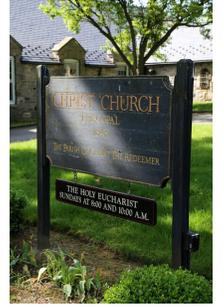


Soundings

The Newsletter of Christ Church

June 2017



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Editor's Note

This fourth issue of the new incarnation of *Soundings* marks a sort of anniversary as we, the new team, complete our first year publishing this newsletter. It's been a rewarding year of growth and learning as our editorial team came together as a cohesive working unit.

I am grateful for the input and positive feedback we have received from the parish as a whole. It has inspired us to do more. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge those who really made this possible. Fr. Matt: Thank you for trusting us with this important project that represents our parish. Kari Black and John Lent : Thank you for your confident support, it is much appreciated. Marie Main: Thank you for having answers whenever we call. Tom Bricker, Lily Solmssen Moureaux and Carol Ipsen: Your beautiful photographs have brought our newsletter to life, I am very grateful for the time and talent you give. Thank you.

- Missy Kisob



Soundings

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What's on Matt's Mind?

A Bounty of New People in the Pews

In late May, *Soundings* sat down with Father Matt to talk about all the new faces popping up in our church lately. For openers, he noted that in addition to confirming seven young parishioners on May 7th, Bishop Shin had also received or confirmed five adults. Four of them were very new to the congregation," Matt noted. "What's more, they are only part of a larger group of new parishioners who have become active in the last year or so."

Why do people flock to a specific house of worship? A recent survey by Pew Research summed it up by titling its findings: "Americans look for good sermons (83%) and a warm welcoming atmosphere (79%)." as a reason to join a parish.

"Those things are important," Matt said. "You cannot mail in a good sermon or a welcome." Making the effort is vital. Churches need newcomers to survive and replace those who leave, but also to breathe fresh life and spirit into them, he noted. At Christ Church, newcomers have helped us maintain or even boost the parish's diversity in terms of everything from age, to postal address, to socio-economic background. "People who have joined us in the last year are all over the map, which is nice," he said. "We want a legitimate diversity."

The celebration of Ascension Day on Thursday, May 25th expanded on that theme with a steak & salad dinner in the parish hall followed by a Holy Eucharist. Over a dozen people attended from Grace Church on City Island. The sermon was delivered by The Rev. Theodora Brooks from St. Margaret's Church in the Bronx. She also brought several of her parishioners with her.

Again, it all takes effort. "To do a big event, you

have to plan a big event," he noted.

In the case of Ascension Day, that involved, among many others, Choirmaster Jeffrey Hoffman, who



orchestrated a special appearance by

tenor soloist Michael Imbimbo. The goal of such events is not to lure people from other parishes, but to enrich the lives of all of us via exposure to new people. "Coffee hours are great for socializing, but we tend to gravitate to people we know," he said.

"Whereas at a sit-down dinner, people are more willing to take a seat next to people they don't recognize." It creates an opportunity for extended fellowship.

In addition, such happenings serve to get the word out in the community that Christ Church is a happy, vibrant, open place. "People are attracted to churches that feel and act alive," he said. Long-term parishioners need to feel they too, are part of a warm, caring church community. The long hours put in by teams of parishioners not only made this year's tag sale so successful, but they helped foster fellowship as well. The same goes for such things as the Men's Group's monthly sandwich-making efforts for the Brown Bag Lunch Program in New Rochelle. And as Matt noted, all these activities are in keeping with Christ's admonition to go forth into the world and serve God.

Sitting down with each person being received last month to talk about the Church and its teachings inspired Matt with an idea. He wants to explore offering that Episcopal 101 class "to anyone looking for an overview of what the Church teaches."

- Erik Ipsen

A Visit from the Bishop

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th, we welcomed Bishop Allen Shin to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to eight young parishioners, and to receive five members into the Episcopal Church.

Prior to the 10 o'clock service, Bishop Shin shared breakfast and an intimate chat with the confirmands and candidates for reception, challenging them to embrace and share the true essence of the Christian faith: "that God loved us so much that he sacrificed the life of His Son, so that we might have eternal life." This was also the theme of the Bishop's sermon, after which he confirmed Audrey Aslani-Far, Sarah Eastep, Aidan Emery, Victoria Hoffer, Nicholas Hibbler, Chapman Jones, Zoe Pena and Margot Phillips, and received Shannon Corley, Fred de Barros, Michael Fawcett, Marie Main and Andrew Werkhoven. We congratulate and joyfully welcome these already active members to our Communion.

During the service, Fr. Matt also acknowledged and blessed all mothers with the distribution of carnations. Following Confirmation, the men of the parish hosted a festive celebration honoring our mothers and our confirmands.

Audrey Aslani-Far attends Rye Country Day School, where she is in 7th grade. She especially enjoys

science and languages. Looking ahead, she thinks she might want to be a geneticist. For now, she enjoys tennis and her two dogs, a Havenese and a Newfoundland.



Audrey and her family have been at Christ Church for 11 years. She has participated in the Christmas Pageant and now serves as an Acolyte. To Audrey, confirmation means she can take a more active role in church. "As an adult in the Church, I will be able to further explore my faith in all its complexity."

Zoe Pena is an 8th grader at Isaac E. Young School, and enjoys Psychology, Theater, softball and swimming. As a career, she considers possibilities as an architect, speech therapist or psychologist.



