



CHRIST CHURCH

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Rector

The Rector's Chronicle

Trinity Sunday 2016

Dear friends in Christ,

In this Chronicle I want to thank you all for a wonderful first year as your rector, offer a brief word about Pentecost weekend and our Confirmation Class and Youth Group, give some background on the party and fundraiser at the Rectory on Friday, June 17, and look ahead to the summer.

ONE YEAR AT CHRIST CHURCH

On Trinity Sunday I celebrated one year as Rector of Christ Church. Technically, my first day was May 26, 2015, but my first Sunday was Trinity Sunday. It has been an excellent year! Nicole, the boys and I have settled in to Pelham. In the Narthex my name is even carved into stone along with the prior fourteen rectors!

I want to thank you all for making my first year at Christ Church such an enjoyable one. In particular I want to thank our wardens, Kari Black and John Lent, for all the energy and joy they give to Christ Church, and I want to thank all our parish officers, vestry members, and committee members for their time and dedication to our parish.

I also want to thank our hard working and skilled staff. It is a pleasure to serve and work with Deacon Katie Lawrence, administrator Marie Main, choirmaster Jeffrey Hoffman, verger Walter Roberts, and sexton Ed Blue. They bring a level of talent and enthusiasm to Christ Church that is rare, and I am blessed to be their rector. Lastly, I want to introduce and thank our new Property Managers Joe Murray and Francis Piraino, and our Handyman Luis Zevallos. Joe, Francis, and Luis are contracted with us through Parish Property Management, and they have been a wonderful addition to Christ Church.

It has been a fantastic first year! I am honored and thrilled to be your priest and rector, and I look forward to my second year at Christ Church and many more after that.

PENTECOST

Pentecost weekend featured sadness and joy. On Saturday, May 14, we offered burial rites for long time parishioner and choir member Bob Weeks. Bob died peacefully with his family by his side on May 10. He will be greatly missed at Christ Church, in particular for his presence in the choir and for his exceptional ability as a lector. I ask your continued support and prayers for his wife Sara, and their children and grandchildren. May Almighty God bless and keep Bob, and may he be welcomed into paradise by the angelic hosts and take his place at our Lord Jesus Christ's side with the saints in light.

Sunday, May 15, was the Day of Pentecost, and we celebrated Confirmation & Reception with Bishop Stacy Sauls. Congratulations to Zoe Anastas, Helen Cahill, Jack Cardwell, Grayce Cooper, James Cruz, Alison Emery, and Charles Moderelli who were confirmed and to Sandra Rivera and Aurelia Rivera who were received into the Episcopal Church. It was my pleasure and honor to lead our youth through Confirmation Class and prepare Sandra and Aurelia for Reception into the Episcopal Church. Grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit those who were Confirmed and Received may be enlightened, strengthened for your service, and filled with a love of the Lord. Amen.

I am looking forward to starting anew in the fall with another group of 8th through 12th graders. It isn't too early to contact Marie Main and let her know if you or your child is interested in being a part of our 2016-2017 Confirmation class. Related to Confirmation is our Youth Group. At some point in the summer (we are working on a date) I will lead a Youth Group event that will be open to all who will be entering 7th through 12th grade. When the details have been firmed up, we will mail out a flyer. If you want to help out with the Youth Group, please let me know.

FUNDRAISER FOR DRAINAGE PROJECT

On Friday, June 17, there will be a Party and Fundraiser at the Rectory. The purpose of this fundraiser is to celebrate our common life together at Christ Church and to raise money for the emergency sewage and drainage project that our parish property undertook in the first part of 2016. The weekly e-blast contained updates and photos throughout the drainage project, but for those who might want a want a refresher or a thorough description of what happened, I have enclosed an insert titled "Detailed Narrative of the 2016 Emergency Drainage Project." I think it is helpful for everyone to know exactly what happened and why we need your financial support to help pay for the work that was done.

