CHRIST CHURCH DETROIT

CHRONICLES

October 2012

The mission of Christ Church is to be a diverse, inclusive community which, through its lively worship of Jesus Christ and witness in His name, serves the Christ in all persons and stands as a beacon of hope in the heart of Detroit.

Christ Church Detroit
960 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

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Hours
Monday-Thurs: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday Mornings by Appointment
Sunday: 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept-May)
9:30 a.m.

Rector
The Rev. John Gordon Talk, IV

Assisting
The Rev. Rollin Norris
The Rt. Rev. Orris Walker

Deacon
The Rev. Helen Brewster

Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Jennie Blair

Spiritual Director
Mrs. Michelle Wilbert

Organist/Choirmaster
Mr. Jeffrey Walker

Business Manager
Mrs. Dawn Esse

Facilities Manager
Mr. Barry Dickson

FROM THE RECTOR:

As some of you know I once considered myself a true yellow dog Democrat (so called because I'd vote for a yellow dog if he were a Democrat). I came by this naturally, that is I was born into it. Like most Texan families ours had been Democrats from time in-memorial - one of my grandfather's favorite stories had to do with his father, Vice President John Nance Garner, a mule and way too much whiskey. In fact I once made my living working as a consultant in the campaigns for various Democratic politicians in Texas. I helped all kinds of candidates and worked on all kinds of causes. I worked for judicial races, county commissioner races, congressional races and even Bill Clinton's first campaign for president.

About 15 years ago I came to realize that my understanding of myself a true blue Democrat was based on family tradition and the culture I was associated with. I started to think that perhaps instead of entering the voting booth identifying myself as a Democrat I should enter the voting booth, make campaign contributions and volunteer in races guided by my Christianity instead.

But how to proceed? Christians like Pat Robertson would have me vote for Republicans while Christians like Reinhold Niebuhr (who, theologically at least, I have far more in common with) were militant Socialists. There had to be a way for me to use my Christian beliefs to inform my political decisions. Eventually I realized that the answer is simple. Because I believe that God has called us to help create a more just and merciful world I must vote for those candidates who will work for these ends.

This has been God's call to us from the Hebrew Testament. We see the prophet Zachariah saying:

> *Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.*

This attitude is amplified in our Gospel when we hear Jesus in Matthew Chapter 25 calling on his disciples to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, open their doors to the homeless, cloth the naked, and provide healthcare to the sick. He ended his teaching saying to them:

> *'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.'*

This November I urge you to educate yourselves on the candidates and issues on the ballot, then chose to cast your vote not as a Democrat, Republican or even as a Socialist but as a Christian, a Christian trying to create a more just and merciful world.

News of the People

We wish to express our sympathy to **Milli Stennis** who suffered the loss of her brother at Archibald Hospital in Atlanta in August. Milli traveled to Quitman (Chitterling Switch), Georgia for the funeral service. Your prayers are asked for Milli and her family.

September 2nd was a busy day for many of our parishioners –

The granddaughter of Josephine Mashour, **Erin Elizabeth Walker** was married to Edward Keith Nakayama on Sunday, September 2nd. The couple resides in Chicago, where Erin teaches and Edward is enrolled in the University of Chicago Business School. Congratulations to all.

(Meanwhile, back at the ranch…) Many of our parishioners, past and present, helped our former rector, **The Rev. Ervin A. Brown,** celebrate his 75th birthday at The Detroit Yacht Club. It was a wonderful gathering of the church family of the 80's and 90's. Although it had been requested that "no gifts, please," Erv did receive several. One such gift will soon be enjoyed by all of us. The stone altar will be reconstructed and restored in his honor and be placed in the Mothers' and Children's Garden. Once more, **Happy Birthday, Erv.**

On September 14th, the world welcomed **Kenzly Isabelle Staif**. She is the daughter of John and Diane Staif, and she becomes a 5th generation member of Christ Church! Congratulations to John and Diane, Sittoo (Grandma) Helen Staif; Aunts and Uncles Lisa, Lauren and John Leney; Cousins Marisa, Dana, and Erin Leney; Cathy, Steve, Nicholas, Rachel, and William Berlage; John, Sheila, Ian, and Olivia Costandi; and, of course, Great Aunt Miriam Costandi.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Stewardship

This fall, we are planning to hold a series of meetings in homes and at the church as part of our annual stewardship campaign. This has not been done for several years and will require a lot of help from the congregation. Therefore, we will be asking **members to assist with planning**, to **host meetings** in their homes and at church, to **do presentations** about our activities and finances at the meetings and to **speak about their own stewardship on Sunday mornings.** *If you would like to volunteer for any of these roles, please let Jim Fleming or me know.*

Jane Forbes

CHRONICLES
The official monthly publication of Christ Church
The deadline for the October issue is:
October 11, 2012
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Editorial Staff:
Miriam Costandi: costandim@aol.com
officestaff@christcd.org

Remember:

No church services on Sunday, October 21st due to The Detroit Free Press Marathon.