At Christ Church, Zoe has been a faithful participant in Choir, the Christmas Pageant and Church School for six years. She sees Confirmation as taking a step up as a Christian. She's ready to explore the Bible and discuss more deeply the questions she has regarding Jesus and God. "Hopefully, that would strengthen my faith and connection to God."

Victoria "Tori" Hoffer is in 8th grade at New Rochelle's Albert Leonard School. She plays the guitar and was, for several years, a member of our junior choir. She expects to pursue a career in business.



At Christ Church since 2nd grade, Tori has participated in the Christmas Pageant both on-stage, and more recently backstage. For Tori, Confirmation means making her own decision to join the church.

Chapman Jones is in 8th grade at Pelham Middle School, where he is particularly interested in math and history. His favorite activities are reading and playing lacrosse. He hopes to one day have a career in law or finance.



Chapman and his family have been at Christ Church for three years. He enjoyed his role as Gabriel in the Christmas Pageant, as well as helping with preparations for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Confirmation is important to Chapman because it signifies his official membership in the Christ Church community which he looks forward to continuing.

Nicholas Hibbler is an 8th grader at Thornton-Donovan School. You have no doubt seen him serving as an Acolyte with his younger brother, Charlie. He has also participated in the Christmas Pageant. The Hibblers have been members of the Christ Church family for five years.



Nicholas enjoys technology and gaming, and thinks of someday becoming a doctor, lawyer or stockbroker. Regarding his Confirmation, he says, "It means becoming an adult in the Christian community." We're happy to welcome you, Nicholas.

Margot W. Phillips attends 8th grade at Pelham Middle School. She loves reading and dance. She hopes to study forensic science and someday to work in law enforcement, perhaps with the FBI.



Margot has been at Christ Church her entire life. She has been a faithful participant in Church School, Junior Choir and the Christmas Pageant. This year she worked as a backstage assistant for the pageant and as a teacher's assistant in Church School.

Margot recognizes Confirmation as the next step in her spiritual journey. "It's really important to me that the community I join is accepting and treats everyone equally," she says.

Aidan Emery is an 8th grader at Pelham Middle School. These days his primary passion is soccer, but someday we may know him as an architect or maybe as a video-game engineer. In his 11 years at Christ Church, Aidan has been involved in the Christmas Pageant, Junior Choir and Church School.



Aidan credits his faith with giving him hope that there's someone looking out for him. Confirmation

affirms and unites him with that hope.

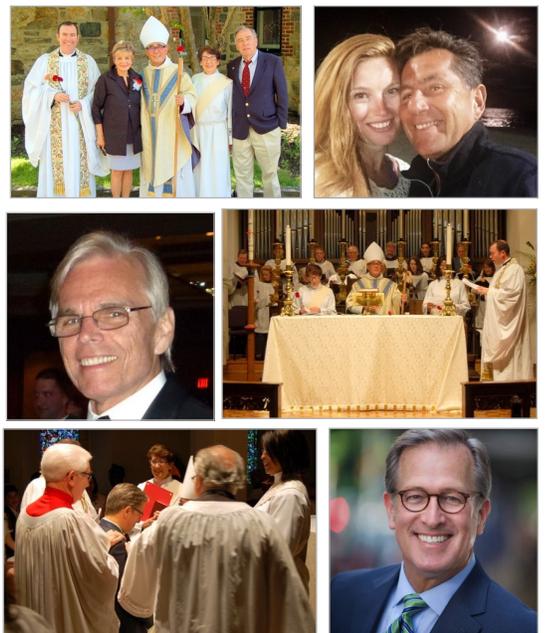
Sarah Eastep, a native of Beaumont, Texas, came to New York in 2011 and to Westchester in 2015. She studied Fashion Retailing and Merchandising at Lamar University in Beaumont, and English and Comparative Literature at the University



of Texas in Austin. She is a jewelry designer, creating costume jewelry for several well-known retail chains.

Baptized in the Church of Christ, when Sarah came to New York, she was looking for a church with a thoughtful, intelligent approach to Christianity. Visiting Christ Church, Sarah says she was inspired by the beautiful music and by Fr. Matt's "insightful and challenging" sermons. "Also, I like that the Episcopal Church considers reason to be one of its main principles. Everyone [at Christ Church] has been really kind and welcoming."

- Michael Fawcett



Church School: The Director's View



When I got involved with Sunday School ten years ago, the church offered several options. I ended up teaching a 4-week session to 3rd and 4th graders. The only downside was that the topic was a tough one, Saint Paul, whom I find challenging. But I figured if I could make St. Paul interesting for my students that would be good for me as well as them. It worked, and I have stayed involved with church school ever since, as a teacher, co-director, and for the last two years as director of the school.

This year we have 22 children, and eight teachers, whom I feel blessed to work with. They are: Eileen Peluso-Hoffer for PreK-K; Julie Pena, Davis Allen and Maddie Nicholson for Grades 1-3; Pat O'Byrne for Grades 4-5; Curtis Chase and Janet Kornfield for Grades 6-7. In addition, Alexander Calder, a senior at Fordham Prep, taught from November through March and he enjoyed great success with the 4th and 5th graders. Every Sunday morning, we greet each student as they come in and we get them settled with their teachers, who try to make sure each child has engaging material to work with. Classes run approximately 40 minutes, starting with a prayer, the scripture reading,

and then a discussion (higher grades) or a related activity (lower grades). The scripture closely follows the Lectionary, with modifications in content and language to make it appropriate for the younger age groups. When our verger, Walter Roberts calls, I give the teachers the signal that they have 5 minutes to wrap up before we all join the service in the church.

