

THE BEACON

of Christ Church, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19106

Planning ahead . . .

JANUARY 2008

- 1 New Year's Day
- 4 First Friday Concert
8:00pm
- 6 Guided Meditation 5:30pm
Holy Eucharist & Healing
6:00pm
- 8 DOCC 6:00-8:00pm
- 15 DOCC 6:00-8:00pm
- 20 Spirituality Group 5:00pm
Bridge Dinner 6:00pm
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr.
Day
- 22 Bridge Outreach Dinner
6:00pm
- 27 LGBT Fellowship 6:00pm

FEBRUARY 2008

- 3 One Service at 10:00am
Parish Annual Meeting
11:15am
Guided Meditation 5:30pm
Holy Eucharist & Healing
6:00pm
- 5 Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras
Celebration 5:00-8:00pm
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 10 St. Barnabas Valentine's
Party 1:30pm
- 11 Bridge Outreach Dinner
6:00pm
- 12 Lenten Program 6:00pm
- 17 Spirituality Group 5:00pm
Bridge Dinner 6:00pm
- 18 President's Day
- 19 Lenten Program 6:00pm
- 24 Life at Christ Church Class
12:30pm
Parent's Night Out 5:00pm
- 26 Lenten Program 6:00pm
- 29 Leap Day

MARCH 2008

- 2 Life at Christ Church Class
12:30pm
Guided Meditation 5:30pm
Holy Eucharist & Healing
6:00pm

2008

Baptism Schedule

January 6, March 22 (Easter Vigil), March 23 (Easter), May 18 (Bishop's Visitation)

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL

In a quiet moment in the Christmas Eve preludes, many of us standing in the back overheard an arriving couple having a heated exchange as to whether or not they were actually going to come into the service. I couldn't hear the specifics, until the door opened, and one delivered to the other this zinger: "The founding fathers weren't Christians either."

I can only guess at the argument up to that point, but maybe it went this way:

- A. Let's go to Christ Church on Christmas Eve.
- B. But we don't go to church, anywhere.
- A. But, Christ Church is always beautiful at Christmas, and we can sing the carols.
- B. But we aren't Christians. It wouldn't be honest.
- A. But we can go into this church because the founding fathers attended here, and. . .

As the door opens, we heard the conclusion, "The founding fathers weren't Christians either."

I always argue that folks like these are so very important to our mission. Christ Church is a house of prayer for all people, an oasis of hope in the desert of urban life, and a place of peace and calm in the chaos and storm of the modern age. I sometimes say at a Vestry meeting: "The most important person at Christ Church is the next visitor through the door." Our role is to serve the vast diversity of humanity that comes within our walls for any reason.

Through the middle of March, the interior of our church will not have its usual beauty, as we've erected scaffolding to the ceiling (beautiful in its own way) to complete the preservation projects that will insure Christ Church will be open to all 312 Christmases from now.

The challenge to all of us "regulars" is to be here in force on Sundays, showing the beauty of our church through the lively and transforming faith that is within us. Our challenge through Palm Sunday is to show that we worship not a building, but *in* a building.

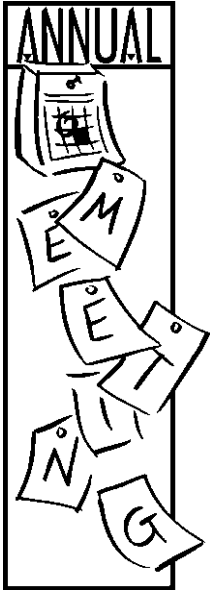
I kept an eye on the couple throughout the service. They sang, they joined in the prayers. They gave me a cursory "Merry Christmas" at the door. I suspect we won't ever see them again, but I know they will never forget the power and glory of Christmas at Christ Church, not because of the building, but the transforming faith found in the members here.

Let's show that faith in abundance during these weeks of the "scaffold."

Timothy Safford

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHRIST CHURCH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**FEBRUARY 3
ONE SERVICE
AT 10:00 A.M.**

*Followed by
CHRIST CHURCH'S
312th ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING
in the Great Hall of
Neighborhood House*

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH WINTER CLASS

Each Sunday, when we say, "Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here," we mean it. We pray that Christ Church is the right place for you to shape your faith journey. For each of us, the journey is different, but our destination is the same: to be fully alive in God and keenly aware that we are disciples of Jesus Christ. If this is the right place for you, then we hope you will become a member.

Our next Life at Christ Church class will be held **February**

24, March 2 & 9 from 12:30pm to 2:30pm in Neighborhood House. The class is an opportunity to ask any and all questions about Christ Church, the Episcopal Church, and your place in our community of faith. Lunch and childcare are provided.

