



CHRIST CHURCH

1415 Pelhamdale Avenue
Pelham, New York 10803

Telephone (914) 738-5515

Facsimile (914) 712-0526

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

October 17, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

Each year Autumn breathes fresh life into activities at Christ Church. In this Chronicle I want to offer you a comprehensive update on life at Christ Church as we move into 2020.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONFIRMATION CLASS & CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sunday School began with the Blessing of Backpacks at the start of September and meets weekly at 10:00 a.m. This year we have a new program called StoryMakersNYC, and we have a full complement of teachers. Many thanks to Eileen Peluso, Kristine Valerio, Julie Sanabria, Danielle Ganpat, Curtis Chase, and Janet Kornfeld who are our weekly teachers! Thanks also to our numerous substitutes and special lesson planners. If you want to get involved, please let me or Eileen know. Our new program includes a brief but very fun Creation play starring the children which will be incorporated into our 10am worship service on Sunday, November 3. Plan to be there!

Confirmation Class began the first Sunday of October. We have six teens registered for the class this year. We meet once a month for conversation, education, worship, and dinner. Bishop Dietsche will be with us for Confirmation in the Spring (date to be determined). It isn't too late to register your teen (8th grade and up). Spread the word. Many thanks to Deacon Katie and Michael Moynihan who assist me with the Confirmation Class.

Our Children's Choir meets every Wednesday for rehearsal at 4pm. Each week after rehearsal the choir takes a small amount of time to decorate the brown bags used at our monthly bagged lunch program. On the first Wednesday of the month the Children's Choir fills all seventy brown bags with water, fruit, snack, condiments, and napkins while the Men's Group makes 170 sandwiches. The next day volunteers from our Outreach Committee head over to Trinity in New Rochelle to add sandwiches to the filled bags and hand them out to anyone who is hungry. I am grateful to Jeffrey Hoffman, John Fox, Ed McGann, and Marie Dumas for bringing our Children's Choir, Men's Group, and Outreach efforts together in such a great way. Contact Jeffrey to sign up to the Children's Choir.

OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS

The Pelham Interfaith Council meets regularly during the year, and the first meeting was in late September. Jeffrey Hoffman was our representative at that meeting – if you are interested in the important relationship building work that is part of the Council, please let me know, we can use a wider pool of parishioners to represent Christ Church. The clergy of the various houses of worship also meet regularly and communicate when issues in town affect one or more of our houses of worship.

These relationships are important: the recent news that swastikas had been discovered in the Pelham Middle School is horrifying; Rabbi Salzberg has a very good relationship with the other clergy, and we have offered our prayers and any support needed – my Pastoral Letter (Oct. 3) to the Parish is available on our website and in hard copy if you have not yet read it.

The next scheduled event of the Interfaith Council is the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which will be hosted by the Pelham Jewish Center at 2pm on Sunday, November 24. I hope you will make every effort to attend this Thanksgiving Service. Our presence at Interfaith events does not go unnoticed, and it is only by being present with each other that we can build stronger relationships with our sisters and brothers in other faith traditions.

On Thursday, October 24 at 7pm, one month before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Christ Church is offering an opportunity to have a conversation around Mixed Faith households and families. The Rev. Canon Jean Person who serves as the Canon for Pastoral Care in our diocese will lead the discussion and will speak about the blessings and challenges of home life when the members of a household have different faith backgrounds and beliefs. She has been married for 25 years to Kamal Abdullah, who was born in Iraq and raised in a Muslim family, and she has first-hand knowledge of how differences in religion can shape a marriage and family life.

TRANSITIONS & ADJUSTMENTS

There are a few ongoing transitions and adjustments that will affect parish life as we move into 2020.

The first is in our Vestry. Alice Dean, Jack Kaufman, and Colette Phipps are all concluding their second, three-year terms on our Vestry. They have each served with distinction, and I am grateful for their energy, time, and service to the parish. It is not very often that we have three vacant vestry seats up for election at an Annual Meeting as we will in 2020. Carol Ipsen is chairing our Nominating Committee for 2020. If you are interested in being considered for nomination to run for Vestry, please speak to Carol.

You may have noticed that Canon Susan Harriss has been around a little less often on Sundays this past month. She and I sat down together at the end of the summer and agreed

to a decreased schedule that allows her to enjoy her retirement more, travel and spend time with her family, and not be as fully scheduled every Sunday. A great example of how she is doing this is that she and her husband Ken are walking the Camino Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain in October. As we move into 2020 Canon Susan will be with us as celebrant and preacher about once a month on Sundays, she will continue to do pastoral care and counselling, and she will continue to offer Yoga for Prayer.

Jeff Bodenmann (Senior Warden), John Fox (Buildings Liaison to the Vestry), Kari Black (Buildings Chair), and I recently met with the leadership of Parish Property Management (PPM) and adjusted the oversight that we will receive from them moving forward. PPM has been a great blessing for our parish the past four years. They began by doing a facilities assessment for us (the most recent one had been done nearly a decade earlier) and assisting us to work through our most pressing needs. They also oversaw numerous projects that were beyond our capabilities and expertise to handle, the best example being the “Big Dig & Drainage” project in 2016. The new agreement decreases their weekly site visits to monthly but continues to keep them available for project management and emergencies. This will save us some money and also provide us with property management that better matches our needs at this point.

Roof work related to the Capital Campaign has continued through the autumn. All of this roof work has been funded by grants from the Diocese of New York and the Bedell Fund of Saint Matthew’s Church, Bedford. The Ranck Building roof is finished. Currently the roofers are working on the connecting roof of the Nannette Bolton Building. Many thanks to Kari Black and Russ Watsky our consultant for overseeing all of our roof projects.

One of the more visible adjustments and transitions has been the organ project. The Jack Hennigan Memorial Organ, Juget-Sinclair, Opus 51, (the formal title of our new pipe organ) arrived from Montreal at the start of October and installation and voicing of the instrument will continue through November. We have been without a pipe organ since July when our Casavant pipe organ was removed. The intervening months have seen significant repair and renovating of the apse area where the organ will go. What has been less visible, but no less important, has been the work in the crypt underneath the church updating and moving electrical panels and wires and adding in structural supports for the new organ. All of this work has been overseen by Margaret Young with lots of time and help from Jeffrey Hoffman and Kari Black. When it is all finished, we will get to enjoy this wonderful instrument, donated by Martin Nash. Please never forget the hard work and generosity that made it possible.

BLESSING & DEDICATING OUR NEW PIPE ORGAN AND OTHER CONCERTS

The Jack Hennigan Memorial Organ, Juget-Sinclair, Opus 51, will be formally blessed at 5pm Christmas Lessons and Carols on December 8. This will be the first non-Sunday

morning event featuring the new organ, and it will be heavy on well-known Christmas carols and instrumentals that will allow our new organ to shine.

The official dedication of our new Juget-Sinclair, Opus 51, pipe organ will happen in 2020. We are thrilled to have world-renowned organist Daniel Roth play the dedicatory recital on the new instrument on Saturday, February 15, at 7:30pm. This is a concert you absolutely do not want to miss. Buy your tickets today before we sell out.

These two musical events highlight our new pipe organ, and they are rightly the heart of our concert season for 2019 and 2020. That said, I hope you will find time to come to every concert we are offering this season. Our concert season kicked off with the Rocky Middleton Ensemble Jazz Concert in September. On October 20 we welcome the Mark & Beverly Davis Duo on classical guitar and mandolin. Concert Pianist Jason Andrews will be with us in recital November 17. Tickets and our full list of concerts which continues into 2020 are available at www.concertsatchristchurch.org.

It has been and remains a great honor to be your Rector. There are many great things happening at Christ Church right now and in the months to come. Come to church as often as you can, get involved in a new ministry, and give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ that we are blessed to be a part Christ Church in Pelham!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hossie Mead', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

The Reverend Matthew Hossie Mead, Rector