

# THE BEACON

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

Planning ahead . . .

## JULY 2009

4 Independence Day

**Sunday JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ONE SERVICE**  
**at 10:00 A.M.**



Everyone welcome!!!!!!

11 Volunteer Gardeners  
10:00AM to Noon

18 St. Mary's 350 8:30AM

## AUGUST 2009

8 Volunteer Gardeners  
10:00AM to Noon

## SEPTEMBER 2009

7 Labor Day

12 Volunteer Gardeners  
10:00AM to Noon

19 St. Mary's 350 8:30AM

20 Bridge Lunch & Discussion  
12:30PM

25-27 Family Retreat

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### 2009 Baptism Schedule

September 20 (Ministry Sunday),  
 October 25 at 11A.M. (Children's  
 Sabbath), November 1 at 9A.M.  
 (All Saints' Day)

## AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD

I like when we open the windows at Christ Church in the summer and hear the sounds of the city while we pray. Buses beep, radios play, motorcycles roar and people shout. The cadences of the city fall in with the cadences of our prayers, and we all pray together. At first, I am distracted by the noise; then I feel like I am being called by the din to come back into the world to worship there, "not only with our lips, but with our lives."

I was reminded what it means to worship God at the altar in the world when I was watching one of my favorite old movies, *On the Waterfront*, which begins with kindly, disinterested Father Barry pronouncing last rites over the longshoreman Joey, who had just been thrown off the roof of his Hoboken rowhouse by a couple of goons because he was going to testify in court about mob corruption in his local union.

"Time and faith are great healers," Father Barry unctuously says to dead Joey's enraged sister, Edie, but she'll have none of it. "Time and faith?" she cries. "My brother's dead and you stand there talking about time and faith? Don't turn away," she shouts at the embarrassed priest, "You're in this too, Father."

"Edie," he responds, "I do what I can. I'm in the church when you need me."

"In the church when you need me?" she sneers back. And then the line worth the rental: "Was there ever a saint who hid in the church?"

She's right. Going to church doesn't make us saintly; being the church in the world is our best shot. The saints of the church, everyday, teach school, work in hospitals, care for elderly parents, litigate cases, drive carpool for other parents who can't get off work, bake casseroles for the neighbors, get arrested for civil disobedience at protest rallies, and take extra care to put all qualifying items into the recycling bin. One of the reasons we come to the altar in a church is for grace and strength so we can find God in the altars of the world where we live our lives. Our task is not how to do something Godly in life, but how to be Godly in all we do with life.

This fall, we offer at Christ Church a 12 week, spiritual growth and small group program based on a recent book by Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*, Meeting on Tuesday evenings, beginning September 22, we will build on the rhythms of DOCC that have nourished spiritual growth, and grapple with the most persistent challenge in developing a living, breathing spiritual life: How do I encounter God in my daily life, and where is God in my real-life experience?

Here are some of the spiritual practices that we will explore:

- The Practice of Waking Up to God
- The Practice of Wearing Skin
- The Practice of Living with Purpose
- The Practice of Encountering Others
- The Practice of Saying No
- The Practice of Feeling Pain
- The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings
- The Practice of Being Present to God

More details and a way to register are inside.

