

Soundings



The Newsletter of Christ Church

June 2021 • Issue 13



I Am the Resurrection



Parish of Christ the Redeemer

1415 Pelhamdale Avenue • Pelham, New York 10803



All are welcome

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And then there were two...

Once again we've said goodbye to another Soundings team member. Barbara Nelson, one of our deputy editors and proofreader par excellence, recently moved to Colorado to be closer to her son Chris after the passing of her husband Bob. I had come to rely on Barbara to make sure our grammar and punctuation was as it should be before going to print -- she took no prisoners. Barbara, as I write this, I miss going over the details of Soundings with you during our phone sessions and having a laugh over the peculiarities of the English language. Your close attention to detail is remarkable.

I wish you all that is good in your new environment and I hope you will continue to read Soundings and give us a holler from time to time.

Take care.

Dear Parish family,

As we slowly emerge from pandemic driven isolation, we hope to get back on schedule with more issues of Soundings. With that in mind, if you'd like to join us -- Erik and Missy -- on the Soundings team, send us an email at the address above. If you can't commit the time, we still welcome your stories, article ideas, announcements and so on.

Peace and love,

Missy

Soundings

The Newsletter of Christ Church
Episcopal/Anglican

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

Another “New Normal”



I remember hearing the phrase “the new normal” for the first time in 2009 in the aftermath of the 2008-2009 economic crash, and it is a phrase that is again being thrown

around for what the post-COVID-19 world might look like. I wonder how many “new normals” Christ Church has lived through in the past 178 years as our parish has navigated wars, pandemics, and economic crashes. It has also adapted to emerging technologies such as the electric light bulb, the telephone, and the automobile.

21st Century communication technology has been a giant blessing which, has enabled us to continue worshipping, meeting, and communicating with each other for the past fifteen months. But there are downsides – Zoom and livestreams are neither personal nor Sacramental, technical issues have been numerous, phishing scammers have been attacking us and many other churches, and the biggest downside is that not everyone is online. For the most part, the benefits outweigh the problems, and I believe that we have the opportunity and obligation to embrace our era’s emerging technologies for increased evangelism and communication. That said, at the end of the day, our faith and fellowship is all about being present and in communion with each other.

When autumn arrives and our 2021-2022 program year begins, I am optimistic that we will be able to worship, sing, eat, and drink, together with minimal or no restrictions. Much of what is planned already is decidedly normal – at least in the context of a parish church. On Saturday, September 11, we will offer a memorial service on the 20th anniversary of 9-11. The next day, Sunday September 12, we hope

to have our “welcome back” Sunday with choir, congregational singing, blessing of backpacks, and festive Coffee Hour. A week later, on Sunday afternoon, September 19, Bishop Dietsche will make his official visit to confirm fourteen teens. Beyond that I am working with and encouraging our Sunday School, Outreach, Fellowship, Education, Youth, Seniors’, Men’s, and Women’s Groups to start planning in-person programs and events for autumn.

Several ongoing projects should assist our parish family as we all come back together in autumn and for years to come. First, we are in the process of upgrading our livestream, internet, and sound in the church to ensure a high quality, reliable livestream that is aesthetically suitable in our glorious sanctuary. Second, the eight damaged and deteriorating leaded glass windows on the back wall of the church are being replaced by Rohlf’s Stained and Leaded Glass Studio who crafted and installed the Robert Weeks Jr. Memorial Window. The new windows will beautify the tower facade by the Garden and spruce up the Sacristy, Vestry, and Acolyte Rooms. Third, the ongoing renovations and refurbishments of the Parish Hall, Conference Room, and Undercroft will be complete by mid-summer providing us all with wonderfully refreshed fellowship and gathering spaces. The first two projects above are within the plan and scope of our 175th Anniversary Capital Campaign, and the third has been accomplished entirely through the hard work of our staff and volunteers – many thanks to our Sextons Ed and Walter, to John Fox our Buildings Committee Chair, and to Nate Hopper and the Troop 1 Scouts for their hard work these past months.

At the heart of every parish church is the assumption that the gathered Christian community is a constant in an ever changing and evolving world. The Good News of Jesus Christ has not and will not

Another “New Normal”

