



Soundings

The Newsletter of Christ Church

February 2017

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



On December 18th more than 150 parishioners and guests filled Hoag Hall for the annual Children's Christmas Pageant. Under the direction of Michael Fawcett, with the support of choir-master Jeffrey Hoffman and Carla Carroll, volunteers from the senior choir, plus several youths and parents working backstage, a cast of 20 children, ages 3 to 13, delivered a heartwarming production. It included a short play, carol sing-along, not to mention, of course, a colorfully costumed pantomime of the Nativity story. Discovering and sharing our

own unique gifts was the theme of both the play, "A Different Way," and of two original songs.

This theme was beautifully conveyed in several vocal and instrumental solos, as well as in the children's artwork featured in the show's printed program.

At one point, the cast presented gifts at the manger. Along with presents collected earlier from parishioners, the gifts were delivered, in partnership with The Children's Heart Foundation of New York, to children spending Christmas in local hospitals.

In customary Christ Church style, the

program was followed by a warm and bounteous reception hosted by the Thursday Morning Bible Study Group.

Michael Fawcett



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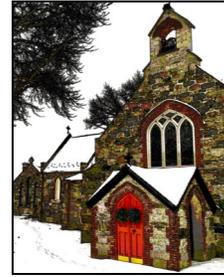
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Soundings is published by the parishioners of Christ Church to teach, provide information, promote events and parish life, pass down the history of the church, and engage us in the life of the community.

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Soundings

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WHAT'S ON MATT'S MIND?

Celebrating a Major Milestone

It's never too early to begin planning for big events. When Soundings sat down with Father Matt in mid-December, a time when most parishioners were still planning for Christmas, he was already focusing on a date in late April of 2018.

"Yes, it seems a little far off, but it's not too early to start getting it on people's calendars," he said, referring to the looming date -- April 28 of next year -- of Christ Church's 175th birthday. Word of that milestone landed in Matt's email inbox shortly after his arrival in Pelham. The message came from Wayne Kempton, the Episcopal Diocese of New York's archivist, and it had lots of attachments. Among them was a scanned copy of the handwritten address given by Reverend Robert Bolton at the laying of the cornerstone on April 28, 1843.

Matt being Matt, he sees this as a terrific opportunity for a party, for fellowship, for a special Eucharist and, of course, for fund raising. "The history of the church



is clearly important, and it should be celebrated," he said. "Many churches built as long ago as ours have not survived the rigors of time. We are lucky to have our original building still standing. It has since been added to over the years."

Even the name has been expanded. "That came in the 1970s when Christ Church merged with The Church of the Redeemer, which had originally been founded by members of the Bolton family. The Church of the Redeemer was originally located on Second Avenue in Pelham. That location was sold and a new building was built on Fifth Avenue. In the 1970s the Diocese of New York embarked on a strategic plan called "Mission 72" which spurred conversations between The Church of the Redeemer and Christ Church about the long-term vitality and viability of having two Episcopal churches in Pelham. Over the course of several years the two churches merged. The merged

churches were dubbed the Parish of Christ the Redeemer. The last service celebrated at The Church of the Redeemer was on March 20, 1977, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The Fifth Avenue church building was sold to the town and is now known as the Daronco Town House at 20 Fifth Avenue."



As for how to celebrate the legacy of the town's oldest house of worship, Matt has some ideas. Among them: - a charity golf outing at Pelham Country Club; a reunion, inviting ex-parishioners and descendants of Reverend Bolton to attend; an anniversary dinner in the Parish Hall; church tours open to the greater community, which would include visiting other local churches that have Bolton windows.

He also wonders if we could offer all those activities over the course of a weekend à la carte fashion, and then have everyone gather together at our church for a celebratory dinner at the end. Preceding that would come the most important event of all, Holy Eucharist, ideally one that would include Bishop Dietsche.

"There's even a terrific "Thanksgiving for the church liturgy" for it," he said, pulling out a copy of the Book of Common Prayer and thumbing through to page 578.

With so much to do, Matt has already begun. He's formed a 175th Anniversary Committee and has even begun to populate it. "John Lent has agreed to chair the committee, and we are looking for anyone interested in serving."

Erik Ipsen



The Making of the Christmas Pageant



Charlie McKee



Riley McGrory



By Sofia Ironside



By Scarlett Carroll



Kathryn Alexander



Christmas at Christ Church



From the appearance of the Advent wreath and the "Greening of the Church," the seasons of Advent and Christmas at Christ Church offered many opportunities to make the journey to the manger: to reflect, to share, to sing, and to celebrate the good tidings of great joy.