**Timothy Safford**

## **WE BEGIN!**

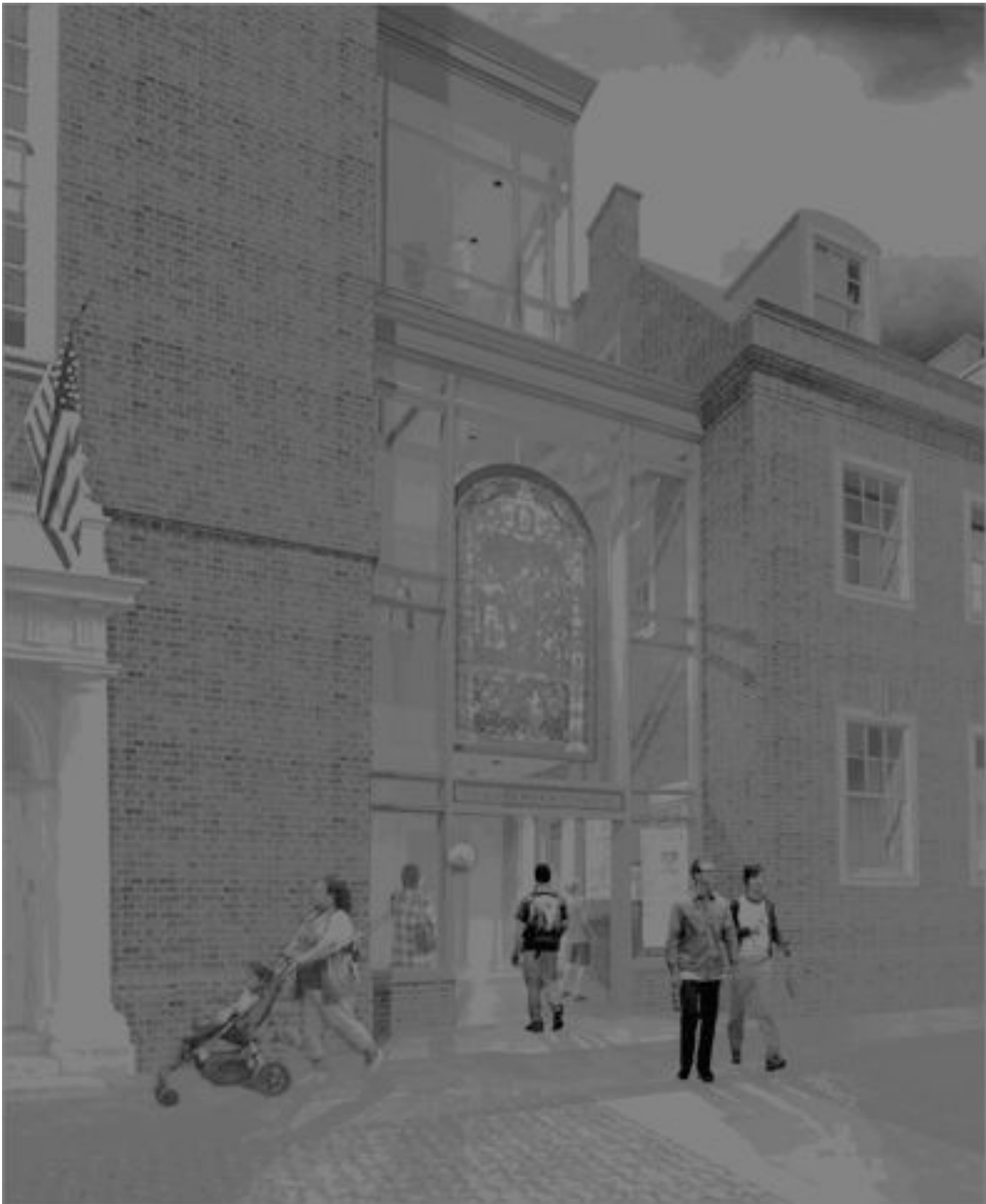
A project 10 years in the making began June 22--Access 2010--which will bring an elevator to Neighborhood House, accessible bathrooms, exhibition and fellowship space, and a safe, fire protected building that will serve Philadelphia and Christ Church for the next 100 years.

When this project is completed in the Spring of 2010, Neighborhood House will be usable and safe for parishioners, children, staff members, community activists, 12-Step groups, social service agencies, archivists, visitors, history buffs, musicians, choir members, unions, politicians, Independence National Park, Project Home, the Shelter Network, Theater Companies, Boy Scouts, Youth Groups, tourism and marketing agencies, wedding receptions, funerals, and those coming for contemporary worship. Linking the Washburn House and Neighborhood House in a new atrium that has an elevator, the buildings will be accessible to all. The North Garden will be rebuilt along Filbert Street to make an easy, accessible entrance into and out of the churchyard. Neighborhood House, which has had a glorious 100-year history dedicated to parish service and community outreach, will have a new future.

This \$3 million project only completes partial renovations on the northern end of Neighborhood House. More work will come as funds permit. We have a long way to go, but, all of this is made possible by the generous financial support from the Christ Church Capital Campaign that so many parishioners, community leaders, foundations and agencies have funded.

Asbestos has been removed, junk discarded, and walls are starting to come down. Come and take a tour, offered every Sunday morning.





NEW ATRIUM EXHIBITION SPACE  
CHRIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

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## PARISH STAFF NEWS

With sadness, I have announced that **the Rev. Carol Anthony** will end her position as Vicar for Parish Life on Sunday, July 5, a decision necessitated by the financial realities Christ Church is facing in these tumultuous economic times.

For the past three years, Carol has served as our Vicar for Parish Life, taking on the work of developing programs for spiritual growth and nurture and for increasing our pastoral care for parishioners. Carol nurtured the idea of a small group program to strengthen the faith and brought it to realization through the DOCC program that some 70 parishioners have now completed. Carol has organized and brought focus to the LGBT community at Christ Church and has involved our entire congregation in the work of LGBT civil rights and justice issues. She began the successful women's retreats, organized three successful mission trips, and coordinated many of our outreach efforts.

Most significantly, Carol's strong leadership and ability to "mind the store" allowed me to take my sabbatical during the summer of 2008, a gift for which I will always be grateful. Christ Church is far more complex non-profit institution than most realize, and during the sabbatical, Christ Church was in excellent hands.

Though necessitated by reduced revenue, the congregation remains faithfully generous—we have more people giving and pledging than at anytime in our recent history. However, the last two years has seen dramatic reductions in other revenue, specifically endowment revenue. We have \$120,000 less revenue from endowment this year from last, and further reductions are anticipated in 2010. Three years ago, our Vestry made the bold decision to move from a two-clergy to three-clergy staff, responding to the growth of the parish and the desire for more pastoral care and programs of spiritual development. The additional clergy position was funded for three years using endowment funds, with the expectation that endowment would grow, not precipitously decline.

This past year has seen much transition in the staff of Christ Church. Last November, **Wayne West**, our business and finance manager, retired after many years serving at Christ Church. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, our Organist and Choirmaster for 45 years, **John Binsfeld** retired in a glorious Service followed by a festive reception.

Christ Church now moves into an interim year of discernment and envisioning where God is leading our musical ministry, both in the church and in Neighborhood House programs. In parish life, an interim year is a time to hold steady on big changes while getting ideas from the congregation, looking anew at our musical traditions and possibilities, and opening a nationwide search for a permanent Director of Music to begin in the fall of 2010. As a crucial part of our interim year, I'm pleased to announce that **Diane Meredith Belcher**, most recently the associate organist and choirmaster of St. Mark's here in Philadelphia, will join Christ Church as the **interim organist/choirmaster**, beginning Sunday, August 2. A nationally known concert organist and fine choral director, Diane brings great gifts to the parish, including her skills and energy in building a choir of both volunteer and professional singers and reaching out to children and teens to involve them in musical and spiritual growth. We look forward to the creative year ahead – welcome, Diane!

**Timothy Safford**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHRIST CHURCH?

## **CELEBRATE THE MINISTRY OF CAROL ANTHONY, SUNDAY JULY 5**

Carol Anthony's last Sunday as Vicar for Parish Life is Sunday, July 5th. We will have a festive reception in Carol's honor after the 10 AM Service to give thanks for her gifts and ministry and all that she has contributed to Christ Church the last three years.

## **KEEPING UP TO DATE ON PLEDGES**

Please continue to remember Christ Church during the summer months. This is important because traditionally offerings are significantly smaller during the summer months. Our cash flow dips severely in July and August. We would be so very grateful if you could have 50% of your pledge commitment paid. Further, if circumstances permit, if many could pay their pledge commitment through August 31<sup>st</sup>, life would be far easier in the business office. Thank you to all who faithfully and generously support Christ Church.

## **FINDING GOD ON THE ALTAR IN THE WORLD**

This coming fall, building on the rhythms of DOCC that have nourished our spiritual growth, our 12-week Tuesday evening program will grapple with the most persistent challenge in developing a living, breathing spiritual life: How do I encounter God in my daily life, and where is God in my real-life experience? For the presentations each week, we will draw on the recent book *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor, which gives new life to an old truth: Our real-life experiences are the raw material for our spirituality. And we'll look at practices like "Waking Up to God," "Living with Purpose," "Encountering Others," "Feeling Pain," and "Pronouncing Blessings." Come along on the journey to recognize and embrace your own authentic spirituality, especially as we're nourished in an inclusive faith community, then bring alive what it's like to go back out into the world to know God and make God known. The program begins Tuesday, **September 22**, 6:30-8:30 PM, and continues through Tuesday, November 24. Childcare will be provided with an advance rsvp. Questions? Contact the **Rev. Susan Richardson**. To register, please contact **Cecilia** at [cwagner@christchurchphila.org](mailto:cwagner@christchurchphila.org) or 215.922.1695, ext 21

## **MUSICAL NOTES**

Since there have already been requests for me to submit some material for future *Beacon* publications on the memories of over forty-five years, I cannot begin with the traditional farewell phrases to you.