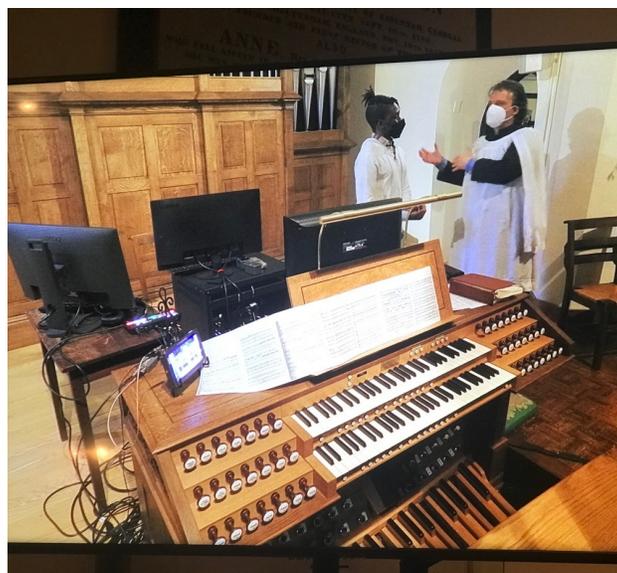
change: “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” By the grace of God our spiritual and parish home at Christ Church has

weathered challenging times before. As we head toward our parish’s 179th year, may God bless us with a year filled with fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer together.

- Fr. Matt



Socially Distanced Choir Rehearsals and Recording





Buildings Update

By John Fox

At long last work on several building projects at Christ Church has finally resumed. Last year with the onset of COVID-19

precautions, we tabled all capital projects and just focused on smaller maintenance-required work. This year with COVID-19 waning, we have reset our sights, and geared up a number of new building projects as well as needed repairs.

For openers, we have replaced the glass storm shield over the stained glass window to the right of the Bolton Altar. Rolhf's Stained Glass did the work, the same Mount Vernon-based company that will replace eight leaded-glass windows elsewhere on the south-facing side of the church (facing the Garden of Resurrection). Three of these are at the attic level. The remaining five open into the Vestry, Sacristy, and the music robing room on the ground floor.

As part of this Capital Campaign project, we will also repoint the brickwork and replace all broken bricks surrounding those windows. The contracts were signed in April. Work will likely begin in early to mid-summer.

Meanwhile, as part of an Eagle Scout project, a refurbishing of the cabinetry in the undercroft kitchen is nearing completion. This involves some repairs, plus sanding, painting and replacing hardware. In preparation for that, our Sextons, Ed Blue and Walter Roberts cooked up a creative way to help remove the kitchen's heavy and long-

inoperable steam table. They used a car jack to pick it up and help place it on dollies.

Another project still in the planning stages would permanently install audio-visual equipment in the sanctuary to more efficiently livestream regular services. The new installation will allow us to do away with cables running throughout the area as well as tripods holding cameras and microphones. This project has not yet been contracted, but it will also likely include wiring two or more cameras adjacent to corbels (the carved figures up at the end of two ceiling arches) as well as hanging some microphones from the ceiling. In addition, a computer panel to control the system would be installed in a closet off the hallway leading from the sanctuary toward Hoag Hall.

Additionally, Ed and Walter are finishing up a refreshing of the conference room off Hoag Hall, deep cleaning and painting the room, plus swapping out the chairs.

Lastly, we got lucky early in the spring when the arborist trimming our trees damaged a spotlight on the front of the church along Pelhamdale Avenue. Unfortunately, or fortunately as it turns out, when electricians came to replace the light, first we had to go into the Crypt beneath the altar to turn off the power. Only then did we discover both sump pumps in that area had burned out, partially flooding the area. Fortunately, the pumps got replaced, and all is now well (and dry as a bone).

- John Fox, Buildings Chair





New Vestry Trio Settles In



Jack Kraft

It is an honor to serve on the Vestry. It is also a commitment. It requires teamwork, but I like working with all the members.

So far, our meetings have all been on Zoom. Since you are not facing people, that makes it harder since you can't look them in the eye and read them. That's why I am really looking forward to meeting in person again. That way I can yell and scream, which is what I'm known for, after all. So far, the Vestry has not had any heavy-duty votes. We have talked a lot about church finances and the endowment. I'm on the Buildings Committee with John Fox, the chairman. He's very good. Our focus is maintenance of the three main buildings, the church, the classrooms and Father Matt's house.

My family goes back a long way with this church. We've been members for just over 30 years. My father and grandfather actually did much of the plumbing and heating for the church starting in the 1930s. I even stood in the crypt with them.

This is the second time I have served on the Vestry. I was a member for a year and a half or so under Father Randy Alexander. The biggest issue back then was that part of the floor in the church collapsed, and we had to rebuild it.

So far, I've only been to three Vestry meetings, but I look forward to more. At one time or another I think that everyone should serve.

Bob Landis

Joining the Vestry earlier this year has been a revelation, as I have discovered the myriad of people and functions necessary to allow Christ Church to function properly. Like an iceberg, only one-eighth of the work as well as the contributors involved are visible to all parishioners.

Previously, I have been involved on the periphery, including several years on the Stewardship

Committee and also participating in the pilgrimage to the Holy Land a few years ago. But to sit on the Vestry and see up close all the volunteers and committees that contribute to the support of the church's mission has been overwhelming.

When asked last year if I would be interested to apply for a position on the Vestry, I was honored but also concerned. Honored because of the respect I have for the people on the Vestry, but concerned at my lack of knowledge regarding both the religious duties and lay duties required.

But the support I have received from Father Matt and other members of the Vestry has been encouraging. The fellowship among the people involved in the church's administration and day to day operations is remarkable. It truly makes me happy I have made the commitment to contribute to the church and to make a stronger commitment to my faith. As I wind down my career over the next year, I hope to be able to contribute even more to the betterment of Christ Church.



Left to right: Fr. Randy, myself, my son Moshe and Fr. Matt

Courtney McGrory

Six years ago, I served on the Church's search committee for a new rector. That effort ultimately led us to Father Matt, but only after many, often intense meetings.

Since my election to the Vestry in January, I have attended only a handful of meetings, all virtually. It's a much different experience, thankfully.



In the early days of the pandemic last year, the Vestry had all sorts of crises to deal with and no clear sense of what lay ahead. But since then, I can happily report that the Vestry seems to have fallen into a nice steady rhythm. I'm incredibly impressed by how the meetings run today like a well-oiled machine. Questions and discussions are short and insightful.

There are still a lot of uncertainties, but we roll with the punches and make decisions based on a combination of what we know now, and what we think lies in the future. We are aware of this moment in time and the COVID -19 related challenges that remain, but we are trying to help Father Matt and the staff navigate the way back to normalcy as best we can.

Men's Group Rolls On

By Andrew Des Rault

As a self-professed extrovert, it is hard to overstate the impact the last 14 months have had on me. Lockdowns, working from home, and limiting social interactions to combat the pandemic, forced me, like all of us, to find my own way in the "new normal". I am happy to say that one beacon of light I used to get through that was Christ Church's Men's Group.

How could our motley group of rarely more than ten men serve as a source of inspiration at such a time? Happily, as it turns out. For starters, at least a half dozen of them could be counted on to pitch in at our monthly sandwich-making sessions in the Undercroft and/or our Zoom happy hour (yes, two events each month!). Those men were among the few people I came into regular contact with outside of my family and work colleagues. It amazes me how a little more interaction can make us feel not only more connected to a community, but also more centered.

On a deeper level, I learned much more about and from parishioners than I thought I would.

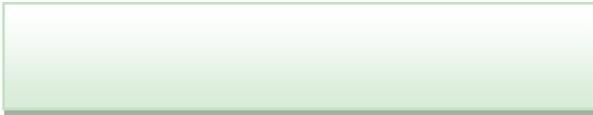
Naturally, we discussed our fears and concerns regarding the pandemic, and later, our hopes for a return to normalcy. We swapped stories about our favorite travel destinations and where we might go when "this" is all over (thanks again to John Fox and Ralph Gerra for turning me on to Mohonk!). We even got to see a live (virtual) demonstration of a fabulous model train set, which appealed to the little kid in all of us.

Having said that, the highlight of the pandemic-era Men's Group came late. On May 5, after making up to 120 sandwiches in the Undercroft, seven of us went out to Rockwell's Restaurant in Pelham for dinner and conversation for the first time in over a year. There the joy of the long-delayed social moment quickly got channeled into planning a very ambitious (and fun) calendar of Men's Group activities. I won't divulge any secrets, but I will encourage Christ Church's men to keep a lookout at the parish calendar in coming days. Our June 25th pig roast will be followed by other events. You may be pleasantly surprised.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:20

The Pig Roast



A Busy Time for Outreach

By Marie Dumas and Ed McGann

With the global pandemic affecting so many in our community, the Outreach Committee has been busy sponsoring several initiatives to help those in need.

Lenten Food Pantry Drive

Parishioners responded generously to the food pantry appeal. Four large deliveries of donated food items were made to the food pantries at St. James Episcopal Church (2 deliveries) and Agatha House (2 deliveries) in the Bronx. In addition, parishioners donated over \$2250 for the purchase of food supplies.



Outreach Sundays

Going forward, the first Sunday of every month is designated for Outreach. At present, Outreach Sundays have two points of focus:

1) Food Pantry Donations: Parishioners are invited to donate any of the following items on or before the FIRST Sunday of each month: 14-16 oz. cans of fruit, corn, peas, black beans or pinto beans; 6-8 oz. cans of tuna; 1 lb. packages of pasta or rice; 7 oz. boxes of Mac and Cheese; 10-12 oz. boxes of healthy cereal (e.g. Cheerios, Corn Flakes, oatmeal etc.). These items may be dropped off in the collection bins located downstairs between the double glass doors at the entrance to the Ranck Building (at any time not just Sundays) or in the Outreach Basket in the Narthex if you are attending services in-person. All donations will be given to the Food Pantry Programs at St. James Episcopal

Church and Agatha House Foundation in the Bronx for distribution to families and individuals in need.

2) Sandwich Making: On the first Sunday of each month at around 11:15a.m. (after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist), teens of the parish and their classmates are invited to gather with our Deacons or Father Matt in the Undercroft of the Church to make sandwiches for the Oasis Shelter in New Rochelle. This will equate to one hour of community service. Parents are also needed to assist Father Matt with overseeing the sandwich making as well as delivering sandwiches to the Oasis Shelter on Monday mornings. Please let Father Matt know if you and/or your teen is interested in participating. The group met on the first Sundays of May and June and the Outreach Committee is hoping to make this a monthly youth ministry activity on the first Sunday of each month beginning again in the fall.

Brown Bag Lunch Program

The Men's Group continues to meet monthly to make sandwiches and prepare brown bag lunches that are distributed at Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Oasis Shelter in New Rochelle. The Outreach Committee is most appreciative of the Group's ongoing support of these feeding programs. If you are interested in joining them for sandwich making, please contact Andy Des Rault at: andrew.DesRault@gmail.com.

Laundry Day Drive

In May, the Outreach Committee sponsored a Laundry Supply Drive and parishioners were asked to donate laundry supplies for those in need. Christ Church delivered four large bins of laundry detergent and dryer sheets to Hope Community Services in New Rochelle for its "Suds and Duds" giveaway in June.

The Outreach Committee wishes to thank all of the Christ Church parishioners who support our programs and initiatives. Your generosity is making a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Rev. Deacon Katie's Letter



I hope we never forget this past year. Life before the pandemic was easy, normal, ordinary even. Looking back, we were almost innocents. When it all began, there was that awful fear, made worse by the need for

avoidance of people. How unnatural was that? My daughter did my shopping for me. Those of us of a certain age became shut-ins.

Strangely we all seemed to adjust to the new normal of not socializing. Then came Zoom and that seemed normal after a while. As the year went on, the horror of COVID-19 set in. But soon I dared to go to the market. Then the vaccine became available and there was the scramble to get a shot. And what a sense of relief that brought! But then COVID-19 hit home. One of my daughters and her entire family came down with it. While her husband and adult children never had to be hospitalized, my daughter

became so sick that every day for a week she was beyond scary. Her breathing was frightening.

She has now fully recovered, but the terror I felt was hard to explain. I prayed almost continually during that week. I simply can't grasp how some families lost loved ones to this virus and couldn't be there with them. I never want to forget this year and how precious we humans are. We go about our days with so little thought of how God can be called on for help. We forget to be grateful for all that we have.

Meanwhile, what a wonder our priest was during this time. The effort it took to film our services and keep the church running as best as the rules allowed amazed me. I am grateful that we are now on the other side of this nightmare, but I want to remember it so I can be reminded every day of the blessings we have.

God Bless you all,

-Deacon Katie



With the help of 21st century technology, our clergy "brought church" to us in our homes at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic

Rev. Deacon Chisara Journey



A few months before the coronavirus lockdown, when my husband and I visited Christ Church as guests, he noted that most of the parishioners we knew had changed. Then,

it dawned on me that we too must have changed after more than seven years away. The reality is that change creeps up on all of us. But there are times when we can take control of our lives and make our own changes. My coming back to Christ Church, as a Deacon is an example.

I have experienced significant changes in my family life over the past few years. Our children have grown, completed their education and moved out. My husband and I are back to where we started, just the two of us! But I have also changed in my journey with our Lord Christ. My ordination as a Deacon in 2017 was the climax of my desire to serve God in that role, one that brings many responsibilities, including the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Reading: The Gospel reading is a moving experience. The importance attached to it is revealed by its many rituals: the consecration, the incense, the lighting, and the procession! What is more, you hold the Holy Bible up for everyone to

see. When holding the Holy Bible, I feel the weight of the Cross of Jesus on my shoulders!

On-Going and New Ministries: Education for Ministry (EFM) in our parish is now in its tenth year. We meet for two hours on Thursdays to study the Bible, church history, and ministry. EFM is coordinated by the Theological University of the South.

Tuesday Night Prayers: I host an online 40-minute evening prayer every Tuesday at 9p.m. The program offers an opportunity to reflect on scripture to close out the day in a quiet atmosphere. We currently have about four regular participants. I encourage you to join us!

The Women's Group: It has often been said that a church without an active women's group should return to the drawing board. My hope is that as we resume in-person activities in our parish, the women's connection will come back in full swing. Women deserve the opportunity to connect, support, and encourage one another.

Change is an integral part of the human experience. I pray that our entire congregation will experience positive changes in their families and circumstances as we move towards our return to mask-less, in-person worship and once again hug and embrace one another to the Glory of God.

-Deacon Chisara

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

Psalms 46:1-5

A Tag Sale for the Record Books



On March 29, Jackie Kraft and Eileen Wolfe finally closed up shop. More than six months after the church's COVID-19-delayed 2020 Tag Sale had been reborn in the Undercroft as the Old and New Shop, and just two weeks after the sale's two co-chairs took the sale outside on two gorgeous weekends in late March, they finally waved goodbye to several carloads of unsold odds and ends bound for a church in the Bronx.

Along the way, aided by a large cast of helpers (see "Helping Hands" below) they had pulled off the longest-running tag sale in church history, made a lot of friends among shoppers old and young alike, and pulled in a grand total of \$7,058.

Here is how they look back on it....

- Jackie

Back in the winter we knew the time had finally come to wrap up operations in the Undercroft for what remained of the Tag Sale Shop. AA wanted to get back to their regular space, and Boy Scout Troop 1 was eager to start work on their undercroft kitchen project. But we also knew we couldn't advertise for a regular tag sale just to clear the last of our merchandise. Instead, we came up with the idea of the "Pop-up Tag Sale" and scheduled it for the last two Saturdays of March. Happily, God gave us two sunny spring-like days to work with, and we

were able to move much of our merchandise--including some clothing, toys, and chairs--to the parking lot just out the door. Meanwhile, we sold fragile items including glassware plus some larger furniture items inside. It became a very festive event and we sold a lot. We are proud to let you know that together, both weekends brought in \$3,537.

- Eileen

Let me tell you about two of my favorite memories of the Tag Sale Shop project. One concerns Jackie, "Queen of Toys" for our shop. She meticulously cleaned, sorted, bagged, boxed, and priced each and every toy donation. For our shoppers with children stuck at home 24/7, it became a real COVID-19 blessing, knowing everything was clean, fresh, and a bargain to boot! Every week families came in looking for puzzles, games and toys for their kids.

One mother came in several weeks in a row and was happy to hear about Christ Church and what this ministry was about. She let her seven-year-old son purchase a toy each week. After 4 weeks in a row, she and her husband told their son that he would have to donate something from his own collection for another child. Sure enough, the following week—and on several more he came in with his donation assuring us it was clean and in good shape. We made good friends with the new Pelham family. Perhaps we will see them at services soon!

Meanwhile, we had one woman who made small purchases on a number of Saturdays and was very chatty. When she heard me tell another shopper who asked if we were accepting more donations: "Sorry, we are just trying to clear what we have." At that point the chatty woman came over with some advice for me: "My dear, please don't refuse donations." She explained that she and her husband needed items for an event at their church in the Bronx. "We can pick up anything that you don't

sell.”

It was music to my ears! We have always struggled to get rid of stuff after our tag sales. End result? She and her team came at the end of the last day, packed up 28 boxes and drove off with them. It was a huge

help to us, and a blessing for her.

WATCH THIS SPACE: Looks like our next regular TAG SALE will be Spring 2022, and we will be inside in the undercroft and outside in the lower parking lot. Two Saturdays in a row? We'll see!

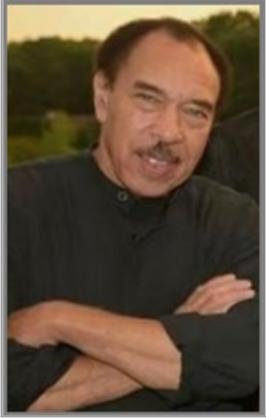
HELPING HANDS

Many parishioners, on those two special days and throughout the sale (August through March) helped make this project a success. Angela Barone, Amy Chase, Lorraine Collins, Ellen Dierking, Marie Dumas, John Felicetti, Patrice Fitzpatrick, Erik Ipsen, Toni Kavanagh, Catherine Kenworthy, Jack Kraft, Walter Roberts, Melissa Roddy, Janet Salvatore, Pat Sweeney and Barbara Zambelli.

* Apologies if we forgot anyone, but you know who you are!



The Verger's Corner



As the COVID-19 pandemic in America finally winds down, it is good to remember all that our church managed to offer through all those difficult months, especially online, in what became our new normal.

Now, after the longest drought on record, we are finally taking large steps back to doing things

in person. Once again, we have live readers for our services—not taped readers, but live ones. It's good to get back to the basics.

We also have not one but two deacons, as Chisara Alimole has joined us. After a long time away, she has returned to her home Church to serve alongside Deacon Katie. In addition, we also have our acolytes back in the church...several of whom persevered and served throughout the pandemic.

With more staff and on-going easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to offer long-delayed memorial services for two parishioners, Bob Nelson on Friday, May 21; and Betty Hoover on the following day. Both services drew well over 50 people.

On a happier note, as of last month, we now serve Coffee Hour outside with refreshments after all services.

Our services have seen many changes courtesy of COVID-19. In some ways it reminds me of what people say about that great American music form, Jazz. They define it as a familiar tune with a recognizable melody at its core, performed in a unique way by virtue of inspiration.

It's been said that we share a long Judeo-Christian history of people thriving in complicated or difficult situations. In recent months many of the faithful decided to live out their life with God in the background at best, or totally absent at worst.

One day this dark chapter will be over. We don't know whether it will be weeks, months or years. But one day, we will return to our church buildings. We will share from the same chalice without fear. We will embrace one another at the peace. We will look deeply into the eyes of those we care about. We'll meet in groups, as we once did, to do the good work of the church.

Now in my 16th year as a Verger, I continue to work towards my 1700th Eucharist assisting the Clergy and congregation in worship!!!

Serving Our Lord Together

- *Walter Roberts, Verger*



"New Normal" additions to the Eucharist on the altar

Truly, it is in darkness that one finds the light, so when we are in sorrow, then this light is nearest of all to us.

Meister Eckhart



Rev. Peter Powell: Return of Summertime Sub with Different Chemistry

By Erik Ipsen

Beginning on July 4 for five consecutive Sundays, The Reverend Peter R. Powell will again fill in for the vacationing Father Matt. Father Powell is an ordained priest who, for over twenty years, headed a Westport, Connecticut non-profit (Homes with Hope) that provides supportive housing, emergency shelter and other services to people who are 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 Revelation to John at St. Mary the Virgin Church in

Times Square, where Father Matt once served.

Father 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 listening to a wide variety of podcasts.

He comes to us after serving for two months as the interim at St. John's Church, Stamford, Connecticut. He will return to St. John's for at least the month of August beginning August 8.

We look forward to his five Sundays in Pelham and to his sharing more insights from his long and unusually varied career.

Coffee Hour Returns: OUTDOORS



Visiting Swedes Set Sail

We moved to Pelham from Stockholm in August 2018. In some ways that feels like ages ago, and at the same time, like just the other day. We have loved living here and have appreciated so much how welcoming and open everyone has been at Christ Church, at Prospect Hill School, in our neighborhood — even in the local shops and restaurants. We feel we have made genuine connections and we take with us many fond memories.

In Sweden people tend to be less chatty in public with those they don't know, but in Pelham we have enjoyed rich, even inspiring conversations just while waiting in line at a store, taking a walk along Esplanade, or during coffee hour after Sunday morning mass.

We will miss that everyday warmth, and curiosity shown towards others in the community, even newcomers. We will miss the wonderful teachers at Prospect Hill and how they have expertly guided the kids in their learning, even during remote instruction. We will also miss Jeffrey's organ playing and the choir's beautiful music that with heroic efforts has continued through the pandemic.



Our next step will take us back to Stockholm where we will live in a part of the city called Kungsholmen. There Noah, Nils and Samuel will go to an elementary school called Kristinebergsskolan. But before that we will spend the month of July at our summer house on an island in the Stockholm archipelago called Ramsö, enjoying the company of family and chickens, surrounded by water and berry bushes.

Sigrid will be kayaking, Simon will be taking long swims in the cool water and the boys will be sailing their little sailboat or wakeboarding.

What makes it bearable to leave is knowing that it is only a temporary good-bye. With Mormor, grandmother Jean (Gruener) and other relatives still living in Pelham, we know it won't be long until we are planning our first trip back. We love pen pals so please do stay in touch and let us know if your own travels ever take you to Sweden. We would be most pleased to welcome you there. Hejdå så länge!

- *Simon Agerberg*

“May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again,
May God hold you
in the palm of His hand.”



Congratulations 2021 Graduates!

Every year at this time we honor all those who have moved on from one school or program to the next--from pre-kindergarten to medical school. This year we celebrate an especially hardy group, those who have done that despite all the disruptions, distractions, cancellations, quarantines, and virtual classes spawned by the long COVID-19 crisis.

Well done to you all!

Pre -K

Margaret Dammerman - pre-K

Michael Widmaier - Bronxville Montessori School (Pre-K) and will be starting kindergarten at Colonial in the fall.

Kindergarten

Jaliyah Laguerre-Simon - Our Lady Of Victory Kindergarten

Elementary School

Noah Agerberg - 5th grade/Prospect Hill Elementary, moving up to Middle School.

Aiden Munro - PS 14, Bronx, 5th grade. Will be attending MS 101 for Middle School

Middle School

Tiffany Abrahams - 8th grade from Sacred Heart Greenwich

High School

Nicholas Hibbler - PMHS. He's headed to Miami University in Ohio

Victoria Hoffer - 12th grade at New Rochelle High School

Chapman Jones -Hackley School

University

Kieran Heese - University of Virginia

Ronan Cooke - Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Finance and Real Estate)

Owen Swanson - University of Michigan





THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK



- Michael Fawcett
- Missy Kisob
- Alban Graham
- Mark McKee
- Curtis Chase
- Walter Roberts
- Andy Des Rault
- Melissa Roddy
- John Fox
- The Men's Group

- Carla Carol
- Ellen Dierking
- John Hastings
- Marie Main
- Jeffrey Hoffman
- The Christ Church Choir
- Father Matt



Two Easter Snapshots

For many parishioners one of the highlights of our second Easter Season at Christ Church during the pandemic was that this time, we could share so much of it online--and in limited numbers, do so in person. Not only were there the services but we also had an array of hymns sung by members of our choir and live readings by clergy and various parishioners. The most dramatic of the latter came on [Palm Sunday](#) with a production of the Passion orchestrated by Father Matt. It featured more than a dozen parishioners in speaking roles.

Months later, Soundings found the experience was still fresh in the minds of two parishioner/performers: **Missy Kisob**, a Passion narrator, and **Alban Graham** who played one of the Chief Priests.

RISING TO A DRAMATIC CHALLENGE

Q: What was your initial reaction to news of your role...interesting? No way? Not THAT role?

Alban: My initial reaction to Father Matt's invitation to participate in a videotaping of the Passion narrative was one of excitement, until ... I learned that I would be playing the role of the accursed one. But I was not worried about participating in the midst of the pandemic because I knew that all safety precautions were in place. Instead, the opportunity gave me almost a triumphant feeling, something to look forward to after the stress that we had endured.

Q: You have done public readings of one sort or another before. Was this one different in any way?

A: In spite of my history of public speaking in medicine, preaching, Bible teaching, and readings in church, participating in this setting was different. Initially, I feared I'd forget my lines. But after it was all over I had a much greater appreciation for what actors do on stage and on screen all the time. As I didn't have too many lines, I thought preparing far ahead was not necessary, and was I wrong? I was surprised!

Yes, it took a few trials, but the final taping was successful. Having watched the video at Easter, I could finally breathe a sigh of relief. Later, a few parishioners commented positively.

I am pleased that the experience has reawakened my interest in drama performance, one I had left behind (in high school) a long time ago.

- *Alban Graham*

Q: What was your initial reaction to news of your role...interesting? No way? Not THAT role?

Missy: When I was asked to participate in this project, I was pleased to do it because the role of narrator is usually neutral, but in reading through the script to familiarize myself with the version in the book of Mark which we were going to use, I realized that my childhood issue with this story had not gone away. Even though I know the outcome is necessary, I want the story to end differently and for Jesus to live! So I knew it would be an emotional experience.

Q: How important was it to be able to do this now, in the midst of the pandemic?

A: I think Fr. Matt was brilliant to have us do this during the pandemic. The whole project was well organized with all the safety protocols in place, but it still allowed enough socially distanced interaction with fellow parishioners to make it a pleasant experience. It provided a respite from the restrictions of necessary isolation.

Q: You have done public readings of one sort or another before. Was this one different in any way?

A: Recording the video was a different experience for me. We used a green screen, an iPhone camera, and many, many takes to get it right--mostly because of the noise from the street. At times during the recordings, it sounded like all the motorcycles in Westchester County had gathered out on Shore Road. Recording was also different because of the content. This story is the heart of Christianity. It's

very emotionally charged and I wanted to get it right.

Q: Did you prepare for it differently?

A: To prepare, I read it through a few times to get the cadence and sort out any difficult names. Also, Fr. Matt had carefully explained the recording process so I knew there would be an opportunity to correct any errors.

In the end, the taping went well, but I did it twice because initially I went in on the wrong day, but we went ahead and recorded anyway. The green screen, however, was straight out of the box and it was still ruffled. We also realized that reading from a printed sheet on a stand was not ideal. Days later we recorded it again but this time with a wrinkle-free green screen and a teleprompter.

Q: After it aired online and in church, how did

you feel? M: I didn't know the video would be aired in church on Palm Sunday so I was very surprised to hear my voice coming out of the speakers. (*Is that what I sound like?*) It was even more of a jolt to see what looked like my disembodied head floating on a black screen. Surprises aside, I was impressed with what Fr. Matt had done with well chosen scenic backdrops, background music and sound effects. It was simply brilliant. Also, since the only readers/actors I had seen in between takes were Michael Fawcett (narrator) and Mark McKee (Jesus), it was very interesting to see the other readers/actors in action on video.

Did you get any reaction? In speaking with other parishioners after service, the general consensus about the production was two thumbs up.

- Missy Kisob

The Passion video cast in order of appearance:

Michael Fawcett, Missy Kisob, Alban Graham, Mark McKee, Curtis Chase, Walter Roberts, Andy Des Rault, Melissa Roddy, John Fox, The Men's Group, Carla Carol, Ellen Dierking, John Hastings, Marie Main, Music -Jeffrey Hoffman & The Christ Church Choir
Produced, Edited, Directed and Filmed by Father Matt

Baptisms...