On the evening of December 11, the adult choir and several of the faithful gathered for Advent Lessons and

Carols. This prayerful, reflective service featured readings and songs of creation, prophesy and anticipation of the Nativity. A cozy and festive reception followed in the library.

Christmas Eve services, both at 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. brought eager, happy crowds of parishioners, visitors, extended families and students home for the holidays to pray, sing and commune at the manger. Both services were preceded by beautiful music from our Adult Choir and a

woodwind ensemble, masterfully conducted by Jeffrey Hoffman. Candlelight, incense and carols intensified the warm spirit of welcome, community and hope. Those who returned on Christmas Sunday morning enjoyed both celebratory worship and a warm, hearty champagne brunch. Christ Church offers something special in every season, but for this writer, December sees Christ Church at its best!

Michael Farwett



Did You Know ?



The Fight Over Free Pews

It was not until 1920 that all pews in the church became free. Previously, parishioners could pay an annual fee to rent the seats of their choice. Many well-to-do families did so, reserving their places closest to the altar. Backers of the practice insisted it made church on Sunday feel more like an extension of their home. One of them even vowed to have it carved in stone on her memorial tablet that: "She held out for pew rent."

Today, nearly a century after seating became free and unassigned, you may notice that most people still prefer to sit in the same part of the church each week--if not in the same place in the exact same pew. Only now, they don't have to pay for the privilege.

The Verger's Corner



Overseeing the Acolytes Guild, which is open to anyone over the age of 9, always stands out for me as one of my happiest responsibilities. We currently have 19 acolytes. They assist in worship by carrying the processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, carrying candles or "torches," and assisting a deacon, priest or bishop in the rites of the Liturgy. Each Sunday (and many holy days) we count on them to don their robes and help make the services flow.

Sadly, for me, this year three of our acolytes-- James Bricker, Alexander Calder, and Owen Swanson--will go



off for college. After having led them and worshiped alongside them for an entire decade, I will certainly miss them. Over the years, I have seen many come and go, but these three have really hung in there for the full experience. I am very proud of them, and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Last year all our acolytes finished on a strong note when I escorted 10 of them to the Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. After signing in on October 22, we had our choice of workshops ranging from *Liturgy 101*; to

Vestments and Vessels, what we use and why we use it; to Holy Smoke, Thurifer Education. The event ended with a Eucharist followed by photos on the cathedral steps.

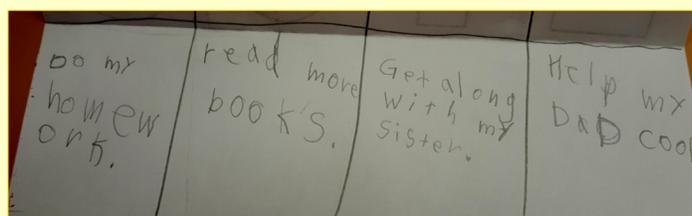
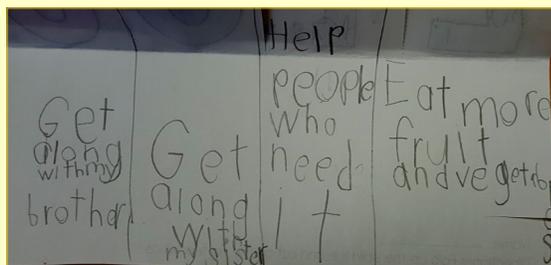
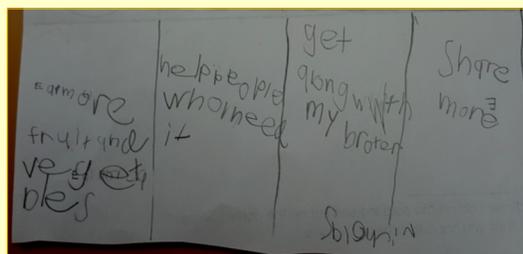
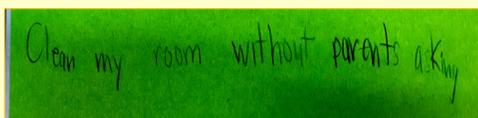
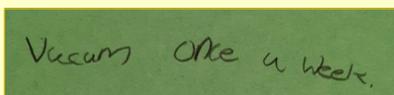
In closing, I would like to offer this prayer for all our Acolytes:

“Gracious God, bless us your acolytes with reverent hearts and steady hands, that we may glorify you by our service at your altar and in the world.”