The drainage project began with a flood in mid-February and emergency excavation that literally unearthed a much larger project than we could have planned for. I am proud of our wardens John Lent and Kari Black, parishioners Ed McGann and Walter Roberts, and our Property Managers Joe Murray and Francis Piraino who spent scores of hours in the cold meeting contractors and overseeing the emergency phase of the project. Kari, Joe, Francis, and I have overseen the necessary follow-up work that has been planned and completed over the last

few months. I offer them my deepest thanks for all they have done, and I greatly appreciate their time and devotion to our parish.

In all, the project will end up costing in excess of \$50,000, which exceeds our buildings and grounds repairs and maintenance budget for this year. We have many above ground projects that should not be deferred, some of which are related to the safety and security of our physical plant, and others that will create larger and more expensive problems in the coming years if they are delayed. The largest of those necessary projects is the slate roof over three of our buildings: the Church, the Nanette Bolton Building, and the Ranck Building. Take a tour of the church interior some Sunday and see how many leaks you can find damaging the walls – those leaks have all grown significantly in the past year, and they need to be addressed. Our first priority is paying for the emergency work we have already done. Our second priority as stewards of Christ Church is making sure we do the work that we know we need to do to ensure that our buildings are safe, welcoming, and beautiful.

In February we secured an emergency property support grant of \$8,000 from the Diocese of New York to help us cover the cost, and today, May 25, I learned that the Property Support Committee has granted us an additional \$7,000 “based upon the extraordinary circumstances concerning the sewage and drainage problems Christ Church has experienced”. The total diocesan support for our project is \$15,000, and I am very grateful for their generous assistance. We also have received \$2,500 from our insurance company. The rest, as they say, is up to us.

It is with all of that in mind that we are having a fundraiser and party at the Rectory on June 17. Nicole and I want to welcome you into our home and the spacious outdoor areas around the Rectory for an evening of great food and drink. June 17th is one of the longest days of the year, and we hope to make this a truly parish-wide fellowship and thanksgiving event. This will be a celebration of our common life together in this House of Prayer that was built by the Boltons and lovingly cared for generation after generation by Episcopalians like you and me who worship in and love Christ Church.

I appeal to you for your financial support, and I ask that you write a check in whatever amount you are able to give to Christ Church with “Drainage Project 2016” in the memo. All of the money that we raise will go towards the drainage project. God willing and with your support, we will exceed the amount that we need, and any excess money will go towards the roof.

I hope you will be able to join us on June 17, I ask you to join me in donating as generously as you are able to for this essential project, and I request your prayers for our wonderful parish and our house of worship where the beauty of holiness is so clearly visible to all who pass by and enter.

Let us thank God whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness. Eternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this place, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your honor and glory. For the Church universal, of which these visible buildings are the symbol, we thank you, Lord. For your presence

whenever two or three have gathered together here in your Name, we thank you, Lord. For this place where we may be still and know that you are God, we thank you, Lord. For making us your children by adoption and grace, and refreshing us day by day with the bread of life, we thank you, Lord. For the knowledge of your will and the grace to perform it, we thank you, Lord. For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us, we thank you, Lord. For the pardon of our sins, which restores us to the company of your faithful people, we thank you, Lord. For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness, we thank you, Lord. For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance, we thank you, Lord. For the fellowship of Robert Bolton and of all your Saints, we thank you, Lord. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; and you are exalted as head over all. Amen.

- A Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church from the Book of Common Prayer.

SUMMER NOTES

I leave for vacation Tuesday, July 5th, and I return to the office, August 2nd. My last event at Christ Church before vacation will be a noon Eucharist with patriotic songs celebrated atop the Garden of Resurrection on July 4th – I hope you will join me if you are in town. Our celebrant and preacher for Sundays, July 10, 17, 24 and 31, will be Father Peter Powell, who led a class on the Passion Narratives in Lent. I will be somewhere between Rhode Island and New York City throughout July. I generally don't check email on vacation, but my cell phone is still on, and if you have a pastoral emergency please feel free to call me. You can also contact Marie Main in the Parish Office, Deacon Katie, or our wardens Kari Black and John Lent if you have an emergency. I will close with a friendly pastoral reminder to everyone who is in or near Pelham on Sundays throughout the year: the Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at Christ Church, including the summer, at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

In Christ and with fondest affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew Hoxsie Mead".

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector