



CHRIST CHURCH

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Rector

The Rector's Chronicle

June 20, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

Summer is here and Christ Church is open and active from now through Labor Day! In this Chronicle I want to point out some of the great events that are happening in July, August and the start of September. I hope you will pen them into your datebooks, mark them on your home bulletin boards, and add them to your Google or iPhone calendars.

EAT, DRINK & BE HOLY

There are three “foodie” events attached to worship services scheduled thus far for the summer. On June 25 and again on August 20, after our Come As You Are Eucharist, we are planning a relaxing late afternoon BBQ & Picnic. Weather permitting, we will gather for worship in the Garden of Resurrection at 5:00 p.m., then adjourn to the shady lawn behind the church. I will make BBQ smoked pulled pork (and maybe one or two other things). Sides, beverages, and desserts are entirely potluck. We will have a grill set up for anyone who wants to bring and cook food on the premises. My hope is that people will prepare a wide variety of interesting, healthy sides to accompany the BBQ. Bring your coolers full of food and drinks, bring your lawn chairs, and bring your friends. It will be a fun evening. If the weather does not cooperate, we will probably cancel the BBQ portion – notice of cancellation will go out the Friday before, if necessary.

On Sunday, July 2, we are having a special event in lieu of the 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour. Instead of hot coffee, we will serve iced coffee, iced tea, and lemonade. Instead of cookies we will have fresh fruit and ice-cream. There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall, but essentially the church will provide cones and beverages, while ice-cream, toppings, and fruit will be potluck. Weather permitting, the Ice Cream & Fruit Social will be held on the lawn behind the Church, and we will have games on the field.

CHILDREN & YOUTH / OUTREACH & SERVICE

Our Outreach Committee will continue working with Trinity Saint Paul's throughout the summer. We will serve bagged lunches on July 6 and August 3. In addition to serving lunch there are numerous ways we can all be involved in this ministry.

On each of the Sundays in July, a table and chairs will be set up in the Bolton Altar area for children to color and design brown bags for the Trinity Saint Paul's Bagged Lunch program during the Liturgy of the Word (readings & sermon) at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Eucharists. These bags will be used on July 6 and August 3 when members from Christ Church Outreach Ministry volunteer at Trinity Saint Paul's. We are looking for a few parents or other volunteers to oversee the table each Sunday and keep the kids focused on coloring (and quiet).

The Men's Group is meeting in the Library at 6:30 p.m. on July 5 to make sandwiches. After sandwich making has concluded, the group goes out for a bite to eat and some friendly conversation at a local restaurant.

On the morning of Thursday, August 3, Youth of the Parish are invited to assist with the bagged lunch program at Trinity Saint Paul's – I will be one of several adult leaders and chaperones. We welcome any Youth who will be in 6th grade through 12th grade in 2017-2018 to join us. The plan is to make sandwiches, stuff bags that have been decorated by our younger children throughout July, and hand them out. After our time of community service has concluded we will head back to Christ Church for lunch. Parents and other family members are invited to join us for lunch at Christ Church. Specific details will be made available in mid-July, but drop off will likely be at Christ Church at 8:30 a.m. Please contact Marie Main in the Parish office if any Youth in your family will attend. Please contact me or Marie Main if you are interested in helping to organize the lunch afterwards.

For those interested in donating supplies for the lunches, we still need individually wrapped cookies to put in the bagged lunches. Please place donations in the large basket in the Narthex.

ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Sundays, July 9, 16, 23 at 9:00 a.m., our Seminarian Michael Kurth will offer a Visual Tour of the Holy Land and Bible Study. The class will feature slides and photos from Michael's pilgrimage in 2017 and participants will be led through passages of Scripture that match the locations shown in Michael's photos and slides.

Throughout July and August the Thursday morning Bible Study will continue to be offered by Michael Moynihan. Each Thursday, beginning at 10:00 a.m., the group gathers to discuss briefly the prior week's sermon and to delve more deeply into the readings for the coming Sunday.