*Walter Roberts
Verger*



New Year's Resolutions from our Church School



Deacon Katie Lawrence: Wearer of Many Hats



In her seven years as our deacon, Katie Lawrence has become a familiar, highly-visible figure in our parish--serving at the altar, reading the gospel lesson, and playing other roles ranging from making pastoral care visits to organizing senior lunches.

What most of us don't know, however, is how much she does for others outside of our own church community.

Closer to her home in Rye, for over 25 years she has served on the board

of Meals on Wheels for Rye/Port Chester, which delivers nearly 30 hot meals each day. At least once a month, she personally handles the Port Chester delivery route, always checking in with her clients to see if they are doing well.

At *The Osborn*, a senior independent living/assisted living residence in Rye, for the last dozen years, she has assisted at religious services and visited residents on an on-call basis.

Since 2011, she also has served on the Women's Interfaith Committee in Rye, which meets to discuss common interests among the churches and

synagogues and to plan activities that all can enjoy. More recently, Katie has worked with Caritas, which provides food, clothing, financial counseling, and education to families in need in the Port Chester area. Katie preps and serves food at their soup kitchen.

Asked what she has gleaned from all her volunteer activities, Katie answered, "I live in a constant state of gratitude for all I have."

Barbara Nelson

Getting to Know Absalom Jones



Absalom Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave, and purchased her freedom with his earnings.

Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. During a Sunday service when

ushers attempted to remove them, the Blacks indignantly walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communication with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church, which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1, that they be received as an organized body; 2, that they have control over their local affairs; 3, that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was

admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Taken from: *Holy Women, Holy Men Celebrating the Saints Church Publishing, New York*

Thanksgiving Dinner Draws a Crowd

Thanksgiving Dinner at Christ Church was once again a hit. More than 100 people turned out for an evening of warm fellowship and good food. Extra tables were put up to accommodate the crowd, as those in attendance enjoyed the potluck dinner that included numerous turkeys, lots of delicious trimmings, and a variety of side dishes and desserts.

The corridor between Hoag Hall and the library was the scene of our Silent Auction. The walls were lined with colorful tables laden with a wide selection of beautifully

wrapped goodies. The auction, which went on all through the dinner, was a success.

At Fr. Matt's prompting, everyone put something away before leaving, which made the clean-up go quickly and smoothly. Many hands certainly made light work that night and ended an already enjoyable evening on another high note. Congratulations to the Fellowship Committee for a wonderful event.



Annual Meeting Recap...

- The full Annual Report is available online and hard copies are available at the church.
 - Father Matt gave his report and highlighted several things from the Annual Report, including By-Law Revision, Budget, Worship attendance and news.
 - Senior Warden Kari Black reported on the Nomination and Election Process.
 - Treasurer Anne Calder answered additional questions about the Budget.
 - New members (including those from recently closed Trinity Church in Mount Vernon) were recognized.
 - Kari Black and Father Matt thanked staff, officers, chairs of committees and all volunteers. In particular, Junior Warden John Lent, was thanked for his marvelous service as he steps down at the end of his term.
- **Congratulations to those elected!**
 - ◇ Carol Ipsen was elected as Junior Warden.
 - ◇ Alice K. Dean, Jack Kaufman and Colette Phipps were each elected to three year terms on the Vestry.
 - ◇ Laura Toro was elected to a two year term on the Vestry.
 - ◇ Curtis Chase and Sandra Rivera were elected as Delegates to the 2017 Diocesan Convention.
 - ◇ Andrew Hibbler was elected as Alternate Delegate to the 2017 Diocesan Convention.

Finding Your Ministry



Chances are you already know Marie Main, Parish Administrator at Christ Church. Between her work in the church office, the bulletin, her efforts to comfort the bereaved, her coffee hour meet and greet, Marie knows practically everyone and hears almost everything, both pleasant and occasionally unpleasant. Marie grew up Catholic, and raised her daughter Alison as a Catholic as

well. But after Marie came to work at Christ Church, she found herself drawn to services and sermons that touched her heart. She has been a devoted parishioner ever since.

“I love it here. For me, Christ Church has granted me an opportunity to make many new friends. It’s given me more of a spiritual base than I’ve ever had before. And it’s given me more than I could possibly give back,” she says. “Former rector Father

Randy would say, ‘Marie this is your Ministry. This is not a job.’ And he was so right.”

Her message to newcomers: Attend everything at least once. “Come to as many liturgies, programs and fun events as are offered at Christ Church.” Get involved - there’s so much to gain. Don’t be shy,” she says. “It’s how you become part of this amazing family. “Trust me, you will get more in return than you can possibly give.”

Abby West

Trinity Brown Bag Lunch Program Up and Humming

Our work with the Trinity Brown Bag Lunch program in 2017 is off to an excellent start thanks to a growing group of parishioner volunteers. On Wednesday, January 4 -- and again on February 1-- the Church's newly organized Men's Group joined the cause by doing the shopping and making over 200 sandwiches in our library. The following morning, several of the men plus other volunteers met at Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Rochelle, where they assembled bag lunches and distributed them to people in need. The Outreach Committee thanks everyone who supported this program, including those who purchased Christmas cards. The proceeds will be used to buy the meat, cheese, bread, condiments and paper goods

needed each month. Meanwhile, ongoing donations of cookies and juice boxes will help us provide all the lunches each month.

It's not too late to join the fun. We have agreed to make up and distribute lunches on the first Thursday of



every month. The men's group plans to prepare the sandwiches on the Wednesday evening before the first Thursday, and we can always use more helpers on Thursday morning. The time commitment is from roughly 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Marie Dumas at 212.920.5511 or by email at mariedumasfel@gmail.com

Marie Dumas



If you're planning to participate in a social or charity event of some sort that you think others in the parish might be interested in, please contact Marie in the Parish office or a member of the Communications Committee so we can help you spread the word.



Adult Christian Learning Ministry: Three Memorable Evenings

The Adult Christian Learning Ministry recognizes that the Scriptures are central to the Anglican tradition. That is why our weekly morning bible study group and our periodic evening biblical programs seek to increase parishioners' knowledge of Scripture and its connection to our contemporary lives.

Parsing Paul's Letter to the Romans

In our initial bible program of the 2016-17 year, on the evening of November 25, Father Matt gave the first of a two-part backgrounder on Paul's Letter to the Romans. Matt noted that this is one of the most significant of Paul's letters, because it shows some of the many hurdles he faced in his effort to establish the church. During that early time, for example, the place of Gentiles in the new Christian community was a major issue. Did they have to follow the old Jewish laws or should new ones be created that would apply to everyone?



In this first session, Fr. Matt sketched out the historical context of Paul's letter to a group of 28 people in the first hour and then opened up a lively half hour discussion. He concluded by handing out study sheets (available at the church office) that parishioners can use as they read the letter in preparation for the concluding meeting scheduled for the late winter. For that, Matt has promised a talk that will include "a bit of controversy, weird twists, and juicy revelations".

Coming up sometime in Lent, the ministry will look at the gospel of Mark through the eyes of two well-known biblical scholars.

Alice Dean

Understanding Christian Icons



Not knowing what to expect and simply hoping to learn a lot more about religious icons, I attended the Adult Christian

Learning meeting on November 15 in the library led by our seminarian, Michael Kurth. The topic of religious icons that Michael had come across on his recent trip to eastern Russia, piqued my interest. However, I wasn't sure whether the subject would be a little too heavy for an evening gathering after a long day at work. In the end, I was very pleased with his presentation. Michael wove together deeply-rooted theological insights with symbolism, history, and informative personal vignettes--and he coupled that with his lively wit and good humor. It all made for an entertaining evening.

Particularly impressive was how Michael drew us into the discussion by setting aside some time for audience participation. He distributed several prints of icons and asked us to try to identify their historical basis--what biblical story they were part of--by using the tips he had shared with us in his lecture. The exercise was fun and, much to my surprise, I got a couple of them correct. Michael aced



his task, and I can't thank him enough for sharing with Christ Church an important time in his life and education.

Colette Phipps

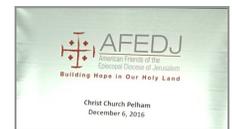
An Eye-opening look at The Holy Land

Sometimes presentations give us all the answers. John Lent's talk on December 6 about the Holy Land and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem was not one of those. The timely questions of the Holy Land and Jerusalem and of the roles of the Jewish people, the Palestinians and the Christians were eye openers. Many of us in attendance had no idea of the important work carried out by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, or that the Church was there at all. News of its schools, hospitals, and interfaith work came as a surprise. To me it seemed that the key issue isn't who is right or wrong, but that many people of all

faiths who live in that sacred part of the world need help, and our church is responding. Of course, important issues must be resolved to bring peace to the Holy Land, but the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is a real Godly presence there.

I encourage everyone to find out more about this project and to become a friend of the Diocese.

Well done. John, and blessings in your work with the friends of the Diocese in America.



Michael Moynihan

Profiles of 4 Newcomers

Etta Miriam Gumbs



Etta Gumbs is an attorney who was born and raised in Mt. Vernon where she resides today. Growing up there, she served for several years as an

acolyte at Trinity Episcopal Church,

where later in life she joined the vestry as well as the Altar Guild. She is a graduate of Fisk University and of Georgetown Law School. Etta is licensed to practice in New York State and Washington DC.

Following the closure of Trinity Episcopal Church in late 2015, Etta set out to visit a number of Episcopal churches in the area in search of a

new place of worship. It was the funeral of a good friend that brought her to Christ Church. In February of last year, she began attending services here regularly.

Etta is interested in working with Christ Church's outreach committee. She enjoys traveling and gardening.

Lily Solmssen Moureaux

In her long career as a staff photographer for United Nations agencies ranging from UNICEF to the High Commissioner for Refugees, Lily Solmssen Moureaux has worked all over the world. That included a memorable two-year stint in Southeast Asia in the early 1980's with her late husband Ghislain Moureaux, who had started a project there for resettling disabled refugees. Subjects of her many photo shows



over the years range from "Skiing with the Blind," to "Red Cross Activities in West Africa." "My camera has taken me on an unexpected and continuing journey of deep satisfaction," she says.

In recent years she has focused on archiving and digitizing several historical collections of photographs.

A native of New Jersey, with degrees

from Thomas Edison State College and Long Island University, Lily has lived in New Rochelle since 1990. Last spring she began worshipping at Christ Church, where she quickly joined the Communications Committee and has contributed many photographs for both the church's e-blast and for Soundings.

Jeanette and Melo Jones



Jeanette and Melo Jones began worshipping at Christ Church just over a year ago after first coming

to the church for the funeral of a dear friend. Previously, the couple had been longtime members of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mt. Vernon right up to its closing in late 2015. There, Melo served as lay Eucharistic

minister, director of the Food Pantry and Outreach programs, senior warden and vestry member. Meanwhile, Jeanette served as treasurer. In addition, both were longtime choristers.

The couple still lives in Mt. Vernon, but both grew up in the Carolinas. They are now retired. Melo formerly taught school, while Jeanette worked as an administrator for Mobil Oil Corp.

Presently, Jeanette is president of the Boys & Girls Club of Mt. Vernon as well as president of Trinity's bowling

league. Melo is a member of the graduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in White Plains and serves on its Scholarship Committee.

Both of the Jones express their appreciation for the warm welcome given them by Father Matt and many parishioners.

Interfaith Service Sends Timely Message

Every November, one of the five houses of worship that form the Pelham Interfaith Council sponsor a joint service in which all the pastors, rabbis and choirs participate. On November 20, that special Thanksgiving Service took place at Huguenot Presbyterian Church. The head of each institution spoke on something relevant to the community at large, including three local outreach programs: Habitat for Humanity, building and repairing homes for families in need; Hearts and Homes, supporting resettlement of a family of Syrian refugees in Pelham; and Hope Soup Kitchen, helping low-income residents in New Rochelle maintain adequate nutrition.

The purpose of the Interfaith service is to expand our comfort zone and allow us to meet others we would not normally know. As part of that effort, the five choirs sang together, with Christ Church's own choirmaster, Jeffrey Hoffman, playing the piano, and Huguenot's musical director, Kathy Clark, playing their new organ. We choristers received the more challenging music in

advance, but the simpler tunes were distributed for rehearsal just an hour before the service. Singers who could not read music, got up to speed by seating themselves next to people who could. And it all worked fine.

In this age of divisiveness and intolerance, I think it is comforting and refreshing to find a place where people can come together to celebrate their similarities and common goals, rather than focusing on their differences. It was encouraging to see that the service and reception afterwards were well-attended, and that others are open-minded and interested in hearing what those outside their faith are saying.

The Pelham Interfaith Council is comprised of our church, three other local churches, and one synagogue. The council meets once a month. Established in 1964, its mission is to promote mutual understanding, respect, appreciation and cooperation among people of faith.

Barbara Nelson

Concerts at Christ Church

Once or twice each year, the Christ Church Choir collaborates with the Huguenot Church Choir in preparing and presenting concerts of choral masterworks. In November of 2016, the choirs presented a concert featuring Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, Op. 9, accompanied by Sinfonia Celestis with Kathy Jones, organ, conducted by our own Jeffrey Hoffman. Kathy and Jeffrey took turns conducting several pieces by

Latvian composer Eriks Ešēvalds and American folk hymns arranged by Alice Parker, Robert Shaw, and Mack Wilberg. The concert was followed by a small reception in the church library during which the audience met and spoke with the performers.

Look for announcements about the next concert in the bulletin.





John Lent: Church “Consumer” Turns Doer



Much changed in John Lent’s life last year. He and his wife Pamela moved to Greenwich. He also took on a new job--the subject of a well-attended talk he gave in December--unlike any he’s ever had. But as John sees things, his most important departure came years earlier. Back then, with the guidance of former Christ Church rector Randy Alexander, John found out what it really means ‘to do church’ and to aim for spiritual growth. Before, he described himself as having been a church “consumer,” who “came in, worshipped, and left.”

That changed when John threw himself into multiple roles in the parish. He

headed committees, served stints on the vestry and four-years--ending last month--as our junior warden.

Now, as deputy director of a U.S. foundation that supports the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, John’s days are a mix of fund raising, awareness building and administration on behalf of the diocese with its 16 schools, two hospitals, and numerous clinics. “I like the work a lot,” he said. “The mission is just so important.”

Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, John’s first job after graduating from Colorado College was teaching English in Vermont. Later he went to the education division of Scholastic Corporation, where over 20 years he focused increasingly on education technology, including the creation in 1992 of the first on-line community for teachers and students.

In 2006 he signed on with a non-profit recruiter and trainer of principals for urban school systems. After six years, he moved to a startup focused on teacher training. When that firm was

sold, former Christ Church interim rector Alan Dennis suggested John reach out to the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem about a new job opening.

Looking back on his four years as Christ Church Junior Warden, John said he felt blessed to have worked with a “great senior warden.” With Kari Black, he helped sharpen the church’s business side, most notably by hiring Parish Property Managers last year “to manage the physical plant of our antique church.” At the same time, John continued to urge others to “speak openly about their faith,” an outspoken advocacy that he reckons would surprise even his father, a devout Episcopalian and long-serving head of his church’s stewardship committee.

Meanwhile, one thing has happily not changed in John’s life. This year he and Pamela will celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Erik Ipsen

Calling all children in the parish,

aged five and older. Easter Sunday is April 16 and you are invited to be a part of a special children's choir that will sing at our 11:15 a.m. Eucharist on Easter morning. Beginning on Wednesday, March 8 and continuing through April 19, we will have a forty-five minute rehearsal on Wednesday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. to prepare ourselves to sing for this special celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter morning. Parents, please let Jeffrey Hoffman know of your child's

participation by phoning the music office at:

914-738-5515, ext. 102

or by emailing jeffrey@christchurchpelham.org right away to reserve your child's spot in the Easter Children's Choir at Christ Church. Please also let us know if you can participate as a choir parent during the rehearsals and/or on Easter morning. Choir parents will assist the director in maintaining our safe church policy and with robing and marshaling the children on Easter morning.



Consecration Sunday: Inside this Year's Pledge Drive

The 2017 Stewardship Program

On New Consecration Sunday, November 6, and in the weeks that followed, parishioners pledged nearly \$400,000 to fund the church, a 4.8 % increase over 2016. That success was months in the making. It had begun in February when the Stewardship Committee met and decided largely to use the new template that had worked so well the previous year. That New Consecration Sunday program is based on a model committee members discovered at a Stewardship workshop sponsored by the Diocese in early 2015. One of the key ideas is that churches should closely follow a manual that provides specific timetables and wording for all stewardship-related events and letters.

Among other things, we were lucky to have an excellent guest preacher, Rev. Nora Smith, speak at a dinner with parishioner/fundraisers in October and preach at the final Sunday service. All members of the committee participated in the various aspects of the program from writing new versions of the letters that went out to the parish, to speaking in church on several Sundays, and organizing the Sunday brunches following both services.

Aiding in those efforts were: Claire Allen, Allison and Jeff Bodenmann, Jane S. Cooke, John Fox (co-chair), Monica King, John Lent (co-chair), Matt Mead, and Colette Phipps. Meanwhile, planning for the next Stewardship campaign actually began just a week after the last campaign ended, when Matt outlined some ideas with the committee in an email.

New Consecration Sunday Results*	
Pledges	128
Amount Pledged	\$373,580
Average Amount Pledged	\$2,919
Percentage Who Increased Their Pledge	51%
New Pledges	9

* Some pledges are still coming in. Any parishioner who has not yet pledged is encouraged to do so with pledge cards available in the Narthex and outside the Church Office.

John Fox





Weddings & Baptisms

2016 Baptisms

Charles Dolan McGrath

- Date: January 10
- Parents: Alex & Mary Kate McGrath

Grace Violet McKee

- Date: September 25
- Parents: Mark McKee & Sarah Baumgardner McKee

Jacqueline Montgomery Rutigliano

- Date: November 6
- Parents: John Paul Rutigliano & Joanna Montgomery Rutigliano



2016 Wedding

Kara Orlando married Daniel DaSilva

- Date: November 5, 2016
- Bride's parents are long-time parishioners, Debra and Adolph Orlando
- Groom's parents are Maria and Humberto DaSilva



Adult Christian Learning Ministry Book Club

On two consecutive Tuesday evenings in January, a group of parishioners met in the library to discuss *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander. The author outlines how our legal system has skillfully developed a new, more damaging yet covert form of the Jim Crow laws in order to segregate, corral and suppress people of color. Our discussion was frank and open, and participants felt comfortable enough to open up about the state of race relations in America, sharing personal experiences and observations.

The general consensus was that the book offers an eye opening perspective on some mechanisms of our legal system about which we knew very little. It highlights issues that have never intruded into most peoples' comfort zones, and challenges

us to re-examine some individual preconceptions.

One chapter in the book describes how powerful land owners in the 1600s used ethnic differences to create a racial caste system among their laborers and slaves to incite distrust, prejudice and hatred. White laborers were placed at the top of the caste system, giving them a sense of false superiority over the non whites. It was an effective method of divide and conquer used to deter unified uprisings like the Bacon Rebellion of 1676.

According to the book, this caste system still exists in America though most people are unaware of it.

We decided to meet again to discuss the final chapter of the book and to explore ways in which individuals

can make a difference, no matter how small, in today's society. It was suggested that staying informed and getting involved in the political process was the first step.

It isn't too late to join the discussion. The topic is not an easy one but it helps to remember why we chose to read about it and to share our views; SWEEPING IT UNDER THE RUG DOES NOT WORK.

If you do choose to join us, know that you will be among friends.



~IN LOVING MEMORY~

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over

and our work is done.
Then, Lord in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Elaine Swanson

December 27, 1923—January 6, 2017

Elaine Swanson, mother of parishioner Steve Swanson, died January 6 2017, in Omaha, Nebraska. She was 93 and attended Christ Church when she visited Pelham. In addition to Steve, she is survived by her daughter-in-law, Ann Dumas-Swanson, and her grandson, Owen.

Virginia Sherin Murphy

June 15, 1911— November 9, 2016

Parishioner Ginny Cragin's mother passes on at 105

Virginia Sherin Murphy, the mother of long-time parishioner, Ginny Cragin, passed away on November 9, 2016 after a busy and productive life. A lifelong resident of Massachusetts before moving to New Rochelle six years ago, she had been the Director of Education for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Virginia was an enthusiastic golfer, curler, bridge player, and community volunteer. She is survived by her daughter as well as son-in-law Edwin Cragin, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Christ Church.



Ellis Oglesby Moore, Sr.



Music played an important role in the long life of Ellis Moore, Sr., who passed away on June 25 at the age of 92. It was a love affair he shared with others in his family--as well as with the parish via his generous contributions to our music program. At his memorial service at Christ Church on November 12, his nephew, pianist Bill Hiler, played one of Moore's favorite compositions, one that had been written by his father.

Ellis had a distinguished career as an award-winning reporter and later as a public relations executive in the broadcasting industry. In that role, he orchestrated the press campaigns for some of television's most notable programs including "Roots", the ABC Theater presentations of "Eleanor and Franklin" and "Love Among the Ruins", as well as Monday Night Football.

Born in New York City, Moore moved to Pelham Manor in 1924 with his parents, Francis and Gertrude Moore, both noted musicians. After graduating from Pelham High School, he went on to Washington and Lee University before enlisting in the Army during World War II. He broke into broadcasting PR in 1952 as a staff reporter for the NBC Press Department. After a three-year stint with Standard Oil, he reentered broadcasting PR, signing on with ABC. After his retirement from there in 1985, he ran his own public relations firm for six years.

Joe DeLillo



God Promises Us Eternal Life

Dear Lord, help me reach
That most beautiful beach
With sand so white
And water clear
And my Joe, standing there
With arms outstretched
To draw me near.

This is written in memory of my husband Joe DeLillo who passed away on January 29, 2016.

We were married for fifty years.

- *Marge DeLillo*

In Memoriam



Mary Barsa Newton
Declan Chianese
Audrey Bowman
Florence T. Meade
Jean Murray Hemm
Joseph S. Orlando
Michael Piesco

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 a.m. Morning prayer 4 p.m. Junior Choir 6:30 p.m. Men's Group sandwich making 7:30 p.m. Men's Group Dinner	2 Candlemas 9 a.m. Brown Bag 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Noon Prayer 6 p.m. Stews & Soups 7:30 p.m. Eucharist	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. Men's Meeting	6 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	7 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	8 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Jr. Choir Rehearsal	9 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	10	11 Youth Group Trip
12 Epiphany 6 Prayers for healing 9 a.m. Buildings Ministry Meeting	13 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30p.m. Vestry Meeting	14  10 a.m. Morning Prayer 	15 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Jr. Choir Rehearsal	16 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	17	18
19 Epiphany 7 Pelham Schools Winter Break. No Church School/Group activity planned	20 Presidents' Day No Morning Prayer Parish Office Closed	21 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	22 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Jr. Choir Rehearsal	23 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist 7 p.m. Adult Christian Learning Movie Night <i>Amazing Grace</i>	24 St. Mathias Day 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	25
26 Church School/ Group activity 4 p.m. Confirmation Class 5p.m. Come As You Are 6 p.m. Youth Dinner	27 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	28 Shrove Tuesday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 6 p.m. Pancake Supper and cereal collection				

March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 a.m. Eucharist 12:15 p.m. Eucharist 4 p.m. Jr. Choir 6:30 p.m. Men's Ministry 7:30 p.m. Eucharist 	2 9-12 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch Program 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Said Eucharist	3	4
5 Lent 1 9:15 a.m. Stations of the Cross	6 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	7 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7p.m. Evening prayer 7:30 p.m. Adult Christian Learning	8 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Jr. Choir	9 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	10	11
12 Lent 2 Prayers for Healing 9:15a.m. Stations of the Cross	13 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	14 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7 p.m. Evening prayer	15 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Jr. Choir	16 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Said Eucharist	17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 Men's Group NYC trip to Cathedral
19 Lent 3 9:15 a.m. Stations of the Cross	20 St. Joseph's Day 10 a.m. Said Eucharist 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting Spring! 	21 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7 p.m. Evening prayer 7:30 p.m. Adult Ed	21 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Jr. Choir	23 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Said Eucharist	24	25 The Annunciation 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist
26 Lent 4 9:15 a.m. Stations of the Cross 4 p.m. Confirmation Class 5 p.m. Come As You Are 6 p.m. Youth Dinner	27 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	28 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7 p.m. Evening Prayer	29 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4p.m. Jr. Choir	30 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Said Eucharist	31	

April 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Lent 5 9:15 a.m. Stations of the Cross 9:30a.m. Usher Meeting	3 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	4 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Seniors' Tea at the Rectory 7 p.m. Evening prayer 7:30 p.m. Adult Christian Learning	5 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Jr. Choir	6 9 a.m. Brown Bag 10a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Said Eucharist	7	8
9 PALM SUNDAY Prayers for healing 9:15 a.m. Stations of the Cross 10 a.m. Church School Cedar	10 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	11 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7 p.m. Evening Prayer	12 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Jr. Choir	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Agape Supper 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 9p.m.– 12a.m. Watch	14 GOOD FRIDAY Parish Office Closed 12p.m. Good Friday Liturgy	15 HOLY SATURDAY 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil & Reception
16 EASTER 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:15 a.m. Festive Coffee Hour 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 a.m.	17 EASTER MONDAY Parish Office Closed No Morning Prayer	18 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	19 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Jr. Choir	20 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	21	22
23 EASTER 2	24 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	25 10 a.m. Said Eucharist	26 St. Mark's Day 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 4 p.m. Jr. Choir	27 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15p.m. Said Eucharist	28 Cornerstone of Christ Church Laid(1843) 7 p.m. Bolton Society Event	29
30 Easter 3 9 a.m. Buildings Ministry Meeting 6 p.m. Newcomers Reception						

Decking the Halls

Last Christmas, the annual greening of the church drew parishioners of all ages and the result was just right. The church was beautiful inside and outside.



Lost Bunny



This well-loved little bunny has been in the care of the Altar Guild, Ushers, Sextons and the Verger since the summer months. He or she was found in the pews before the cold winds began to blow and has lived in the vestry ever since. We are sure this little someone is missed, and we hope for a happy reunion soon.

Please contact Marie Main in the Parish Office at: **(914) 738-5515** if this lonely bunny is a member of your family.