Three years ago, we subscribed to *Living the Good News*, a very helpful online resource, which offers lesson plans and suggests related activities. We also have a room full of books, resources and supplies to make Sunday mornings as interesting and beneficial as possible. Special activities include a Seder on Palm Sunday, and making Advent Wreaths on the First Sunday of Advent.

The joy of working with our children, the future of our parish, is something that every adult in our community should experience. There is little that matches the children's energy, or the blessing of hearing directly from them what they have learned and gained from our efforts.

- Marcie Wiehagen
with Michael Fawcett



Palm Sunday Seder



Veteran Teacher's Ode to Sunday School



Sunday School is filled with stories of swords and shipwrecks, of men who were thrown into a lion's den, but were not eaten, of men spreading very good news to people who hadn't heard much good news in the past.

Each Sunday, we explore stories of people like us, people who may not always get the right answer. And when they think they've finally got it, other people—good people and friends even--disagree. We love those stories. We want to hear them again and again. Later, when they come up in church, we perk up. That's my favorite, we think.

At the middle school level, we root those stories in science and in history. What were Pharaoh's chariots like when the Egyptian army chased Moses? How did people travel in the Bronze Age? What did they eat? How important were the Roman roads in spreading the Gospel?

With each class, we tailor our activities to match the interests of the class. Sometimes we act out the story. That's great fun for the girl who becomes a Roman guard, or the quiet boy who stands up to mighty Pharaoh. Role playing lets us explore how we might act in a tough situation.

One year, we built churches with K'Nex and another, we built the Temple of Solomon out of craft sticks. Projects like that cannot be done on one Sunday. They require a suitable number of students over the course of weeks.

In the early grades, we illustrate the Good Shepherd

using cotton-ball sheep. We also learn a few things about sheep to help us understand what Jesus was talking about so often. After all, it's not like we have all that many sheep in Pelham.

Sometimes we get students who like to write. When that happens, we update parables. One year, we modernized the story of the Good Samaritan by putting the attacked man in an airport parking lot. Who would pass by the injured man? Was the person rushing right by the victim to make a plane bad just because she assumed security would take care of the injured person?

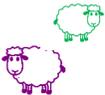
Who among us would stop to help?

Most of all, Sunday School is fun because of the people. A student's Sunday-School-only friend may go to a different school or be a bit older or younger, but seeing them on Sundays can brighten up a student's week. At church, the good news is that everyone has a family who cares about them.

- Janet Phillips Kornfeld

Janet began teaching Sunday School in 1994 with a pre-K class. Since then, she has taught at every level, though she admits her favorite students are those whom she calls the "concrete thinkers" in 5th and 6th grade. She also taught Confirmation class from the time Fr. Hoag left until the arrival of Fr. Matt. Over the years, she says her classes have been enriched by Mildred Johnson, "who keeps giving me archaeology magazines and other printed materials."

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Verger's Corner

Lectors, Intercessors, and LEMS?

The readings are a key part of any Episcopal Liturgy. That makes the Lectors who recite them rather important as well. Complicating matters a bit, at Christ Church our Lectors also frequently serve as Intercessors — and at the 8 a.m. service, they always wear both hats.

The big news on the lector front came three months ago when Jeanette Jones, Charlette Finch and Etta Gumbs joined us after the closing last year of Trinity Church in Mt. Vernon, where they had served in that capacity for several years. That brings our total lector corps up to 30.

Also joining us from Trinity is Melo Jones, who as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), helps serve at the altar with the chalice.

Point of interest: a lector is a lay person appointed by a member of the clergy to read lessons or lead the prayers of the people. The term is from the Latin, "to read." Lay persons served as readers in the early church, but by the third century this ministry was performed by those ordained to the minor order of lector. Many times, that role became a stepping stone to ordination to the priesthood. Meanwhile, by the fourth century the reading of the

gospel had become the responsibility of the deacon, a tradition that still exists today.

So, what's an Intercessor? They are people who pray on behalf of others. An intercessor is one who prays an intercessory prayer. These days the term is frequently used for those who lead the prayers of the people, which are prayers of intercession. They "bring before God the needs of others." Intercession is one of the seven principal kinds of prayer.

Other happenings:

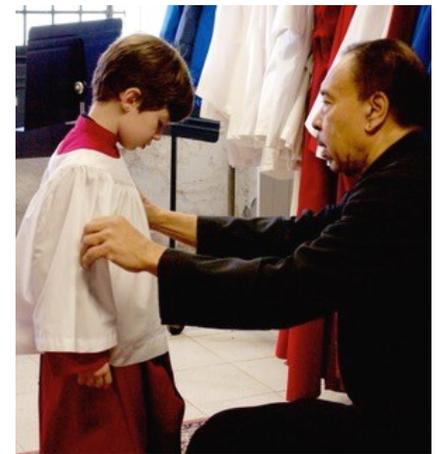
On Sunday, May 21, three of our acolytes were recognized for ten years of service at the altar. They are James Bricker, Owen Swanson and Alexander Calder, all of whom will graduate from high school in June.