Many thanks to Michael, Michael and Alice Dean, chair of the Adult Christian Learning Committee, for their time and talent this summer in ensuring that Adult Christian Learning programs continue at Christ Church throughout the entire year!

SUMMER WORSHIP & HOLY DAYS

Worship at Christ Church is offered every Sunday of the year at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. If you aren't in town, please take the time to worship at a church that is near to where you are. If you are in town, please try to make every effort to come to church on Sunday.

I will be on vacation from July 5 through August 2, but my family and I will be in church somewhere every Sunday – you may even see us at the 8:00 a.m. one Sunday. My friend Father Peter Powell will again be our supply priest in July.

There are a few Major Holy Days that fall in the summer that we are observing. Weather permitting, all of the weekday Holy Days noted below will be celebrated in the Garden of Resurrection.

Thursday, June 29, is the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated that day at 12:15 p.m.

At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 4, the Holy Eucharist for Independence Day will be celebrated. This service includes a litany for the nation and several hymns from the national songs section of the hymnal (sung *a cappella*).

On Sunday, August 6, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration.

On Tuesday, August 15, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin. We will have a 10:00 a.m. Eucharist that morning, and later in the day I will be preaching at the 6:00 p.m. Solemn Mass at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Times Square. I served as Curate at Saint Mary's from 2004 to 2009, and it will be an honor and pleasure to return for the evening. Saint Mary's is a very "high church" and Solemn Mass for their feast of title is magnificent and lots of fun – if you are in NYC that evening, I invite you to join me.

Thursday, August 24, is the Feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated that day at 12:15 p.m.

On Sunday, September 10, we will offer the Blessing of Backpacks at the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Registration for Church School and a Church School Open House will be offered after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Following the Eucharist, coffee hour, and the open house, Michael Kurth is leading a Youth Group Trip to New York City to visit two historic Episcopal Churches. First, the group will visit Saint Bartholomew's Church on Park Avenue. Saint Bart's is Michael's sponsoring parish for ordination to the priesthood, and he is looking forward to showing off his home church. After a tour of Saint Bart's the group will head west

a few blocks to Saint Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue for Choral Evensong. Saint Thomas is my sponsoring parish, and I have been invited to preach at that day's Choral Evensong service. Michael's Youth Group trip is open to every member of any age at Christ Church (including adults), but we ask that parents of younger children (5th grade and under) accompany their children. The trip will conclude in time for everyone to be back in Pelham for dinner.

PERSONAL PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

I encourage you, if you are not already doing so, to pray every day. Say the Lord's Prayer, pray for your family, pray for the nation and peace on earth, pray for Christ Church and Christians who are witnessing their faith in Jesus Christ throughout the world. Let your prayers and your faith inform and inspire your actions each day.

This summer, I also invite you to consider taking up the Daily Office. There is an excellent app called "eCP" – short for "electronic Common Prayer" – that is available for iPhone and Android. The app costs \$10, but it is worth paying for the convenience of being able to read the day's Scripture passages on your phone – whether you are on the train, in your office, poolside, in an airport, on the couch, or waiting for your tee time. There are also several free websites: "Bede's Breviary" and "Mission Saint Claire" are my favorites – simply google them and you will be praying the Daily Office in no time.

The advantage of praying the Daily Office is that you read through, at a reasonable, daily rate, the bulk of the Psalms, Old Testament, Epistles, and Gospels. The Daily Office also includes prayers that move beyond private devotion or personal prayers to prayers along with the larger church. In my experience, an active prayer life and regular reading of Scripture keeps me honest in my witness of Jesus Christ. It is to him that I pray and of him that I read and that usually keeps my focus on finding ways to serve and minister to others and focus on things beyond myself. I find that beginning my day with the daily office informs and inspires my actions throughout the day.

There is much to look forward to in the coming months and many things to be grateful for at our wonderful parish. I hope you have a blessed, happy, and relaxing summer. Please continue to keep Christ Church in your prayers.

In Christ and with fondest affection,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hoxsie Mead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector