

Soundings

The Newsletter of Christ Church

October 2017

www.christchurchpelham.org

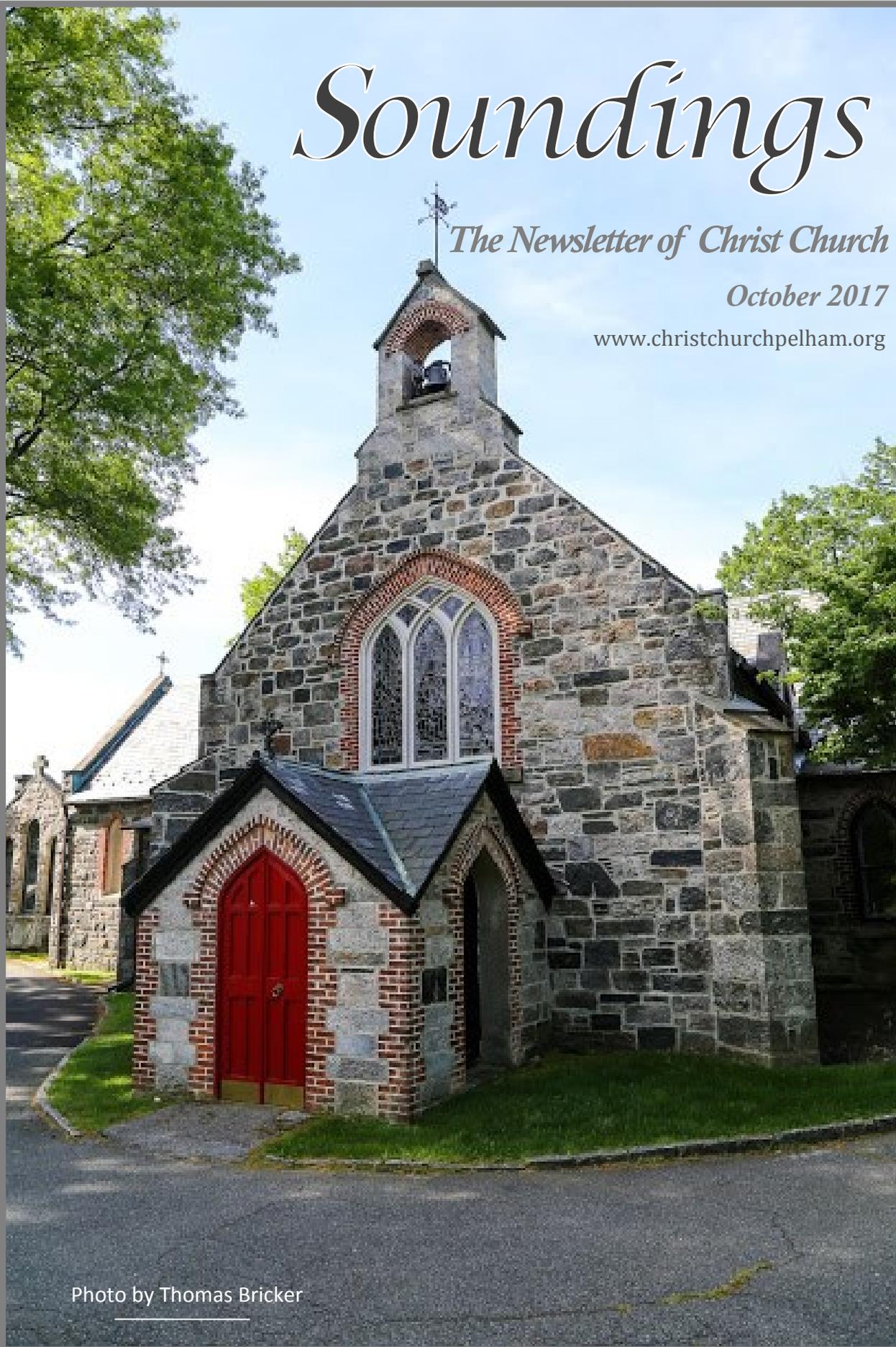


Photo by Thomas Bricker

Inside this issue:

On Matt's Mind: The Role of Volunteers in the Life of the Church	3
A Fresh Start for Church School	4
Behind the Weeks Window	5
The (brand new) Deacon's Letter	6
Long -Distance Chorister Takes Note	7
The Verger's Corner: Walter vs. the Woodchuck	8
Choir News	9
Following Fr. Matt Back to his Roots	10
The Pilgrimage	11
Prepping for Octoberfest	12
Michaelmas	13
Ed Blue, Man of Many Talents	14
A Trip to the Holy Land with Michael Kurth	15
A Volunteer's Eventful Story	16
A New Chapter for Abby West	17
Three Newcomer Profiles	18
Baptisms	19
Did You Know? Inside Our Music Library	20
It's All About the Flowers	21
Calendar pages	22, 23,24

Soundings is published by the parishioners of Christ Church to teach, provide information, promote events and parish life, to pass down the history of the church, and engage us in the life of the community.

Missy Kisob, editor, kisob@msn.com
Erik Ipsen, deputy editor, erikipsen@me.com
Michael Fawcett, deputy editor, mwfawcett12@gmail.com
Etta Gumbs, deputy editor, emg1717@me.com

Editor's Note:

We say goodbye to writer Abby West in this issue as she moves away to start a new job. We miss you Abby and wish you every success.

Meanwhile, Etta Gumbs joined our *Soundings* family this summer and she has hit the ground running. We're thrilled to have her on board.

Many thanks for the contributions that made this issue possible. Special thanks to Deacon Katie for her first Deacon's Letter column and for always having lovely photos of church events when we need them.

If you have a photo, a story or a milestone to share, please contact someone from the staff list above and we'll be happy to work with you.

It's an honor to publish this newsletter on your behalf.

Missy Kisob



Soundings

The Newsletter of Christ Church
Episcopal/ Anglican
The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
1415 Pelhamdale Avenue
Pelham, NY 10803
Telephone: (914)738-5515
Fax: (914) 712-0256
www.christchurchpelham.org

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
The Rev. Deacon Katie Lawrence, *Deacon*
Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*
Walter Roberts, *Verger & Sexton*
Ed Blue, *Sexton*
Michael Kurth, *Seminarian*

The Vestry

The Rector
Kari Black, *Senior Warden*
Carol Ipsen, *Junior Warden*
Jackie Vigil, *Clerk*
Anne Calder, *Treasurer*
Angela Barone
Jeff Bodenmann
Curtis Chase
Alice Dean
Marie Dumas
Amy Heese
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Gavin Leckie
Colette Phipps





What's On Matt's Mind?

The Role of Volunteers in the Life of the Church

*Two months ago, with thousands of volunteers playing vital roles in hurricane-related relief efforts from Texas to Florida, **Soundings** sat down with Father Matt to talk about the role that volunteers play in our church every day and the things they might think of doing in the future.*

"Without volunteers, we can't do anything," he confessed. "Churches need time, talent and money to function."

Typically, Matt points out, new parishioners begin by doing occasional coffee hours and then add other activities over time in an ongoing marriage of their talents and Christ Church's needs. The Episcopal model is for people to deepen their involvement over time and ultimately to join one or two committees. The biggest challenge most people face is finding the time in a world where they have jobs, families, and charitable activities to juggle in addition to church. Matt mentions that when it comes to volunteering to work with the Sunday School, for example, parishioners miss out on much of the service to do so, unless they want to attend two services each Sunday.

Nowhere, perhaps is the role of volunteers as visible as it is around the altar. There the choir, Deacon Katie, acolytes, chalice bearers, readers, and ushers all play their part. "The liturgy is a great example of how there is a role for everybody in the church," he said. "We all share the church's ministry, even when

our roles are different. Just like we all are different parts of the one Body of Christ."

Beyond joining committees, gardening, organizing lectures, cooking meals, laying out the altar, and the like, the church depends on volunteers for what Matt calls their "vision." Several years ago, at Matt's old church, Good Shepherd up in Granite Springs, a parishioner started a poetry club. It met monthly and quickly evolved into a writers' club, which in turn spawned an annual "arts jam" that today draws up to 100 people with a mixture of visual arts, readings, music and, of course, food. In that case, Matt noted that the club's founder certainly put the church's space to good use.

"We have a ton of space here at Christ Church," he said. "The challenge is to find someone with a specific interest who wants to run with it." As another model, he points out that our diocese' own cathedral, Saint John the Divine, has oceans of space in its basement that it gives over to various arts and other groups.

"We have the resource here in Pelham, of our buildings," he notes. "We can put it to use for things that don't have to be overtly religious."

Note:

*If there is a subject you would like to see Father Matt tackle in future issues of **Soundings**, please pass your question on to a member or our editorial team in person, or via text or email. See staff list on page 2.*

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

~Elizabeth Andrew



A Fresh Start for Church School



When students arrived for the first day of Sunday School on Sept. 17, they were met by our new co-directors, Eileen Peluso and Michael Kurth. After weeks of planning, both were excited to get started. Eileen got involved in church school five years ago when then co-heads Marcie Wiehagen and Carol Ipsen recruited her as a teacher. At the time, she thought that getting involved was the right thing to do given that her daughter, Tori, had enrolled for the first time just a year earlier. Eileen recalls that her only preference back then was to teach younger students, so that more experienced teachers could work with the older kids. *"I believe that we all need to give back to the causes and programs that we value and this is why I teach."*

Our seminarian, Michael Kurth, brings many years of experience to his newest (of many) roles at Christ Church, having worked as a church-camp counselor going back as far as 2002, near St. Louis where he was born, as well as in New York City where he has worked and studied. Church School is one of a number of things Michael will be involved with this year as part of his deeper immersion in our youth and family ministries. *"Basically, I see my role as a helping and guiding hand. I look forward to teaching our youth about our shared Christian life, and assisting our teachers in whatever way they need."*

To make a successful Church School, Eileen and Michael will need the support of Christ Church adult members. On the table outside the parish offices, you will find the school sign-up sheets for teachers

and for those who would like to help with special-events (*see latter sheet for calendar of planned activities for the year*). Giving people advanced notice of upcoming activities will hopefully allow adults and youths to plan ahead and participate. Eileen and Michael encourage volunteers to provide a helping hand! If you feel called to spend time with our youth, sign up! Adults are welcome to help as teachers or as assistants. High school students are invited to sign up as assistants.

We break the school year down into four sessions. Sign up for as many or as few as your schedule allows -- even if that is a single event or one session as a teacher. We need your help.

Eileen and Michael are very excited to hold the reins of our Church School this year. Guided by Father Matt, and the advice and help of past directors and teachers, they hope to lead young parishioners to a deeper understanding of our church and its beliefs, and to have some good fun along the way!

Eileen and Michael



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- Proverbs 22:6

The Weeks Window

We, at Christ Church, are blessed to be surrounded by beautiful stained glass windows, some of historical significance. They create a warm ambience and aid in setting the tone for worship. This window is another story entirely. For far too long this weathered expanse of Lexan in our narthex has greeted parishioners and guests, coming and going. It also, unfortunately, dominates the view from the choir loft where our dear late parishioner, Bob Weeks, spent his Sunday mornings for many years.



Bob, who was long bothered by this incongruous eyesore, decided to do something about it. In 2012, he visited *Rohlf's Stained & Leaded Glass* in Mount Vernon, to discuss his ideas for a new window. Bob had specific design elements in mind to ensure that the window would complement and blend with those already in place. He also wanted the large rock outside the window to be a visible part of the design.

A final design was presented to the Rector and Wardens, approved by the Vestry, and Bob's vision was set in motion.

Most regrettably, Bob left our midst before the project's completion, but in the very near future, the beautiful Weeks Window will be installed. We, and generations to follow, will continue to be blessed and inspired by Bob's vision and benevolence. To learn more about Rohlf's and the Weeks Window visit: <http://christchurchpelham.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Weeks-Window-Parish-Presentation.pdf>



Michael Fawcett



Vestry Update: Coming Attractions

Vestry Meetings for 2017:

- October 18
- November 15
- December 13

Some of the projects that the Vestry is working on during the Fall:

- 2018 Annual Report and Budget Prep
- Scheduling a Committee Chair meeting for November
- Discussing Plans for the 175th Anniversary Year
- Confidentiality Protocol as it relates to Pastoral Care
- Encouraging Parishioners to fill leadership roles and positions in key ministries
- Drafting a Social Media Policy
- Discussion and Evaluation of our Ability as a Parish to Financially Support a Second Clergy Position with the Focus being on Outreach and Youth
- Pursuing Diocesan and Other Grants to Address Masonry Repairs to the Roof
- Management of Groups who Lease Parish Space

Vestry meetings are open to all parishioners.

The Deacon's Letter



One of our parishioners was recently faced with a very nerve racking meeting.

My advice was that he pray, but also that he take Jesus with him into that meeting. It's such a simple

thing to do. To picture Jesus and then mentally take him with you into any situation. *"When two or more are gathered in my name, there I am among them."*

Matthew 18:22

When I can't seem to reach God, when I'm in a tough place, if it seems He has not heard me I ask myself "who moved?" That's when I take Jesus with me. When I make a pastoral visit, I bring Jesus with me. I actually ask him to attend. Pastoral visits are one of the gifts of being your Deacon. I know there

are others in the Church who have made visits and I hope they come away with the same feeling of having been the receiver of a wonderful experience.

The pastoral care committee was wonderful over the summer in providing food for one of our seniors, for almost a week. This is a truly dedicated group of people.

Updates:

Plans for senior lunches are in the works. We will have a fall lunch, Christmas lunch and several other gatherings in the winter and spring. Dates will be coming soon.

May God Bless you.

The Rev. Deacon Katie Lawrence

Time Well Spent

Young Volunteers

As many of you know, Christ Church Men's Group's ministry includes its participation in The Brown Bag Lunch Program (BBLP) sponsored by Trinity St. Paul's Church in New Rochelle. What you may not know is that Christ Church's youth also participate in this rewarding ministry. Recently, Charlie Hibbler, Liam Mead and several other youths set aside their day to prepare lunch bags for the BBLP.

They began the day helping to prepare approximately 200 sandwiches by way of a meticulously set up assembly line process. Once the sandwich making was complete, they added potato chips, cookies and juice boxes to the lunch bags. The young men then travelled to Trinity St. Paul's to help distribute the lunches. In addition to the lunch bags prepared by our young men, Trinity St. Paul's also provided



cakes and pies and some clothing for the attendees.

After completing their lunch bag distribution, the young men returned to Christ Church for their own pizza luncheon. Both Liam and Charlie agree that the best part of their day was giving the lunch bags to the attendees and both said they would be happy to participate again.

If you are interested in this program, listen to the announcements for the next youth volunteer opportunity and check the bulletin.

Etta Gumbs

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Long Distance Chorister Takes Note



Some 12 years ago Bob Weeks stood up at a rehearsal of the University Glee Club of New York City in which we were both members, and asked if anyone wanted to join his church choir on a trip to sing in England's

Chichester Cathedral. My hand went up, a move that soon led to my first contact with the choir and people of Christ Church. (It also led to a very memorable trip.)

In Jersey City, where I've lived all my life, I had been a vestry member, warden, diocesan official and member of two churches and their choirs. As the Episcopal Church faded in that area -- six churches closed amid great turmoil in little more than a decade -- I found it no longer possible to experience a meaningful liturgy and good-quality church music. For two years I sang with an Episcopal Church in Montclair, N.J., but that ended abruptly with the sudden departure of the choir director. I was again adrift. That's when Bob Weeks reached out to me and suggested that I come to Christ Church and join the adult choir. I hesitated at first because Pelham

is 35 miles from Jersey City, but I finally made the move about nine years ago and haven't regretted it since.

I'm fond of the many friends I've made in this community. I enjoy the music program that continues to be excellent under Jeffrey Hoffman's direction. It's something that cannot be found in a lot of other churches. Also, as a long-time historic preservationist, I appreciate the care and respect that is taken with the beautiful historic church and grounds. Above all, I appreciate the peace that I found.

I once said to the former rector, Father Randy, that Christ Church had become very meaningful to me and he replied that this wasn't the first time someone had said that to him. I'm glad to see that under Father Matt the parish continues in the faith, peaceful and free of the rancor and divisions that can afflict congregations.

May Christ the Redeemer Church prosper for many years.

Dennis Doran

Gearing up for Christmas

Autumn is always an exciting time when thoughts turn to our favorite holiday traditions. One of those for me and for many others, I hope, is the Christ Church Christmas Pageant.



This year it will be presented on Sunday, December 17th, at 4 p.m. in Hoag Hall. (Mark your calendars!)

Children old enough to follow a flock -- from age three up to and including young teens, are invited and encouraged to join in the fun.

As the production has evolved in recent years, more rehearsal has been required. This year, a concerted effort is being made to accommodate and include children and families who are not able to commit to the full rehearsal schedule, but are eager to get involved by playing some smaller roles on stage or behind the curtain.

Please check upcoming e-blasts and bulletins for more details and dates.

Michael Fawcett

The Verger's Corner

Walter and the Woodchuck Caper



Until Sunday morning, July 23, it had been a typically uneventful summer in the Verger's Corner. But at 7:16 a.m. sharp, when Walter Roberts opened the narthex door to turn on the lights and check the AC, what he saw shocked him. "The whole place looked like it had been torn up," he recalled. "There were pieces of Capri Sun drink boxes all over the place."

Unable to locate the culprit, Walter cleaned up the crime scene, that was when he discovered a hole under the radiator which, he figured, might have allowed the perpetrator to gain entry. On a hunch, he returned to the narthex at 9 p.m., only to find disaster had struck again. He fired off a note to Church Administrator Marie Main, and moved the remaining juice boxes from the donations basket for the Trinity St. Paul's bagged-lunch program to a safer location.

On Monday, Parish Property Management (PPM), which helps the church with maintenance, said they would look into the problem. The trail went cold until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, when Walter discovered a well-fed woodchuck sitting on the table in the Narthex. Quickly, Walter secured the doors to the church and threw open the ones leading outside.



But the culprit refused to budge. When gentle promptings with a broom failed, Walter tried to lure him out with a banana, cheese, and cat food, but no dice. The rodent just stared at him.

After a 45-minute stand-off during which a trapper, contacted by PPM, called and said he'd come over if needed, the furry creature finally exited. But just outside, he turned, sat down, and stared back at the man with the broom closing the doors. Distracted for just a second by a noise, Walter looked away, he turned to look back outside only to find the typically slow-moving mammal had "vanished into thin air."

Epilogue:

No further sign of alleged perp; hole under radiator plugged; juice boxes shifted to secure location. Calm returned to the Verger's Corner.

As told to Erik Ipsen



Outreach Efforts

Hurricane & Disaster Relief Fund:

Please give today and help our partners reach vulnerable communities devastated after Hurricane Irma and other major storms. In the face of what could be a record-breaking hurricane season, please make an urgent gift today to provide relief to devastated communities in the Caribbean and the US.

Click on this link to donate now:

<https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief>

Choir News

Community Thanksgiving Choir–Make A Joyful Noise

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, Christ Church will host the **Pelham Interfaith Council’s** annual Thanksgiving Service. Our parish choir will provide musical leadership, and will rehearse the anthems for that day for the first fifteen minutes of each choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings beginning on October 22nd at 11:30 a.m.

These will be festival anthems (simpler than our standard Sunday fare) and we’d love for members of the congregation who cannot commit to weekly rehearsals throughout the choral season, or those who enjoy singing in our Summer Choir, to come sing with us for this special service.

Please email Jeffrey Hoffman at: jeffrey@christchurchpelham.org to let him know of your interest.

Messiah +Concert to Return to Christ Church this Holiday Season

On Sunday, December 10 at 4 p.m., Christ Church will present the combined choirs of Christ Church and the Huguenot Memorial Church as the Pelham Community Chorus, under the direction of Jeffrey Hoffman and Kathryn Jones in a concert of seasonal choral works highlighting Part I of Handel’s beloved Messiah.

Tickets for this event will be available very soon, and weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals will begin on October 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Anyone interested in participating who isn’t already a member of our parish choir should email Jeffrey Hoffman at: jeffrey@christchurchpelham.org.



Around the Parish



Following Fr. Matt Back to his Roots

On the evening of Tuesday August 15, a group of us from Christ Church went to The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in the city for the Solemn Mass celebrating the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Normally, this is not something I would do, because I'd assume anything described as solemn is going to be just that. The draw in this case, however, was to hear our own rector deliver a sermon at the church where he served as curate early in his ministry.

We assembled at Grand Central and despite the summer heat did a double-time trot over to St. Mary's just off Times Square.

Inside, we found other friends from Christ Church. Fortunately, we arrived early enough to have a look around the vast and magnificent old edifice and even to take a few pictures. When the service began, I quickly found out what a solemn mass entails. Everything but the sermon was sung, solemnly of course. All the rituals and pomp of high church were executed in intricate detail.

As I followed along, I felt drawn into the atmosphere of deep reverence until dense clouds of incense started wafting up before the proclamation of the Gospel. For me, that broke the spell. It became hard to

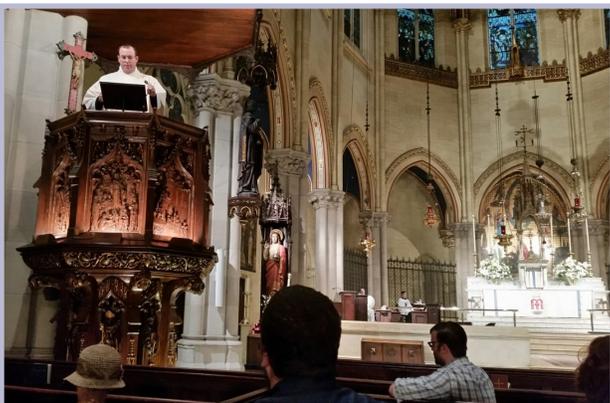
breathe. Thankfully, the cloud cleared enough so that I didn't cough all through the sermon.

The Gospel reading, of course, was Luke 1:46-55, The Magnificat, The Song of Mary. Fr. Matt based his sermon on that reading just as he told us he had been instructed to do years earlier by his mentor, Fr. Stephen Gerth, who still serves as St. Mary's rector.

In his sermon Matt delved into the various meanings of Magnificat, ranging from "to praise" and "to increase", all the way "to change". He noted that all those could be applied to Mary on her faith journey just as they could apply to us on ours. He said the ambiguous nature of Magnificat could be used as a lens through which we praise God, reveal Jesus to the world, increase in faith and be changed into children and heirs of God.

The other highlights of the service were the choir and glorious organ music. The choir sang beautifully, in what Fr. Gerth explained was its only appearance during its summer break. I felt truly blessed to have heard them in that sacred space.

Missy Kisob





Christ Church and Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

AUGUST 20-31, 2018

We invite you to consider a pilgrimage to the Holy Land next August led by the Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector of Christ Church, Pelham. We are partnering in this pilgrimage with the Rev. Randy Alexander, who served as the 14th Rector of Christ Church and currently serves as Rector of Immanuel on the Hill Church in Alexandria, VA. The opportunity to take part in the 2018 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is offered as part of Christ Church's 175th Anniversary Celebration.

BACKGROUND

This pilgrimage builds upon several recent presentations offered at Christ Church including a presentation by parishioner John Lent, Deputy Director of American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), on the current plight of Palestinian Christians in Israel. John encouraged us to see the Holy Land for ourselves. Father Mead and Father Alexander invite you to join them for a once in a life time trip with members, alumni, and friends from Christ Church and Immanuel on the Hill Church.

OUR GUIDE

Our guide will be Iyad Qumri, a tour guide with over 20 years of experience, operating as Qumri Pilgrimages. The tour is intended to provide a sense of history and connection with the world Jesus inhabited. It will also allow us to connect with Palestinian Christian congregations.

Qumri Pilgrimages is highly regarded. Their website is at <https://www.iyadqumripilgrimages.com/>

SIZE OF GROUP & NUMBER OF SPACES

Initially, the trip is open to 22 persons from Christ Church and 22 persons from Immanuel-on-the-Hill. Spaces are available on a first-come basis. After November 1, the trip will be open to the general public and advertised to the broader church and our local communities.

COST

The cost based on double occupancy is estimated at \$2,200 per person with a limited number of single rooms at an additional \$520. Air fare and trip insurance are not included in this estimate.

Those going on the pilgrimage will arrange their own air fare, which will be at least another \$1,000 per person.

RESERVE A PLACE WITH DEPOSIT & QUESTIONS

To reserve a place, we ask for your nonrefundable deposit of \$150 per person by November 1, payable to Christ Church with the memo notation of "Holy Land Pilgrimage". If you're unsure whether to participate, but still interested, let us know that also and we will put you on a reserve list.

Reservations by Email

Please contact Marie Main at marie@christchurchpelham.org

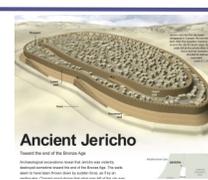
Reservations by Mail

Christ Church - 1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham NY 10803

Reservations by Phone

914-738-5515

Other Questions: You may email questions to Matthew Mead at matthew@christchurchpelham.org



Prepping for Oktoberfest: Sausages from Scratch

Led by Jeffrey, Fr. Matt and Deacon Katie, a group of volunteers once again ground large quantities of fresh meat, seasoned it and stuffed it into sausage casings in preparation for Oktoberfest. This appears to be turning into a Christ Church tradition. Sausage making in the Undercroft!



Michaelmas and Oktoberfest



The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels was a festive celebration at Christ Church. It was marked by our newly adopted tradition of Oktoberfest followed by the celebration of Holy Eucharist with Bishop Dietsche.

For the Oktoberfest, a whole pig was roasted in a roasting box and large amounts of sausages, made

from scratch by parishioners a week in advance, were cooked on an open grill that evening.

It was truly a feast day. There were two heaped trays of roast pork, several platters of knockwurst, bratwurst and at least two other kinds of wurst, as well as an assortment of festive side dishes and desserts.

Close to 100 people sat down to a delicious dinner at 6 p.m. then walked over to the sanctuary for mass at 7:30 p.m.

Bishop Dietsche delivered the homily. He spoke about travelling to Alaska with over 100 other Episcopal Bishops for the House of Bishops gathering. They blessed the land and everything

and everyone in it, citing the need for our stewardship of the earth. He quoted the reading from genesis about Jacob's ladder and how Jacob came to realize that the space he was in was sacred and he had not known it. Could the same be said of us?

Traditionally, a visitation by a bishop is an occasion for people to be received into the church, for baptisms and or confirmations. This Michaelmas, Joseph Goonan was formally received into the church after having attended service here for over ten years.

Missy Kisob



Ed Blue, Man of Many Talents



Ed Blue still remembers the look on Father Hoag’s face when he first saw the newly refurbished parquet floor around the altar. “He just started smiling,” said Ed. And with good reason, the wood had been in such bad shape that many thought it had to go. But

that was before Ed stripped it down and applied seven coats of wax.

That was two years after Ed signed on as the church’s sexton, and it set the tone for what he has been able to do around Christ Church for the 41 years since, making him by far our senior-most staffer. Most weeks Ed works every day but Fridays, at everything from cleaning to coffee brewing.

So, what’s his top job? “I love all of them,” he says. Over his four-plus decades, Ed had seen many changes from the opening up of the Parish Hall ceiling to filling that room with more events. It’s more work,

as are tenants from AA to Gym Dandy, but Ed prefers it to the quiet life he led in Marshallville, Georgia before serving in the army in Vietnam, France and Germany, mustering out as a sergeant in 1970.

Ed and his wife live in New Rochelle with three grandchildren – out of a total of 10 – who they took in as infants. Today that trio, ranging in age from 11 to 16, come into church to help with the dusting sometimes in return for lunch with grandad at Wendy’s down the Post Road.

“People here are friendly,” says Ed. “They say I do a good job.”

Soon, he plans to put that to the test by doing something that hasn’t been done in years – shampooing the big, much-spilled-on rug in the parish hall that once adorned Fr. Hoag’s office. “I’ll do a test strip first and see how it goes.”

Erik Ipsen

Around the Diocese

The 241st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York NY 10025, on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the Convention will convene at 9:30 am. The delegates from Christ Church this year are Andy Hibbler and Sandra Rivera.

Diocesan Anti-racism Initiatives: The purpose of the Diocesan anti-racism training is to help us become aware of how the sin of racism impacts ALL of our lives, and how we all unconsciously and consciously participate in racist systems. Dialog is the foundation of the two-day workshop. We use group exercises and examine scientific and historical evidence (video format) concerning the origins of the concept of race and its legacy. Of the hundreds of workshop participants, over the past four years, more than 75% have found the workshop to be “very useful” or “extremely useful” in their work and daily lives.

Anti-Racism Training workshops are typically held three times a year in the winter, spring and early fall.

Questions? Please call Arlene Bullard at (212) 932-7363 or email her: abullard@dioceseny.org

A Trip to the Holy Land with Michael Kurth

A golden dome. Ancient stones. Hills lined with homes. A massive concrete barricade. These are a few of the things – modern and timeless – that one



sees as they scan the landscape of Jerusalem.

Through the generosity of our parish and many benefactors, I visited that city and

many more over the course of a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land last winter in conjunction with Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

Our non-traditional tour had many goals, among them: to visit and walk the land that Jesus walked; to better understand the situation in Israel and the occupied territories of the West Bank; and to learn about the status of Christians in the Holy Land and the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. For four Sundays in July, during meetings in the library, I was glad to share pictures from my pilgrimage and

discuss Bible passages linked to them. I am grateful for the engaging dialogue and thoughtful questions parishioners posed each week. Re-telling the story of my pilgrimage, seeing again the pictures, linking the sites to scripture, and discussing everything, brought the pilgrimage back to life in new ways for me.

I pray that all who participated learned something about the Holy Land and were moved to engage more deeply in scripture and study. If you did not get the chance to participate, please let me know. I would be delighted to share some photos and stories with you!

Finally – if you have the opportunity and ability, do join Father Matthew Mead and Father Randy Alexander on their Holy Land pilgrimage in August 2018. I know it will be the experience of a lifetime – just as my pilgrimage was for me!



Michael Kurth

+ Adult Christian Learning Committee 2017-2018 Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENING BIBLE STUDY - October 17th and 24th
7:30p.m. in the library

Reviewing scripture from Sunday past
- Led by Fr. Matt and Curtis Chase

MOVIE NIGHT—November 14th at 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther, The Idea that Changed the World
- Led by Michael Moynihan

MUSIC FOR ADVENT-November 29th at 7:30 p.m.
Preparing the Way for the Messiah
- Led by Jeffrey Hoffman.

LAST THINGS – December 3rd at 9 a.m.

Wills and last wishes
- Led by Janet Kornfeld

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS – December 12th at 7:30 p.m.

The book: *On Tyranny, Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder
- Led by Alice Dean, Colette Phipps, Janet Kornfeld and Missy Kisob

- ◆ For more information pick up a brochure from the Narthex or in front of the Parish office.

A Volunteer's Story: Jennifer Alleyne's Eventful Parish Life



Shortly after she began coming to Christ Church in 1997, Jennifer Alleyne earned a graduate degree in Human Resources Management. These days, she thinks she could use one in event planning as well.

As head of the 8-person Fellowship Committee in recent years, she has had her hands full, organizing a growing number of events including the Parish Thanksgiving dinner, the Parish Cookout, the recently instituted Oktoberfest dinner, the Annual Meeting brunch, the Ascension Day steak dinner, and more. That means making sure that we have enough of what it takes to make each gathering work -- from cutlery, to food, to people to help set things up, and clean up and clear it all away at the end.

"It's an extremely active committee and I like that," says Jennifer, who moved to Mt. Vernon from Brooklyn, and who discovered Christ Church via then-neighbor Hildy Munch. "Being involved is very

rewarding, and it gives you a sense of the parish community."

Still, when she was first asked to join the committee, she had enough sense to decline. "I knew it involved a lot of work." Since then, however, Jennifer has become one of the church's most active volunteers, serving also on the Evangelism Committee.

Today, she also oversees the Coffee Hours each week, plus co-chairing the Tag Sale Committee who preside over the weeks-long effort of sorting and pricing that precedes the sales.

Happily, many parishioners stop and thank her for her tireless efforts. Some even ask how she manages it all, and one member went so far recently as to tell Jennifer that all her hard work must surely have earned her a place in heaven.

In the here and now, Jennifer sums up her efforts as "a fun way to contribute time and talent to the church and to serving God."

Eric Ipsen

Summer at Church



MILESTONES

A New Chapter for Abby West

About nine years ago, my husband came home from work and told me about a lovely church in Pelham that he'd been to that day on a service call for the copier company he worked for. He said it had a great Sunday School, and we should check it out with our two young children.

We started attending services at Christ Church that year. The kids began Sunday School, we went to the Newcomers Dinner, and the congregation embraced us.

A year and a half later my marriage ended in devastating fashion, and my true relationship with Christ



Church began.

Over the next eight years, the people of Christ Church sustained me and my family in so many ways — from its rectors

(Father Randy, Father Allan and Father Matt), to its vestry, to its congregants. It has been my spiritual home, comforting me through many troubles as the challenges of suddenly becoming a single parent wore me down. Even when my attendance was spotty, I knew I could return and be warmly received, hear the scripture that I needed, and re-center myself.

I eventually found my footing and looked to give back in whatever ways I could, whenever I could -- including writing for *Soundings*. Meanwhile, one of my children served as an acolyte and the other assisted with Sunday School.

When a new job opportunity led me to move away last summer, I knew that I was leaving as a more spiritually sound person, walking more confidently in my faith thanks to my time at Christ Church.



Abby West

The Lord Bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Parishioner's Niece Wins Seat in the British Parliament



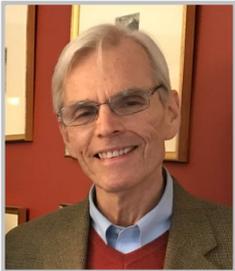
In June, Eleanor Smith, the niece of parishioner Monica King, became the first black person ever elected to the British Parliament from England's Midlands.

The election of the 59-year-old operating-room nurse came six years after she'd become the first black woman to head Britain's largest public-sector union. Her family emigrated to the UK from Barbados in the 1950s.

"The family is extremely proud of her," said Monica. "My daughter thinks this is the coolest thing since sliced bread."

Newcomer Profiles

Fred de Barros



It was Christ Church Deacon, Katie Lawrence, who first got her neighbor, Fred de Barros, interested in Christ Church. Now, a year after he began attending, he says he's gotten comfortable with the church and a service that reminds him a lot of his former parish, The Church of the Resurrection in Rye. He also praises the warmth of our clergy not to mention the interesting talks and events Christ Church offers. "After decades of just being a member of a church, I now feel like a member of a church family," he says.

Fred grew up as a Roman Catholic. In his former parish, he served as a lector and deliverer of donated

bread to a local soup kitchen. Here he serves as lector at the 10 o'clock service and is interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister as well. He volunteers with Meals on Wheels in Port Chester, where he also works with the Caritas soup kitchen.

A graduate of Harrison High School, Fred went on to study business at Westchester Community College and Pace University. He works in the membership department at the Rye YMCA.

He lives in Rye and is father of two children, Erick and Leah, both in their 40's. A Vietnam veteran, Fred is a commander of the American Legion Post 128 in Rye. He enjoys swimming, kayaking, reading, and loves to spend time with his three grandsons.

Mary Prime-Nelson

While looking for a church home, Mary Prime-Nelson learned about Christ Church from her neighbor, Betty Hoover, and she began worshipping here last spring.

Mary and husband Evanslee Nelson were born and raised in Trinidad & Tobago. There she worshipped at a slightly different Christ Church, an Anglican one.

Currently, the couple resides in New Rochelle with their 13-year-old daughter, Christinamarie, a student at the School of the Holy Child in Rye. Christinamarie enjoys acting, singing and dancing. She has yet to sign up for Sunday school, but Mary plans to get her involved in the near future.

After graduating from high school in Trinidad Mary came up to New York, where she earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Hunter College, majoring in Music and in Communication Sciences. Her husband, meanwhile, holds a graduate degree in Public Administration at Baruch College.

Mary works as a speech-language pathologist at Montefiore Hospital. For recreation, much like her daughter, she enjoys music, dancing and acting.

Mary says that she would like to become more involved with our church community once her schedule permits her to do so. She also mentions that some time soon she would like to have her daughter confirmed.

Newcomer Profiles

Denise and Philip Peroune



In the nearly two years that Philip and Denise Peroune have worshipped at Christ Church, they have come to love Father Matt's sermons and the closeness of a small congregation.

The couple, he from Guyana and she from Trinidad & Tobago, resides in New Rochelle.

Their two older children, Philip-Jason and Jared live in Japan and Miami, respectively. Justin and Janine, the younger half of the family, live in New Rochelle. Justin, 25, enjoys basketball, and Janine, 19, likes reading as well as watching soccer and cricket.

It was Janine's search for a church with sacraments and parishioners her age, that first brought them to Christ Church.

Philip grew up in the Anglican faith and Denise grew up as a Methodist. At his prior church, Philip served as an Acolyte, Acolyte Ministry Coordinator, and member of the Men's Group and the Pastor Parish Committee. Denise was a Sunday school teacher and external Communications Coordinator.

Here at Christ Church, Philip and Denise have already signed on with the Pastoral Care Ministry. Both Philip and Denise work for Monroe College, Philip in the International Admissions Office and Denise as a Graduate School professor. They both went on to graduate schools elsewhere, where Denise earned a PhD and Philip an MS.

Philip's hobbies are Badminton, watching sports and cooking. Denise enjoys gardening.



Baptisms

Sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever



Liam Janas

Date: August 20, 2017

Parents: Zbigniew and Maryana



Leo DeSales Mazza

Date: September 10, 2017

Parents: Brian and Chloe



Eve Louise Martucci

Date: October 8, 2017

Parents: Ronald and Kate



Did You Know? Discovering Our Music Library

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC! In your travels between the Sanctuary and Hoag Hall, have you ever noticed those two narrow, nondescript doors labeled “Youth Office/Music Library 1” and “Music Library 2/Women’s Robing”, and wondered what exactly lies inside?

Those two small rooms house the wealth of music that enhances our worship and liturgies throughout the year. Our library boasts over 1,040 individual titles, including Anthems, Motets, Canticles, Mass and Service settings; as well as collections of Anthems and Motets; plus 40 larger-scale choral works including Solemn Masses, Requiem Masses, Oratorios, and Cantatas. Many of these works also include orchestrations. In layman’s terms: Those two rooms are where our sheet music lives.

Since it began over a century ago, the collection has grown in fits and starts. The oldest piece of perfectly intact printed music dates to 1903.

Cataloging systems have changed dramatically over time, as has the price of printed music. For much of



the early twentieth century, Anthems and Motets cost between 5¢ and 25¢. In keeping with the rate of inflation on most everyday items, over the last 120 years, the average price of music has risen to \$3.75.

Distributing music for rehearsals, something often done weeks in advance, and then re-filing several pieces of music for 20 or more choristers each week, is a demanding and never-ending job. Several volunteers have devoted countless hours to assist with Choir Librarian duties over the last several years, most notably Barbara Nelson, Jessica Jaffe, Margaret Young, Patrick Beeson, Simon Cram, and Missy Kisob.

While our Music Library may look small and goes largely un-noticed, the treasures within it enable the choir to make memorably joyous sounds each Sunday morning as well as on holidays. Good things do often come in small packages.

Michael Fawcett with Jeffrey Hoffman



All About the Flowers

“More than anything, I must have flowers always, always”.
~Claude Monet

Every week, we are blessed with wonderful new flower arrangements on both the High Altar and the Bolton Altar. They come courtesy of our Flower Guild, which is chaired by Patrice Fitzpatrick, and co-chaired by Amie Carter. Both Amie and Patrice have been members of the Guild for a few years and they enjoy being able to express their artistic side through the flowers.

Each week, guild members prepare and set up the new arrangements. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this vital ministry by contacting Marie Main in the parish office and making a donation for flowers for one or both altars. The Guild member then crafts an arrangement that reflects both the season and the current period in the church calendar. Parishioners who sponsor altar flowers are consulted on the type of flowers, color and arrangement. Flowers are placed on the altars

on Saturday. They are removed on Tuesday, thinned out and distributed to various parish offices.



Do you ever wonder how guild members can create different arrangements each week? It’s a team effort. For instance, Emily Kane, former Chair of the Flower Guild, gives occasional flower arrangement classes to the members. Other members teach each other, and sometimes reach out to local florists for advice and guidance. One way or the other, every week we all benefit from this team effort.

Etta Gumbs

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope”
Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady of the United States



Emily Kane giving a flower arrangement class

To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things.
It is how much love we put in the doing that makes our offering something beautiful for God.

Mother Teresa



October 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pentecost 17 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 9 a.m. Men's Group Meeting 9 a.m. Buildings Ministry Meeting 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Church School Planning Session 5 p.m. Blessing of the Animals	2 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	3 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	4 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Men's Group Sandwich Making	5 9-11:30am BBLP at Trinity St. Paul's 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	6	7
8 Pentecost 18 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 10 a.m. Baptism Prayers for Healing No Church School	9 Columbus Day Parish Office Closed No Morning Prayer	10 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Rector's Bible Study	11 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal	12 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	13	14 Diocesan Global Mission Fair
15 Pentecost 19 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 2018 Ministry Plans and Budget requests due 9a.m. –12 p.m. Final photos for Parish Directory	16 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	17 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Rector's Bible Study	18 St. Luke, Evangelist 10 a.m. Said Eucharist 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	19 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	20	21
22 Pentecost 20 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 4 p.m. Confirmation Class 5 p.m. Come As You Are Service	23 St. James of Jerusalem 10 a.m. Said Eucharist	24 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Rector's Bible Study	25 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal	26 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	27 10 a.m-4 p.m. Mini Tag Sale (Parish Hall)	28 St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles 10 a.m. Said Eucharist 10-4 p.m. Mini Tag Sale (Parish Hall)
29 Pentecost 21 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 11 a.m. Halloween Party 5 p.m. Leadership Reception	30 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	31 Vigil of All Saints 10 a.m. Said Eucharist 			BBLP = Brown Bag Lunch Program	



November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BBLP = Brown Bag Lunch Program			1 All Saints 10 a.m. Said Eucharist 4p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:30p.m. Men's Group Sandwiches 7:30 p.m. All Saints Day Eucharist	2 All Souls' Day 9-11:30 a.m. BBLP at Trinity St. Paul's 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	3	4
5 Pentecost 22 All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 9 a.m. Men's Group Meeting 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist Family Sunday – No Church School Commitment Sunday with Festive Brunch	6 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	7 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Study- pending	8 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	9 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	10 Veteran's Day Observed Parish Office Closed	11 Diocesan Convention
12 Pentecost 23 8 a.m. Said Eucharist Prayers for Healing 9 a.m. Confirmation Class 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 10 a.m. Baptism	13 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	14 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Movie Night: Martin Luther	15 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	16 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner with Silent Auction	17	18 2018 Annual Ministry Reports for annual report due
19 Pentecost 24 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 4p.m. Pelham Interfaith Service	20 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	21 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Study- pending	22 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal	23 10 a.m. Eucharist with Hymns Parish Office Closed <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Parish Office Closed	25
26 Christ the King 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 10 a.m. Special Tree Lighting	27 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	28 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	29 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Music for Advent with Jeffrey Hoffman	30 St. Andrew, Apostle 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist		

Isaiah 9: 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 12-6 p.m. Youth
3 First Sunday of Advent 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 9 a.m. Men's Ministry Meeting 9 a.m. Wills and Last Wishes seminar. 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 10 a.m. Ornament Making 4 p.m. Greening of the Parish 4 p.m. Confirmation Class 5 p.m. Come as You Are Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Potluck and Caroling	4 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	5 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	6 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Men's Group Sandwich Making 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	7 9-11:30 a.m. BBLP at Trinity St. Paul's 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	8	9
10 Advent 2 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant Practice Prayers for Healing Choir Concert Evening – Advent Lessons and Carols & reception pending	11 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	12 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Courageous Conversations Book Discussion	13 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	14 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	15	16
17 Advent 3 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant Practice 4 p.m. Christmas Pageant	18 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	19 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	20 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal	21 St. Thomas the Apostle 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	22	23
24 Advent 4 Christmas Eve 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist No Church School Christmas Eve Services	25 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Festive Reception <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr	27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents' Day	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 8 a.m. Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist No Church School						