However, after the last Service on Trinity Sunday and all the wonderful spirit and gesture of that day, I simply want to express to all of you who were there my sincere appreciation, not only for your being there on that day, but for all the wonderful affirmation and support of music ministry through the decades. To have folks such as Bert Boone, Sandra Roosa, Robert and Nicole Snodgrass, the Rothfusses and Richard Troxell, come back into the choir loft for the "Last Hurrah" was something I shall never forget and always cherish. Even more and higher in joy for me, though, is the weekly level of both talent in the art as well as devotion to the place in our soloists of the quartet.

There will be, in these months ahead, moments when I shall reflect and rejoice all over again in the blessings of having been in such a place, working among such incredible people and having such unique talent to work with.

God bless and thank you all!

**John Binsfeld**

# TOURISM PROGRAMS AT CHRIST CHURCH

## **SIGNERS' DAY – JULY 3**

Join us as we present our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Signers' Day at Christ Church and Burial Ground on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. This holiday was created to honor and celebrate the lives of the seven signers of *The Declaration of Independence* buried in Christ Church grounds.

Events include:

History Hunts for all children who visit the Burial Ground throughout the day.

A wreath laying ceremony at Franklins grave at 1:30pm.

"Meet the Signers" - costumed guides from 2 to 4pm will be wandering among the tombstones telling stories.

## **BG290**

This year the Christ Church Burial Ground turns 290 years old. To celebrate this anniversary, we will have an event on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 5:30-7:30. A special tour that captures the history of these sacred and historic 2 acres from 1719 to today will be presented. Many descendants will be in attendance to honor the memory of all those buried in these hallowed grounds. There will be costumed interpreters to represent all four centuries. More details to follow.

## **NATIVE AMERICANS AT CHRIST CHURCH**

Over the last year, we have discussed the stories of the African American connection to Christ Church. However, the topic of the Native American connection is rarely discussed in our tours. Recently I have located many mentions in our records of Native Americans being baptized and married at Christ Church. Among the baptisms listed is one from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1717 that states "*an Indian girl of ye Governor named Jane*", referring to Governor William Keith, who had many dealings with Indian tribes and treaties. There are also listings from October 13<sup>th</sup> 1768, when Rector Richard Peters married three Indian couples when he was at Fort Stanwix. Another listing in our shared burial records with St. Peter's Church documents the burial of Indian chiefs who died of small pox while visiting Philadelphia in 1793, and are buried in St. Peter's churchyard. Many of founding fathers that our buried in our grounds had dealings with Native Americans, including Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin and Francis Hopkinson. In fact, Francis Hopkinson was the secretary to a provincial council of Pennsylvania Indian Commission that made a treaty with the Iroquois and Delaware tribes in 1761.

## **BURIAL GROUND NEWS**

### **Gravestone repairs**

Over the last couple months many gravestones in our historic burial ground that have been in dire need of repair and have now been restored and preserved.

### **New Flowers**

New flowers have been planted in the cradle markers in the back of the burial ground. The cradle markers that were named for their resemblance to a cradle were originally designed to have flowers in them. They now add a color and life to the south end of our burial ground.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

~Signers' Day-July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

~Independence Day-July 4<sup>th</sup>.

~History Hunts - Saturdays in July

~Fridays with Franklin - Friday 1pm-3pm

~Yellow Fever tours in October

# FELLOWSHIP and FAMILY

## CHRIST CHURCH GARDENERS

The volunteer gardeners gather monthly for work in the North Garden. Please join us on **July 11 and August 8** at 10:00am. Newcomers are always welcome. We hope to see you there. Questions? Please contact **George Niedermayer** at [niedy711@aol.com](mailto:niedy711@aol.com).

## SANDWICHES FOR THE HOMELESS

Come join the crew of sandwich makers who monthly make 350 bologna sandwiches for the shelter at St. Mary's. We gather next on Saturday, **July 18**, 8:30-9:30am. Kids love to help, too! Questions? Please contact **Wayne Christman** at [waynechristman@comcast.net](mailto:waynechristman@comcast.net).