- Our youngest Acolyte is eight-year old Nicholas Mead. I know more people are thinking of joining him. Please do.

Chisara Alimole, one of our own, was ordained a Deacon of the Episcopal Church at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday, May 13. I have served at many ordinations at the cathedral, including those of bishops Dietsche and Shin. This time, however, I was asked to bring a crucifer (cross bearer) and torchbearers from the Parish. Angela Barone,

Tom Salvatore, and Vicky Kish all stepped up. In the future, I hope to have more of our acolytes serve at events at the Cathedral as well. It would be a great experience for them.

- Verger Walter Roberts



Lift Every Voice



As the organist and choirmaster at Christ Church for the last ten years, Jeffrey Hoffman knows

the value of the work he does.

“Church music brings us all together and reminds us that we’re all God’s children and we’re all here to do something that’s more important than we are as individuals, and that is to worship God,” says Jeffrey.

“With a piano teacher for a mother, Jeffrey began playing at the age of three. But he was born into an extremely conservative Christian environment on the campus of Bob Jones University. So when he came out as gay to his family as a college freshman at BJU, he found he still had his parents’ love but not their acceptance, so he was forced to leave their faith community and the school, which still does not accept or include LGBTQIA people in its ministry. He found acceptance and a spiritual home

at Christ Church, the Episcopal parish in Greenville, South Carolina, where Robert J. Powell, the organist and choirmaster, lovingly mentored him, setting him on the road that brought him here to Pelham.”

“I remember just feeling that I had been wandering in the wilderness for a very long time, maybe all my life, and that I had finally come home,” he says.

He moved to New York to study classical composition and organ at Manhattan School of Music. His work in various churches around New York led him to Christ Church in 2007, where he inherited a strong choral program he’d make even stronger. There are four professional singers and a complement of dedicated volunteers who practice every week after church, learning an average of two new pieces of music a week. They are a tightknit group that worships together and rallies around one another in times of need.

“We work hard to make good music

here and to honor the Lord in the music we perform,” says Jeffrey, who does not turn away anyone who wants to join the choir.

Jeffrey’s other passion is the non-profit called BJUnity, which supports those in the LGBTQIA community affected by fundamentalist Christianity. He also conducts the singing groups *The Pelham Larks* and the *Songpipers of Bronxville*, but Christ Church is his home.

The biggest challenge to the church’s music program for Jeffrey right now is getting more children involved. “Our faith is developed quite a lot in our singing. Our singing reinforces our belief. Melodies get stuck in your head and the rest of the week you’re singing the hymn from Sunday. And that’s a good thing. It’s a way that the Spirit can work in our hearts and change us into better people and better followers of Jesus. I think it’s important for children to experience that.”

-Abby West

Easter Appeal

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who generously donated money, items and time for the Church's Easter Appeal and outreach efforts. The Easter Appeal and card sales generated almost \$2,000 for distribution to our feeding programs. We also collected 10 large

bags of casual and professional clothing to benefit St. Vincent's hospital inpatient substance and psychiatric treatment programs, and Hudson Link, a rehabilitation program that helps former inmates find jobs. The organizations have been extremely grateful for our support,

and Sean Pica, Executive Director, Hudson Link, noted, "These donations are so important to the smooth transition back to the community and, of course, mean the world to us!"

-Marie Dumas

Nicole Mead Returns to Her Roots



More than two years after Nicole Mead and family moved to Pelham from Granite Springs in the northernmost reaches of Westchester, *Soundings* checked in with her to see how things are going—quite well as it turns out. “Moving to Granite Springs was a much bigger change,” she says.

Previously, they had been living in a 5th floor walk-up on West 46th in the shadow of Times Square, where Matt worked at St. Mary’s Church, not far from St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue. That is where Rev. Andrew Mead in 2004 presided over his son’s wedding to a young Syracuse University graduate, then working as an associate editor at *Redbook Magazine*.

Nicole’s career in journalism had begun at *Good Housekeeping* years earlier. For the record, the couple first met at an Episcopal Camp in Massachusetts, way back when Nicole was 14.

“Here in Pelham, I am much closer to the city and to my family,” she says, noting that her mother lives just over the bridge in Whitestone, Queens--not far from Elmont, Long Island where Nicole grew up.

The Mead boys have also settled in happily. Liam and Nicholas are at Prospect Hill. Both play soccer and baseball, and are in scouting as well--Liam having joined the Boy Scouts just last fall. This summer both will return to camp at the Pelham Country Club, play some golf and tennis, and will

likely stop in at Pure Bliss, the frozen yogurt shop on Fifth Avenue where they get the thrill of making their own cones. Fun family outings to Shore Park across the street and to the beach on Glen Island just up the road also loom, as well as some visits to Prime 16 and Jordan Hall 10803, where Matt rates the steak highly.

For a couple who, Nicole says, “love to entertain,” in coming months there will be more events at the rectory along the lines of the past year’s Senior’s Tea and the various meals served up to Sunday School teachers, the vestry, and others.