On Saturday, October 20th, at 5:00 we will celebrate Evensong followed by a Tea.

Helping to feed the hungry in Southeast Michigan

Gleaners, Saturday, October 20th, 9:30-11:30
Sign up in the Atrium or see Seth Lloyd

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Backpack Project a Big Success

On Tuesday the 18th of September members of Christ Church and the Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit (RCD) delivered 60 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Franklin Wright Settlement. After introductions by Adnan Khalil (otherwise known as Mr. K) Jennie Blair from Christ Church and Carol Weisfeld and Sheila Hughes from the RCD started passing out backpacks. About 50 boys and girls were happy to get new backpacks. The backpacks were not only filled with new school supplies but also gifts from each congregation including water-bottles, personalized pencils and coloring books. ***Many thanks to all of you who helped with this important ministry; it was truly a mitzvah for all who participated.***

Christian Education Announcements

Thank you to the young adults who have agreed to volunteer in various areas of the church. Your service to Sunday school, worship center and breakfast team is greatly appreciated!

Every student enrolled in Sunday school should have received a Christ Church backpack. If you have not, please see Jennie Blair.

Important Dates

October 7 9:30am **Blessing of the Animals**

October 21 Blake's Apple Orchard Outing **(Sign Up available at Church)**

Option #1 - $13.95 per person for everything below

Option #2 - $16.95 per person for everything below PLUS a Coney dog or nacho & an ear of corn

Option #3- FREE fellowship and family; order items ala carte

While at the farm you will receive cider and donuts which you can enjoy under a tented seating area. You will receive a wrist band that will serve as your all-day pass to:

A private hayride to the Orchard:

- A trip thru the 1st level of the Haunted Barn including the Black Hole
- Animal Petting Farm
- Cornstalk Maze
- Giant Straw Mountain
- The Cornstalk Maze
- One personal-sized pie pumpkin

When It Is God Versus "Stuff," Who Wins?

"We live in a culture…that is preoccupied with money. We respect people who have it and write whole television series about how they make it and spend it. While church members hear one sermon a week on average, they are exposed to about sixteen hundred commercials every day, on billboards and bus seats, in newspapers and magazines, on clothes with designer and product logos, on radio and television, each offering advice on how to spend their money. What is the church's responsibility for guiding them through this cacophony of opportunities?"

[Behind the Stained Glass Windows, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle]

People who object to any mention of money in the church forget that Jesus talked about it frequently. He said that commitment to "stuff" undermines our spiritual health and challenges his lordship. "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

(Matthew 12:24-46)

On the playing field of your personality, who wins – God or stuff?

1st Annual Ladies' Evening at Christ Church Detroit

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, December 6, 2012

Join us for a prayer service, reflection, and fellowship.

Contact Jennie Blair at jblair@christcd.org for additional information,

From the Deacon

Deacon Helen sent a note to Dawn with the message that follows. Also she noted that she and Jon are available mornings and evenings; that would be evenings and mornings for us. And if anyone has Skype, feel free to call. She is auntiehb and Jon is jonbrewster42. They would love to hear from everyone.

Dear Ones,

Here it is, Sunday, September 2. We are having a huge thunderstorm. It doesn't just rain here. IT RAINS, with thunder, lightning, very dark skies. It's 9am and I have walked with Jon to the canteen (canting) so he could have breakfast. There is no coffee or hot tea served there, so I just keep him company. I will have some cheese and fruit and Earl Gray tea for breakfast.

There is a "coffee house" just down the street and the coffee is drinkable. It's more a gathering place for the International community, and we have met several people from our complex there. We live in a gated community (locked at night, guard there at all times). We're not sure if it is to keep us in or others out! Our apartment consists of a nice size living room and bedroom, a bathroom with a shower, and a kitchen the size of my downstairs bathroom at home. No kidding! We have a hot plate thingy, a microwave and a refrigerator (refrigerator is in the hallway outside the kitchen). I will post pictures as soon as Jon signs up for whatever enables Facebook and Blogspot. He is busy getting ready to start teaching tomorrow. He is teaching 2 classes of conversational English and 8 classes of professional writing. I actually started working last week. One of my jobs is to teach women who have children studying in the States. They might have an opportunity to visit, so need to know how to negotiate airports, taxis, restaurants; all those every-day tasks that are just routine to us. On September 15, I will have either four or five 2-hour classes with children from seven to fourteen. I will teach independently of the Chinese English teachers, who are mostly young women, juniors or seniors here at the University. If that sounds strange to you, join the club. I thought I'd be working in a classroom with another teacher.