## CELEBRATE WITH BRIDE AND GROOM

**Jennifer Keeney & Houston Joost**, married April 25

**Brandon Knox & Jennifer Green**, married June 6

## PARISH BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to our parish family members celebrating birthdays these next two months:

July 2, **Richard Milford**  
July 3, **Norman Ehrke, Salinna Lanctot, Julia Miller**  
July 4, **Paige Gembala, Janice Woodcock**  
July 5, **Jennifer Mueller**  
July 6, **Mike Krumrine, Bryce Moleski, Audrey Wilson**  
July 7, **Barrie Trimmingham**  
July 9, **Lauralou Bates, Madeline Main**  
July 11, **Landon Gasper, Sarah Robbertze**  
July 12, **Bill Mayo**  
July 13, **The Rev. Carol Anthony, Rick Bravo, Shannon Greene**  
July 14, **Susie Auten, Sophia Boyd, Bruce Gill, Christie Hartwell, Elizabeth McCardell, Stephen Mihalek**  
July 15, **Pam Frohlich, Don Hersh**  
July 16, **Tara Conlan, Bridget Huffman, Michele Webb**  
July 18, **Tom Johnson, Grace Layne**  
July 21, **Georgia Herpel**  
July 22, **Priscilla Ord, Kelly Pio**  
July 23, **Charles Frohlich, Sr., Eugene Frohlich, Sr.**  
July 25, **David Assis**  
July 26, **Mark Mitchell**  
July 27, **Greer Eobbi**  
July 28, **Julie Leisenring, Gail Trimble**  
July 30, **Jack Frantz, Ed Rice, Jabbar Wright**  
July 31, **Margaret Gleason, Chris Johnson, Erin Main, Joe McAteer, Heather Moday, J.P. Small**

August 1, **Walker Hartge, Davis Smith**  
August 2, **Ilsa Schupack**  
August 3, **Trinity Eobbi**  
August 4, **Sue Wright**  
August 5, **Joe Conlan, Doris Mordecai, Ethan Smith, Paula West**  
August 6, **Jean Bodine, Shawn Evans, Joan Milano**  
August 7, **Catherine Sorrentino, Sofia Sorrentino**  
August 8, **Allison Allen, Brandon Knox, Lauren Lopchinsky**  
August 9, **Walker Brown, Ethan Smith**  
August 11, **Calder Evans, Amy Mock**  
August 12, **The Rev. Wes Smedley**  
August 13, **Henry Stirman**  
August 14, **Karen Christianson**  
August 15, **Katherine Celata**  
August 16, **Robert Little, Wyatt Small**  
August 17, **Louise Hand-Mihalek, Tyler Mark, Caroline Rickels, Claudia Rickels, Annita Stirba, Dorothy Walker, Willie Ware**  
August 18, **Wayne Christman, Warren Hindenach**  
August 21, **Nick DiPatri, Hannah Safford**  
August 22, **Courtney Pruitt**  
August 24, **Karen Holland, Veronica Timberlake**  
August 26, **Yvonne Allison**  
August 27, **Jeff Hartge**  
August 30, **Jami Frohlich, Liam O'Connell**  
August 31, **Susanah Leraris**

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

## FAMILY RETREAT – REGISTER NOW!

The Christ Church Family Retreat will be **September 25-27** at the rustic Quaker retreat center called Camp Dark Waters on the Rancocas Creek in Medford, New Jersey, in the Pinelands only about 17 miles from Philly. We'll stay in cabins on its 15 acres, cook meals together in its kitchen, and enjoy structured time together (including Eucharist by the creek Sunday morning) as well as plenty of down time with the camp's canoes, rope course, trails, basketball court, ping-pong tables, etc. The cost is \$35 per person for the entire weekend, plus an additional small donation to the cost of meals and facilitators for the canoes and games. Planning is under way; please contact the **Rev. Susan Richardson** with any questions. And please rsvp to **Cecilia Wagner** ([cwagner@christchurchphila.org](mailto:cwagner@christchurchphila.org)) to reserve a space for the weekend. Plan ahead for this special weekend of fellowship together in the beauty of early autumn.

## Christ Church: A user's guide

### 9:00 AM Eucharist and Sermon

Rite II, celebrated with 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 (*August 2*)

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

### 11:00 AM Morning Prayer and Sermon (*July 12, 19, 26 and August 9, 16, 23, 30*)

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

Email: [mail@christchurchphila.org](mailto:mail@christchurchphila.org)

Website: [www.christchurchphila.org](http://www.christchurchphila.org)

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The Rev. K. Palmer Hartl – [kpheartl@aol.com](mailto:kpheartl@aol.com)

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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 **September/October** issue is **August 10**. Please e-mail articles to [cwagner@christchurchphila.org](mailto:cwagner@christchurchphila.org)

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