- Erik Ipsen

The Dynamic Duo

Justice began three years ago, when he was five. Last fall, he was joined by Daniel Avolio, age 10. They bring something special to the early service each Sunday, a youthful exuberance and spirit that regular 8 o'clockers know to look forward to each week. The boys’ role kicks off at 8 a.m. sharp, usually under the watchful eye of Daniel’s father Russ, when they team up to ring the steeple bell. During the service, they assist the ushers, led by John Fox, to prepare for the communion. Asked what roles they like best, Daniel voted for bell ringing and “helping my friend, John,” while Justice opted for “helping with the collection.”



Our Newest Vestry Member

Thanking Laura and Welcoming Angela



If you haven't already, please join us in welcoming Angela Barone to the Vestry. Angela will finish this year as the newest member of the Vestry and will be eligible to run again at the annual meeting at the end of January.

She is the Vestry liaison to the following ministries: Fellowship, Coffee Hour and Tag Sale.

Angela joins the vestry following Laura Toro's resignation prior to the Toro family moving to Wisconsin. Many of us are still in touch with Laura, Raf and Dara through Facebook. They remain in our prayers and we continue to wish them well in their new careers and adventures.



- Kari Black

The Reverend Peter Powell

Return of Summertime Sub with Different Chemistry



Beginning on July 9th, for four consecutive Sundays, Rev. Peter Powell will again fill in for the vacationing Fr. Matt. Fr. Powell is an Episcopal Priest who, for over twenty years, headed a Westport, Connecticut interfaith group that provides housing and services to the homeless. During his time there, the group grew to

a staff of over 20 and a budget approaching \$3 million. Since retiring in 2010, he has continued his interest in biblical studies. Among other things, he recently taught a course on the Acts of the Apostles at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Times Square, where Father Matt once served.

Fr. Powell began his professional career far from the pulpit, as a chemical engineer for Procter & Gamble. A man of diverse interests,

he still enjoys daily multi-mile walks while listening to a wide variety of podcasts. He and his wife, Barbara, will come to us following a visit to their daughter who teaches economics at Tufts University. We look forward to his month in Pelham and to his sharing more insights from his long and unusually varied career.

- Erik Ipsen

Did You Know?

Robert, Robert, Robert.

The wooden bust at the corner of the north transept represents the Rev. Robert Bolton, rector at Broughton, North Hampshire, England, where he died in 1631. He was the great-great-grandfather of Rev. Robert Bolton, founder and first rector of Christ Church. The bust was carved by Rev. Robert Bolton, Jr., eldest son of our founder. It seems there were many Roberts in The Bolton family tree, several of whom preferred the name Anne when taking a wife.



Rev. Robert Bolton

Time Well Spent

Time Well Given

Jack Kaufman coaches mock trials in Manhattan

Funny things can happen to people in retirement. Corporate lawyer Jack Kaufman not only ended up taking a class in Latin at CUNY, he was ultimately asked to teach one at a private girls' school. "My first reaction was 'no, I'm a lawyer,'" he said. "My second was, 'what have I got to lose?'"

That was a decade ago now. These days Jack is seven years deep into teaching Latin at the Hewitt School on East 71st Street. Last year, he broke new ground for the school. He started a 70-minute class that plays to his strengths. He teaches American Law.

The highlight is a mock trial competition that draws in teams from nearly 100 schools across the city. In groups of six, they take on the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses. After weeks of practice, they face off in the Manhattan Criminal Court on Center Street in after-hours trials presided over by "judges" from the District Attorney's office. "It's a wonderful experience for the kids," says Kaufmann. "Witnesses need to know their stories cold and be prepared for unexpected questions on cross-examination."

When not teaching by doing in court, he opens his

students' eyes in the classroom to a legal process that he tells them can be very undemocratic. It's one where supreme court judges serve for life, and there is no electoral process to correct their decisions. "We are just stuck with them," he says.

- Erik Ipsen



J.D. Calder and Pelham's Refugee Family

What happens when a Syrian refugee family, including four children ranging in age from 13 to 2, unexpectedly arrives months early on your doorstep? In Pelham, the answer is a great deal in a big hurry. "The outpouring of support was a wonderful thing to see," said parishioner J.D. Calder, who

got involved with local support group, *Hearts and Homes for Refugees*, (HHR) late last year.

In early December, volunteers had stood up in every house of worship in Pelham to recruit volunteers to help a family expected to arrive in the late spring--no small task. Just days later, however,

HHR learned plans had changed. The family would arrive in weeks, not months.

"Suddenly, I was on the task force," said Calder, who helped to organize over 50 volunteers into upwards of a dozen committees responsible for lining up everything from lodging and drivers, to

schools and doctors. Calder ended up on the Furniture Committee, working to fill the family's home-to-be at the parsonage of the Community Church of the Pelhams with the beds, chairs, and rugs needed.

"We posted on *Moms of Pelham* and *Dads of Pelham*, and in days we had so much stuff the challenge became convincing people we already had enough." Among other contributors,

members of a Mormon Church in the Bronx sewed six quilts, and a Muslim Women's Association supplied all the bed linens.

"Volunteer-wise, this is the best thing I have ever done," said Calder. "We are helping people from a war-torn country start a whole new life." The work has also had a big impact on the volunteers. J.D.'s son, Alexander, has helped out. J.D. has now moved on to the Employment

Committee trying to line up work for the father. And who knows what comes next? "Maybe there will be another family," he said hopefully.

- Erik Ipsen

YOUR TALE HERE? In each issue of Soundings, we hope to include at least one *Time Well Spent* story looking at parishioners' interesting part-time posts that in some way make a difference. If you have a good story to tell, please contact Erik: ErikIpsen@me.com or phone 914-738-8393.

Spring Flowers

Spring off to a colorful start

The Church grounds have sprung back to life. As always, the crocus kicked off the show, followed by the daffodils, which bloomed just in time for the Easter season.

There are daffodils scattered throughout the church grounds in a naturalistic fashion. And fortunately for us, the squirrels don't like to eat the bulbs. Parishioners who went up to the Columbarium for the lighting of the New Fire at the beginning of the Easter Vigil will have seen daffodils lining the boxwood hedge and shade gardens there.

More daffs blossomed on the small rise by the narthex. Nearby, a varied group of small plants carpeting the

rock face began to flower just last month. These are the sedum. You need to look carefully to see their flowers, but the effort will pay off.

Meanwhile, down in the sun-drenched flower bed along the driveway by the school, the spring show featured an alluring mix of daffodils, tulips and others. But the star, once again, was our magnificent cherry tree with its cloud of delicate pink flowers. Next up in that vicinity, watch for the magnolia trees as well as our roses.

Planting, pruning, weeding, and talking to all those flowers is the work of the Gardening Committee, and we love it...except on the hot days, perhaps.

Enjoy the show!

- Alice Dean



Singing Out at St. John the Divine for Chisara

On Saturday, May 13th, a combined choir of twenty, drawn from our parish and the parish of Christ Church Riverdale, sang at the ordination of Deacon Chisara Alimole and four others at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Our choirmaster, Jeffrey Hoffman conducted us. Despite a cold and constant rain, the event was well attended, uplifting, and even festive.

We sang our first hymn as the acolytes, deacons, priests, bishop and others processed to the altar. There, the five ordinands (including Chisara, whom our church sponsored, and Richard Limato, principal of Prospect Hill School) were presented to Bishop Andrew Dietsche.

He summarized their duties: to study and model their lives upon the Holy Scriptures, make Christ and His redemptive love known by word and example, interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world, assist the bishop and priests in public worship, and show Christ's people that in serving the helpless, they are serving Christ himself.

During the deacons' consecration, the choir chanted "Come Holy Spirit" in Latin (*Veni Sancte Spiritus*) as a cantor intoned an emotional Taize Pentecost Sequence in English.

Bishop Dietsche noted that this was the largest class of deacons since he became Bishop five years ago. The Bishop also mentioned that several people who were

deaf and/or blind were with us that day. I saw a deaf young man and a deaf and blind woman who placed her hand beneath his to feel what he was signing. It was beautiful, but made me feel grateful for my blessings.

Afterwards several of us greeted Father Matt and our former rector, Father Randy Alexander, who helped Chisara start her journey to the diaconate.

Back at our church, at 2 p.m. there was a reception in honor of Chisara and her family. Although tired, I felt truly honored to be amid all the joy, love, and humility.

- Barbara Nelson



Holy Week

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Newcomer Profiles

Russell and Elena Avolio

Russell and Elena heard about our church from parishioner, Aime Carter, a college friend of Russell's. Along with their son, Daniel, they began attending services last September. Like many other members of the parish, Russell and Elena were raised as Roman Catholics.

They live in Pelham, where 10-year-old Daniel attends Colonial School. He will be moving on to middle school this fall. Daniel enjoys hockey, reading, technology, Cub Scouts and helping the ushers at the 8 o'clock service. The Avolios share a love of getting out and being active, embracing everything from obstacle races and swimming, to camping and road trips.

Russell and Elena have graduate degrees from Long Island University. She is a recreation leader at King's Harbor Multicare Center in the Bronx. He works as a Senior Infrastructure Manager at all off sites and campuses of Montefiore IT, and volunteers as a Pelham Manor Fire Fighter and an EMT at Mamaroneck EMS.

Shannon Corley

In a short time, Shannon Corley has come a long way at Christ Church. She began attending services along with her boyfriend, Andy Werkhoven, in February, just a week after the funeral of Andy's father, Bronx-native Andrew. Last month, both Shannon and Andy were received into the Church by Bishop Shin as part of the Confirmation service.



Born and raised in southern California, Shannon graduated from the University of California in Irvine and moved to Manhattan seven years ago. She works in sales for an industrial supply and distribution company. Raised as a Methodist, she has attended non-denominational churches in recent years. With her former church, she was active in the children's ministry and twice traveled to South Africa, where she worked with children with HIV. She still sponsors two girls, one from South Africa and one from Rwanda. She is interested in working with children at Christ Church and possibly with the Communications Committee. "It feels like a perfect church home for us," she said.

Andrew Des Rault and Kristine Valerio



Andy and Kristine grew up on opposite sides of the globe, he on Long Island and she in the Philippines. Their daughter, Christina Marie, on the other hand, was born in February in New Rochelle, where they now all reside.

Andy is an Episcopalian, who served as an acolyte for years as a child. Kristine grew up as a Catholic and sang in the choir.

Andy is a corporate attorney, who earned his JD/MBA at Cornell. He is interested in history, politics and understanding what motivates people. He believes that knowing the circumstances behind someone's actions, makes it easier to negotiate the best outcome or to prevent harmful behavior. Kristine is a pediatric physical therapist with a Ph.D. from Des Moines University, who works with medically fragile children. Her passion is caring for people. She credits her profession with allowing her to see the beauty of simple milestones that most of us take for granted.

Newcomer Profiles

Andy Werkhoven



Andy Werkhoven's initial contact with Christ Church was when his daughter, Isabel, was baptized. Along with his girlfriend Shannon, he started attending our services in February, shortly after his father's funeral mass was held here. "It felt right" he said. "It was very welcoming to all, [and there is] a good feel to the church itself." Andy and Shannon were received into the Church last month by Bishop Shin as part of the Confirmation Service.

Andy was raised in the Catholic faith in the Bronx. He is a General Manager for Schindler Elevator in New York City and lives in New Rochelle. He has two daughters; Reese, 23 and Isabel, 21.

Walking, traveling, basketball, frisbee, biking, kayaking and music are among Andy's hobbies. He is currently working with Deacon Katie, helping with parishioners in need and is interested in joining a ministry.

Newcomer Reception

Newcomers are welcomed and celebrated each year at Christ Church with a lovely cocktail party featuring scrumptious finger food and cocktails, friendly faces and live music. This year was no different. Parishioners came out to join in the festivities and to welcome the newcomers.

Our ever-gracious 'Newcomer Reception Hostess,' Betty Hoover presided over the preparations and set-up with her usual attention to detail. Although she was still recovering from a bad fall, Betty was front and center, greeting parishioners, old and new, with a smile and a word of welcome. The party was well-attended and enjoyed.

A highlight of the evening occurred when the pianist agreed to play some golden oldies, including *Nature Boy*, a haunting tune made famous by Nat King which moved a few parishioners to softly sing along. It was beautiful.



Welcome

Around the Parish in Photographs





The Gospel of Mark

Presented by the Adult Christian Learning Committee

On two evenings in Lent, the Adult Christian Learning Committee held two enlightening sessions reading through the Gospel of Mark. The program was built around a series of video discussions between two engaging theologians: Allen Hilton (Minister for Faith and Learning at Wayzata Community Church) and David Bartlett (Professor Emeritus, Yale Divinity School) aided and abetted by the fine readings from our own parishioners. The evening provided an opportunity to closely examine passages from the reading of the gospel in church.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the gospels and considered by scholars to be the earliest. It is important because it represents the first attempt to "get the story down on paper" and tells us a lot about how Jesus was viewed at this time in the history of Christianity. It is likely the main source

for the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

There are a few surprises. The Nativity is not mentioned in Mark. The Gospel starts off with the Baptism of Jesus, moves quickly through his temptation, then plunges into his ministry in Nazareth. This section is characterized by numerous healings and exorcisms. Among these miracles comes the Parable of the Sower (the one about seeds landing on stony ground, and some in fertile soil, etc.). Jesus tells his disciples the story twice, the second time he patiently explains how parables work. This is reflective of one of the themes of Mark: this Jesus figure is someone we are learning about for the first time, which, for many of Mark's readers, they were.

As the Gospel progresses, the question of who Jesus really is becomes the theme. Is he a prophet? Yes. A

healer? Yes; but is he *Emmanuel*, the savior of Israel? Is he going to lead a revolution against the Romans? Only near the end does Jesus begin to reveal his true nature as the Son of God, which puzzles everyone. One of the striking characteristics of this Gospel is that the disciples are depicted as uncomprehending, (Hilton and Bartlett describe them as "dim") in sum, deeply human.

In Mark, more than in the other gospels, the nature and power of Jesus seem to be revealed before our eyes. Toward the end of the gospel, the failure to really understand the nature of Jesus compels Judas to betray him, bringing on the familiar, agonizing end to the story of the Son of God's time on earth.

The videos are at: <http://divinity.yale.edu/gospel-according-mark-2>

- Curtis Chase

Faith Re-Kindled

Every Thursday morning, I wake up with a feeling of enthusiasm. Today is Bible Group! I've been coming nearly two years now, and this group has become the highlight of my week. The group members support and encourage each other as we explore our faith together, moderated by Michael Moynihan, a knowledgeable and inspirational leader.

We review the previous Sunday's homily, then read and discuss scripture readings for the next Sunday. It is fascinating to uncover the multiple meanings in the readings and their applications to our contemporary lives and concerns. We all feel comfortable talking about how the readings impact our lives.

It has been liberating for me to

find that I can question some of the teachings of the church that I have had difficulty with since I have been something of a skeptic for most of my life. Now I am discovering that it is OK to question and search for the meaning. For me, this is the most enriching aspect of Bible Study.

-Patricia Johnson

In Memoriam

***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual
Shine upon them***



John E. "Jack" Driscoll Jr.

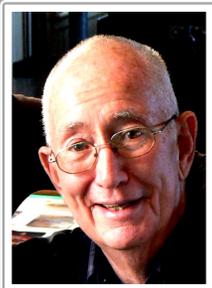
1938–April 13, 2017

Sports played a joyfully large part in the life of Jack Driscoll. Up until his passing on April 13, at the age of 79, he remained an avid fan of several New York teams, especially the Giants.

After five years in the Air Force, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant, Jack landed in sports marketing. There he worked for the National Hockey League and others before signing on with Cardio Fitness. Later, he moved into outplacement, working with people who had lost their jobs to help them find new ones.

At Christ Church, Jack is fondly remembered as the husband of Jill Driscoll, who served as our Parish Administrator for over a quarter of a century. She died in 2008.