Please contact the **Rev. Carol Anthony** at canthony@christchurchphila.org with any questions. To register for the class, contact **Cecilia Wagner** at cwagner@christchurchphila.org or 215-922-1695, ext.21. If you need childcare please let us know.

THE JESUS SCENES: LENT AT CHRIST CHURCH

February 12, 19 & 26, March 4 & 11, 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Join with the Christ Church community in keeping a holy Lent and participate in the Lenten program Tuesday evenings. Each week, we will study a scene from the gospels revealing both the humanity of Jesus and the love of God for humanity. We will focus on retelling the stories from a personal point of view, as if we had witnessed Jesus ourselves. For example, if you had seen Jesus speak to the short tax collector Zaccheus as he stood in a tree, how would you tell the story? Could you pretend to be Zaccheus yourself? This program will call forth our creativity, playfulness, and even our dramatic side.

Each week will close with the Compline service. Soup will be served at 6 PM (participants provide the sides), and the program begins at 6:30. Register by contacting **Cecilia Wagner** at cwagner@christchurchphila.org or 215-922-1695, ext.21. Registration due by **February 8**, and please indicate if you will need childcare.

Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Celebration

Come on down for
Gumbo, pancakes, and dancin' music

Tuesday, February 5, 5:00-8:00pm

Christ Church, Neighborhood House

\$7 (or more!) donation per person

All donations go to support
Mission to New Orleans 2008



AN EMERGENT MINISTRY: THE BRIDGE

In recent years, the 20s/30s ministry within the Christ Church community has continued to grow and thrive, serving those already active in worship and leadership here as well as those newly bringing their doubts, fears, and hopes to our door. In recognition of that growing ministry and its inclusiveness, the group has changed its name to the Bridge, welcoming people of all ages to intentional exploration of new possibilities in worship, justice work, and spiritual discussion. Yet at its heart still lies a vital interest in asking hard questions about faith and life, in creative hands-on work serving those in need, and in supporting each other in a deepening quest for authentic Christian identity. In short, it bridges the past and the future, doubts and hopes, and those who feel “in” and “out” of the church. For more information on any of the Bridge activities listed below, please contact the **Rev. Susan Richardson** at srichardson@christchurchphila.org.

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Join us as we spend time with the Gospel of Matthew. What's the history of the book, what does scholarship say, how are we to read references to different religious groups - and how is it touching us today?

January 6, 10:10am

January 20, 5:00pm

February 17, 5:00pm

March 2, 10:10am

March 9, 5:00pm

THE BRIDGE DINNERS

Folks in their 20s through early 40s gather as a community that dares to bring both its doubts and its hopes, and to support each other in looking at life through a different lens. We get together once a month for dinner and social time, to share the language, culture, and humor of seekers in this range of ages.

January 20, 6pm – Potluck dinner; **February 17**, 6pm;

March 9, 6pm

Rsvp for dinner or childcare, by emailing the **Rev. Susan Richardson**, srichardson@christchurchphila.org.

EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

We gather in the simple space of the Great Hall for creative, experimental approaches to bringing our thanks, fears, hopes, and needs to God. At 6pm is a time of Eucharist and healing prayers, preceded at 5:30pm by a guided spiritual practice such as yoga or contemplative prayer. If you'd like to be involved in liturgical planning – with art, poetry, photography, icons, dance, music, whatever interests you – please contact the **Rev. Susan Richardson** at srichardson@christchurchphila.org.
January 6; February 3; March 2; April 13

JUSTICE FOR THE HOMELESS

We will continue preparing and serving meals at nearby shelters. Next date is Tuesday, **January 22 at 6:00pm**, Old First Reformed, corner of 4th and Race Streets. More info? Contact the **Rev Susan Richardson** or **Anne Koerner** (ackoerner@yahoo.com).

OUR LIVING HISTORY

CHRIST CHURCH TOURISM NEWS

The Tourism Program had a very successful year in 2007. Attendance and revenue were up at both the church and the burial ground. We look forward to 2008 with our new theme, *Declaring Freedom: Slavery in Philadelphia*.

The slow season is upon us and the preservation project inside the church has kicked into full swing. Scaffolding will remain in the sanctuary until mid-March. The church will be closed to visitors Monday through Friday through January 11, 2008 and will be open to visitors on the weekends. From January 12 through March 1, 2008, the hours for the church are Wednesday-Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday from 1:00-5:00pm, closed Monday and Tuesday. The burial ground is closed in January and February except on January 17, 2008 for Benjamin Franklin's birthday.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S 302ND BIRTHDAY

Join in the celebration of Benjamin Franklin's birthday on **January 17**. The 2008 theme is *Franklin's Legacy: Celebrating Women in Science*. Events begin at 9AM with a seminar at the Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street. At 11:00am a procession featuring many organizations that Franklin founded will gather at Library Hall (105 S. 5th Street) and proceed to the Christ Church Burial Ground for a wreath-laying ceremony at Benjamin Franklin's grave. A luncheon will follow at the Downtown Club. All events are free except for the luncheon. For additional information, visit www.ushistory.org/celebration.

