has been a wonderful influence on so many young people through his mentoring of them in our acolyte program, and we are so grateful. Roger and Marianne hope to be in church sometime in May, and we will be able to say “thank you and Godspeed” to them at that time. They also hope to be back when they can to visit.

During this transition, Roger’s father, Harry, passed away in Florida . Many of you will remember Harry fondly from his time at the Stevens Home as well as Christ Church . If you would like to send condolences to Roger, or just say “hello,” his address is:

2283 So. Conway Street

Apt. # 811

Orlando , Florida 32812

Seeking a Photographer

A few folks have been wondering about creating a new Christ Church Christmas Card using a picture of the stained glass window in the chancel area that depicts the visitation of the Wise Men to Jesus. We need to start by seeing what kind of pictures we can get. If you would be interested in offering this talent, please give Beth a call at the office.

Sacrament Class for Children

On two Friday afternoons, May 14 and May 21, Beth will teach a class on the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist for children ages five and up. The class will be taught in the church, and will run from 4:00 – 5:00 on these two consecutive Fridays. This is great preparation for those children who do not yet receive Communion, but would like to; it is also ideal for those children who already receive Communion (as they may do at any age after Baptism) but would like to learn more. Parents will also enjoy the class and are most welcome! The children who participate in the class will be recognized at the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 23.

Attention Crossword Puzzle Fans

Our apologies to Pat Redfearn, for inadvertently leaving the answer sheet to her crossword puzzle from several months ago out of the Chimes. You will find it in this issue. We hope Pat may be persuaded to create another one for us in the future!

Family Secrets

By Susan Carvalho

Sometimes when we break a bone, we don't see that it is broken but we feel the pain. I believe depression is like that. You can't always see depression but you feel the pain. Although I have never suffered from depression I have family members who have been treated for depression as well as close friends. I have been amazed at the number of people even in our church family who have told me they have suffered from depression.

I understand that depression is a disease, a chemical imbalance in the brain. Just as no one chooses to have cancer no one chooses to become depressed. Depression will not go away on it's own. You can not chase the blues away. Most times it is not any one thing that can create a depression, perhaps a death, a chronic illness, loss of job, the onset of the golden years, all can be situational reasons that can trigger a depression but not the specific reason. Usually there is no specific reason. It is just a feeling that comes over the person.

Most people don't even realize they are depressed. Feeling lethargic, feelings of helplessness, broken sleep patterns, weight gain or loss are just some of the symptoms. It is treatable and not something to be ashamed of. It is important to know the symptoms in case if someone you know is suffering from depression. Most people going through a depression don't even realize they are going through it. Talk to the person, suggest they go to their family physician. Get help, depression is an illness like any other and can be treated.

Letter to Reverend Grundy

Dear Reverend Grundy,

I wanted to take the time to write this letter to you to thank-you for another glorious Easter week of Easter services. Last year was the first year in all the years my husband and I had been to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Service. We were looking forward to going again this year. It is hectic trying to make the time to go to all the services but what an emotional and spiritually uplifting experience it is. Truly a week when one can realize what new life truly is.

I hope and pray that more parishioners will be able to experience what my husband and I experienced by attending all the services. From the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday by the Altar Guild to the noise and commotion of the Easter service on Sunday it is an experience well worth partaking in. We shared fellowship and chowder on Thursday before the Maundy Thursday service. Our feet were washed by you, as Jesus had done on Thursday. You had new Eucharistic Ministers with Caitlin Scott and Lynn Miranowicz. Ann-Marie Watkinson was a reader for the first time. We had teenagers serve for the first time as acolytes.

The choir was splendid sounding as well. Giving of their time and sharing their treasure of singing. We had a baptism on Sunday and had an Easter party for a short time after the Easter Vigil for a short while. One woman, who's face I hadn't seen before was there at the Easter Vigil to seek solace in preparation for her grandmother's funeral service on the following Tuesday. The church school as well as some of the younger parishioners sang songs for a few of the services. All ages were at all services. We prayed for a young member who is in the hospital. What a glorious experience.

Beth, you give to us from your heart and it shows. You give us your love for God and Jesus Christ and it shows. You work tirelessly and it shows. We, as a congregation, and as a church family and community, have truly started to come together and have never felt the spirit as we have this past year. God is good, very very good that he brought you to Christ Church. We worship with you, but more importantly, we laugh, we cry, we pray, we come together with you. Thank-you for being there for us no matter how we may need you.

Sincerely,
Susan Carvalho

Vestry

The Reverend Beth Grundy, Ex-officio
Stephen K. Carvalho, Senior 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

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 *Appointed*

Harvest Festival *Volunteer*

Hospitality *Volunteer*

House *Appointed*

Out Reach *Volunteer*

Property *Volunteer*

Readers *Volunteer*

Search *Volunteer*

Social *Volunteer*

Ushers *Volunteer*