Jack was born in Willimantic, Connecticut and attended the Lasalle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island and The College of the Holy Cross. He and Jill, his wife of 41 years, are survived by their children, Christopher Driscoll and his wife Megan of Cohasset, Massachusetts; and Courtney Crystal and her husband Robert of Bronxville; as well as by their four grandchildren.



Andrew Werkhoven

1934 - January 28, 2017

Father of parishioner, Andy Werkhoven, passes on at 83.

Born and raised in the Bronx, following his marriage, Andrew Werkhoven moved to the borough's Throgs Neck neighborhood with his wife to raise their family.

After starting out working as a butcher, he spent most of his career with Drake's Cake Company.

After retiring, he moved to Barnegat, NJ where he played an active role at St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church for nearly 20 years. He also volunteered regularly, working in a food pantry and with Samaritan House for homeless men. Andrew was a powerful example of selflessness, doing things for others rather than for himself.

He is survived by two sons, (David and Andy), Andy was received here last month; three daughters (Nina, Mary and Lisa) and ten grandchildren, including Isabel who was baptized at Christ Church.

In Memoriam

Rest in Perfect Peace



Nancy "Nan" Marvel

Among the many highlights in the long life of Nan Marvel, who died on April 17 at the age of 85, her work in New York City with The Episcopal Church stands out. She signed on there in 1976, and five years later moved to work with the Presiding Bishop's Fund (PB Fund) for World Relief where in 1995, she became executive director.

During her time there, the Fund expanded its efforts on disaster response and recovery, and began to include sustainable development as a goal in its work. Following her retirement in 1998, Nan became a national representative and ambassador for the PB Fund.

Late that same year, she led the fund's initial response to devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and neighboring countries.

On its website after Nan's passing, the PB Fund hailed the multi-pronged approach she helped to pioneer in Honduras, noting, it has "... become a core element of the organization's disaster relief work as well as the first long-term recovery program in its history." Over four years, that push resulted in the building of 200 houses, a school, a clinic, and a church, not to mention several micro-finance and agriculture projects.

"She played a critical role in the evolution of this organization," said Rob Radtke, president of what is today called Episcopal Relief & Development. "Her compassion and numerous contributions will remain with us."

In recent years, Nan remained active with multiple projects at Christ Church. She was also a member of the Westchester Junior League, The Manor Club and the Pelham Country Club, where she loved to golf. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert. She is survived by her son Joseph Bumsted Jr., daughter Mary-Ellyn Bumsted, stepdaughters Lesley Marvel Klein and Robin Marvel Pelicci, and five granddaughters. A native of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, Nan graduated from the Katherine Gibbs School in Manhattan and moved to Pelham in 1954.

Lisa Shipps



June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	2	3
4 Pentecost Whitsunday 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service	5 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	6 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	7 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	8 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	9	10
11 Pentecost 1 Trinity Sunday Prayers for healing 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m. cookout	12 St. Barnabas, Apostle 10 a.m. Said Eucharist	13 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	14 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 12:30 p.m. Seniors Luncheon	15 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	16	17
18 Pentecost 2 Fathers' Day 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service Baptism 11:30 a.m. Hymn Sing	19 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	20 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Adult Christian Learning Meeting	21 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	22 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	23	24 Nativity of St. John
25 Pentecost 3 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m. Help for Life Meeting 5 p.m. Come as You Are Eucharist	26 10 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	27 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	28 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	29 St. Peter & Paul Apostles 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	30	

July 2017

BBLP = Brown Bag Lunch Program

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Pentecost 4 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. Kickball and Ice-cream Social  	3 Parish Office Closed	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Parish Office Closed 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 	5 6:30 p.m. Men's group Making Sandwiches for BBLP	6 9-11:30 a.m. BBLP at Trinity St. Paul's	7	8
9 Pentecost 5 8 a.m. Service 9 a.m. Visual Holy Land Tour and Bible Study 10 a.m. Service Prayers for Healing	10	11 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	12	13 10 a.m. Bible Study	14	15
16 Pentecost 6 8 a.m. Service 9 a.m. Visual Holy Land Tour and Bible Study 10 a.m. Service	17	18 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	19	20 10 a.m. Bible Study	21	22 Mary Magdalene
23 Pentecost 7 8 a.m. Service 9 a.m. Visual Holy Land Tour and Bible Study 10 a.m. Service	24	25 St. James, Apostle 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	26	27 10 a.m. Bible Study	28	29
30 Pentecost 8 8 a.m. Service 9 a.m. Visual Holy Land Tour and Bible Study 10 a.m. Service	31					

August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	2 Men's Group Sandwich Making for BBLP	3 9-11:30am BBLP at Trinity St. Paul's 10 a.m. Bible Study	4	5
6 The Transfiguration 9 a.m. Buildings Ministry Meeting 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service	7	8 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	9	10 10 a.m. Bible Study	11	12
13 Pentecost 10 Prayers for Healing 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service	14	15 St. Mary the Virgin 10 a.m. Said Eucharist	16	17 10 a.m. Bible Study	18	19
20 Pentecost 11 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service	21	22 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	23	24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle 10 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Said Eucharist	25	26
27 Pentecost 12 8 a.m. Service 10 a.m. Service	28	29 10 a.m. Morning Prayer	30	31 10 a.m. Bible Study		