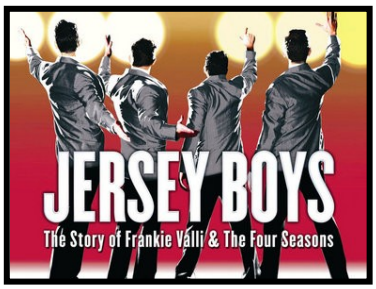
I cannot tell you how much I miss you all; how much I miss church. I told Jon on the way back from breakfast that I really missed going to church. Surprisingly he agreed. "It anchors the week," he said. "Gives you a reflection time between last week and next week." They don't have weekends here. The ex-pat community works very hard to make weekend social time, but still there is no church. I am reading Morning Prayer, and that's good, but no interaction with anyone, of course. Ah well!

Speaking of ex-pats, we have met some wonderful people. Jesse (Alabama) and his wife Lucy (Chinese) are delightful. We "double-dated" with them last night and took a taxi into Wuhan to a massage parlor. Yep, a massage parlor. Bet that opened some eyes wider, eh? Actually, we all had a foot massage and pedicure. Jesse's mother is dying and so he will be going back to the states in just a few days and his wife will go to another city to stay with friends. He's coming back but will be working for an American firm teaching advanced placement students. I already miss them. Michael, the Brit is the "old" man here. This is his eighth year. He's always game for a cuppa or a walk or a trip for fruit. We are, of course, the oldest and probably the only American couple in our complex. Kinda like the Grandma and Grandpa. Most are much younger, single or in relationship with a Chinese person.

I'm closing. I'll let you know, through Dawn, when the blog gets up and running. I'll also post on the church Facebook page. Oh, I'm practicing my Chinese with the guard at the gate. He seems quite delighted when I try new phrases, but he always looks at Jon to find out what I'm saying. My pronunciation is very bad.

Love you all!!

Helen



Jekyll & Hyde	Jersey Boys	Mary Poppins
Nov 28, 2012, 8pm at The Fisher Theater	Dec. 13, 2012, 8pm at The Fisher Theater	Oct. 25, 2012, 7:30pm at The Fisher Theater
$79.00 seats for $58.00	$94.00 seats for $77.00	$79.00 seats for $65.00
Money due Nov 5, 2012	Money due Oct. 22, 2012	Money due Oct. 8, 2012

All sign-up sheets are in the Atrium and parking is free.

Kroger Rewards Earnings

Thanks to the following shoppers who earned us $202.98 in the first quarter of the Kroger Rewards year:

Yvonne Abdullah	Robert Crouch	Marjorie Keils
Roma Anderson	Karen Fleming	Philip Keils
Charles Atwater	Rosanna Fleming	Thelma McCrary
Cathy Berlage	William Fleming	Rollin Norris
Carol Campbell	Deborah Gillespie	Vickie Rice-Parker
Miriam Costandi	Karen Henning	Thomas Solomon
		Lisa Staif

Reading Camp Appreciation Party

October 14, 2012

After Church on October 14th we will be celebrating the successful Summer Reading Camp with an after Church party and lunch.

Join us as we

Paint Pumpkins,
Drink Butter-Beer
&
Take Hayrides with Jon Miller and his horses Tess and Tara through Downtown Detroit.

October Calendar

3 9:00 am Walk-In Ministries
11:00 am Meditation – Sibley House

4 8:00 La Cage Aux Folles at The Fisher Theater

7 8:15 am & 10:30 am **19 Pentecost**
9:30 am **Blessing of the Animals**

8 Money due for Mary Poppins

10 9:00 Walk-In Ministries
11:00 Meditation – Sibley House

14 8:15 am & 10:30 am – **20 Pentecost**
9:30 am Sunday School
12:00 pm Hayrides through downtown Detroit
Reading Camp Volunteer Appreciation Party

17 9:00 am Walk-In Ministries
11:00 Meditation – Sibley House

20 Saturday
9:30 am **Gleaners Food Bank**
10:30 am AA meeting in Ledyard Hall
5:00 pm EvenSong and Tea at Christ Church

21 Sunday - Detroit Free Press Marathon
No Church Services

22 Money due for Jersey Boys

24 9:00 Walk-In Ministries
11:00 am Meditation – Sibley House

25 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting
7:30 pm Mary Poppins – Fisher Theater

26-27 **Diocesan Convention in Lansing**

28 8:15 am & 10:30 am **22 Pentecost**
9:30 am Sunday School

31 9:00 am Walk-In Ministries
11:00 am Meditation – Sibley House

November 1 All Saints' Day

November 4 Sunday after All Saints'

Christ Church October Schedule

Sunday

8:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

9am
Choir Rehearsal

9:30am
Sunday School resumes Sept. 9
K—Adult

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Nursery - Off of Atrium

10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist—Nave

Tuesday

12:00 p.m. — G.A. - Cary Lounge
2:00 p.m. - Bible Study - Cary

Wednesday

9am—Walk-In Ministry - Cary
11 a.m.—Meditation—Sibley House

Thursday

G.A. — 12:00 p.m. - Cary Lounge

Saturday

A.A. 10:30 a.m. Ledyard

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