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES & PROGRAMS

January 6 The Epiphany

9:00am Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Sermon
 10:10am Rector's Forum
 The Bridge Spirituality Group
 Music Class for 4-10 year olds
 11:00am Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Sermon
 5:30pm Guided Meditation
 6:00pm Holy Eucharist with Prayers of Healing

January 13 First Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon in the church
 OR
 10:10am Family Eucharist in Atrium I
 Rector's Forum
 11:00am Morning Prayer and Sermon

January 20 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
 10:10am Rector's Forum
 Music Class for 4-10 year olds
 Journey to Adulthood for 11-17 year olds
 11:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
 12:30pm LGBT Fellowship
 5:00pm The Bridge Spirituality Group
 6:00pm The Bridge Dinner

January 27 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
 10:10am Rector's Forum
 11:00am Morning Prayer and Sermon

February 3 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00am Holy Eucharist and Sermon
 11:15am Parish Annual Meeting

RECTOR'S FORUM 10:10AM EACH SUNDAY

January 6 Poems of the Epiphany

January 13 Celebration of the ministry of Teri Ruiz (*see page 6*)

January 20 The history of slavery in Philadelphia and at Christ Church

January 27 The Rector's Sabbatical: Why a pilgrimage to the Galapagos and into the mind of Charles Darwin.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, **February 6**. There will be three services on that day to serve the community with Holy Eucharist and the distribution of ashes, 8:00am, Noon and 7:00pm. All are welcome. *Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome to come as you are and receive the riches of God's blessings.*

KIDS AND ETHICAL CHOICES

How do we help kids - both young ones first forming awareness of right and wrong, and teens confronting tough peer issues - learn to make ethical choices they feel can truly own? The Lenten Faith and Family series, at 10:10 on **February 17 and March 9**, will help give parents a framework for thinking about the issues and a forum for bringing up their own personal concerns. Leading us will be Dr. Sara Corse, director of the Einstein and University City offices of the Council for Relationships, who gave the fall Faith and Family presentations. Her continued work with us this Lent will give parents and caregivers an opportunity to further and deepen their dialogue with her.

INSIGHTS FROM THE ATRIUM

I want to thank the Good Shepherd for taking care of the sheep and coming to make the people happy.

I want to thank the Good Shepherd for having us.

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Scaffolding of the sanctuary's interior began the day after Christmas as the Fire Safety project continues.



CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF TERI RUIZ

One of the great achievements over the past few years at Christ Church has been the building and strengthening of our programs with children and families. Much of this success is due to the ministry of Teri Ruiz. It's time to celebrate her ministry.

Several years ago, Teri discerned that God was calling her to a new vocation—to work with children and teach in school. Not only did Teri listen, she responded, going back to school, earning degrees, and training to be a public school teacher. She showed great dedication and faithfulness, truly following what she discerned God's call to be.

All the while during this training, Teri also responded to the call to work with the children at Christ Church. I'll just list a few of the accomplishments:

- Built and opened Atrium II and expanded Atrium I.
- Developed an excellent nursery program with skilled, trained workers.
- Discovered and trained Leza Kramarenko as an Atrium teacher.
- Supervised the beginning of the Children's Music program.
- Organized Vacation Bible School.

And the list goes on.

One of the great joys of my ministry at Christ Church was watching Teri become a teacher this past Fall in Philadelphia, knowing that it was the love and spirit of Christ Church that helped her respond to God's call for her.

We all know the demands and stresses on a teacher in the city. Listening again to the leading of the Spirit, both Teri and I can see that continuing as Director of Children's Ministries spreads her too thin. It's the right time to give herself fully to her school and her family, and return as a volunteer in the very program she's built up fantastically.



So, we'll celebrate Teri's ministry on Sunday, January 13th in the 9:00 AM service and at the 10:10 hour. And let's celebrate Miguel, too. What a team they are!

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE THIS MONTH

Groups from all over Philadelphia increasingly use the space in Neighborhood House for their functions. Here is this month's listing.

AA Meetings – Monday through Friday at 12:15pm & every Saturday at 10:00am
Arden Theater – January 5, January 7
Haverstick/Borthwick – January 3, 16 & 31
Milton Hershey School – January 3

Old City Civic Group Assoc – January 2, 8 & 22 at 8:00am
Southwark Deanery – January 17
Tai Chi Class – January 12 at 1:00pm
Theatre Exile – January 8 to May 18

FELLOWSHIP and FAMILY

YOUTH GROUP, GRADES 7-12

Bring your questions and feelings and even a friend, and join us for fun and a chance to talk in a different way from anything else in your busy life. *Journey to Adulthood* is a spiritual and educational program for youth ages 11 to 17 years old. **Where:** the 3rd floor of Neighborhood House. **When:** 10:10am on **January 20**; 11:15am on **February 3**; 10:10am on **February 17**. Working with the youth group will be the **Rev. Susan Richardson** and our new seminarian from Lutheran Seminary, **Christoph Schmidt**, with additional help from members of the Bridge group.

GAY & LESBIAN FELLOWSHIP

As a welcoming church, Christ Church is blessed to have gay and lesbian parishioners involved in every aspect of our life together. The LGBT Fellowship provides a way for new folks to meet others who share a similar journey. Make plans to join the LGBT community and friends for a potluck dinner in Neighborhood House on Sunday, **January 20** at 6:00pm. RSVP to the **Rev. Carol Anthony** at canthony@christchurchphila.org.

VALENTINE'S PARTY AT ST. BARNABAS MISSION

The afternoon of Sunday, **February 10**, the children, youth and families of Christ Church will host a **Valentine's party** at St. Barnabas Mission at 60th and Girard (ph: 215-528-5400) - set-up at 1:00pm, party from 1:30-3:00pm, followed by clean-up. Christ Church will provide ice-cream sundaes, games, and crafts, as we share community with the women and children of the shelter. We need your help in this unique opportunity for children, youth, and parents to work together alongside those in need. We need volunteers (all parishioners welcome) to join us that day; and by February 8, we need donations of craft and face-painting materials and helium balloons for the party, or other toiletries for the families in the shelter. To help, please contact the **Rev. Susan Richardson** or **Alyssa Rickels** (alysrickels@gmail.com).

SANDWICHES FOR THE HOMELESS

Come join the crew of sandwich makers who once a month cheerfully make 350 bologna sandwiches for St. Mary's. We gather next on Saturday, **January 19**, 8:30-9:30am. Kids love to help, too! Questions? Please contact **Wayne Christman** at waynechristman@comcast.net.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to our parish family members celebrating birthdays this month:

January 4, **Sherry Johnson**
January 5, **Joan Phillips, Kai Rosser**
January 6, **Maya DeAndrea**
January 7, **Rhona Merrill, Neil Ronk**
January 8, **Gabrielle Webb**
January 9, **Palmer Hartl, David Parke**
January 11, **Leonard Parris, Lila Vail**
January 12, **Sophia Rosser**
January 13, **Jan Stephano**
January 15, **Katherine Gasper**
January 16, **Chris Dean-Campbell**
January 18, **Jonathan Fraga**
January 19, **Carrie Eobbi, Dennis Sopka**
January 21, **Betty Dyer**
January 24, **Harrison Timberlake**
January 27, **William Bond, Kären Kaiser Falone, Kristina Niedermayer**
January 28, **Mark Fraga, Dana Persia**
January 29, **Kathy Frohlich**
January 30, **Brenden Gasper**
January 31, **Thomas Farris, Kristin Ferraro, Thomas Knox**

Did we miss your birthday? Please contact **Cecilia** in the church office.

CHRIST CHURCH GIFT SHOP

Are you looking for a gift for someone special? The Christ Church Gift Shop has many unique gifts. We encourage you to visit the shop after services and to tell your family and friends about the shop. All proceeds from the gift shop support the preservation of Christ Church.

Christ Church: A user's guide

9:00 AM Eucharist and Sermon

Rite II, celebrated with vocal quartet, organ and hymns.

10:10 AM Christian Education

Adult education each Sunday in Neighborhood House. Education for Children and Youth on the second and third floors of Neighborhood House from September to June.

11:00 AM Eucharist and Sermon (1st & 3rd Sundays)

Rite I or II celebrated, with organ and hymns, and vocal leadership from Christ Church Choir

11:00 AM Morning Prayer and Sermon (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each Sunday.

Wednesdays

12:00 Noon Eucharist

Rite II, briefly and informally celebrated with a short homily. About 20 minutes, this liturgy is a perfect addition to relieve "hectic downtown life syndrome."

Visiting/Getting in touch

The Church, located on 2nd Street just north of Market Street in Old City Philadelphia, is open for visiting, prayer and meditation from 9am to 5pm daily.

Mailing address and church office entrance:

20 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

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The Beacon is published monthly for members, friends and supporters of Christ Church, the Rev. Timothy B. Safford, Rector. Deadline for the **February** issue is **January 10**. Please e-mail articles to cwagner@christchurchphila.org

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