Claire May Tallon - May 23, 2021
Vivian Marie Herr - June 6, 2021
Mark Widmaier - June 12, 2021
Amalie Evena William - June 20, 2021
Lillian Eloise Alexandra Morse - Jun 27, 2021

***There is one Body and one Spirit; There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; One God and Father of all. -BCP***



Stewardship: With more ways to pledge, levels hold

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank everyone who has made a 2021 pledge. As life returns to something more normal, I would also like to invite those who have not yet had the opportunity to pledge to do so in the coming weeks. One bit of good news on that front is that staff and parishioners have been working together to make giving to Christ Church as convenient as possible.

Parishioners sometimes tell us they were not aware of just how many giving options we now have. Whether you choose to fill out a traditional paper pledge card in ink, or prefer to call the parish office and make a verbal commitment, or would rather become an online giver – we have multiple giving options for you to consider.

Online Parish Giving is quickly becoming one of the most popular ways either to make ongoing pledge payments, or one-time gifts, to Christ Church. Over 50 individuals/families now go that route. You can find the link at: <https://parishgiving.org>. Alternatively, you can go to the church website at <https://christchurchpelham.org> and simply click on the “DONATE” button. By doing that, you can set up a regular (weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually) payment schedule. Or you can also set up one-time or recurring donations (for Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, special occasions, etc.). The Parish Giving website makes it all quick and easy. And if you make your contributions from a bank account, the church pays only minimal processing fees. If you prefer a traditional paper pledge card or have other questions, please call the church office: (914) 738-5515.

As of mid-May, here is where stewardship stands compared with the levels of one year ago. The good news is that the numbers have remained relatively stable despite the pandemic.

Pledges	2021	2020
Total #	92	116
Increased pledge in 2021	39	
Same pledge as 2020	33	
New pledge in 2021	8	
Decreased pledge in 2021	12	
Amount pledged	\$376,358.00	\$391,730.00

Our stewardship efforts continue for 2021. As our Vestry and committees plan for a return to a more robust array of activities, we are prayerful that parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to make a pledge, will consider doing so. The Gospel is rich with examples of how our faith kindles our love for each other and our Christian responsibility to share our gifts and our love with the world. We invite you and your household to pray and discuss, taking these next weeks to consider how your generous response to God’s call has been shaped by this community and the friends who gather with you.

We have many other ways to help make a financial impact at Christ Church. If you would like to learn more about Facebook fundraisers, how to enroll in the AmazonSmile program to benefit our parish, how to make pledge payments through the gifts of marketable securities, or if you have any estate planning questions, please reach out to either Father Matt or to Kari Black. We would also be happy to discuss any items pertaining to the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with you.

- Kari Black, Stewardship Chair

Obituaries

Betty Rodes Hoover

April 12, 1927 – February 14, 2021



Pictures of Betty Jane Rodes as a young girl show that she had poise and flair from the very start. She was the first of two children of Elizabeth Foster and John Calvin Rodes, Jr., and was born in Philadelphia, Pa. in the spring of 1927. Her brother was born a couple of years later.

Betty's father was a jeweler, which perhaps gave her a taste for sparkle and finery. After graduating from high school, she went straight to a local finishing school. There she learned the "social graces," plus a whole range of other skills that would support her career and shape her life.

Still in her teens, Betty started working as a clothes model in Philadelphia and, in 1949, she married Walter F. Harriman. In 1953, she entered the "Mrs. Philadelphia" contest and won. She later divorced and, in 1956, Betty married Herbert Hoover Jr., a distant relative of our 31st president. Herbert, a department head at the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), had been a lieutenant in the US Navy and longed to live near the water. The two moved to New Rochelle and soon settled into a corner apartment overlooking Long Island Sound. The Hoovers bought a boat and joined the Huguenot Yacht Club, with its 1910 club-house -- the former east-coast home of silent-film star, Lillian Gish. Betty would live in the apartment at 300 Pelham Road for the next sixty years.

During the 1960s, Betty took a job at the Bonwit

Teller department store in Manhattan. Did we mention that Betty was crazy about fashion? At Bonwit's she modeled the latest clothes by walking through the different floors during the day and on the cat-walk at the store's fashion shows. "I modeled all over the store," she remembered. "I changed clothes all day long." For Betty, that was heaven.

In 1963, she began working at the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising (LIM) on E. 53rd St. in Manhattan, a school specializing in fashion and merchandising. In her 20+ years there, she helped to train thousands of students for careers in fashion. She lead courses in personal development -- instruction in hairstyling, proper dress, make-up application, posture, manners and public speaking. She also taught her students how to stand: Right foot slightly ahead of the left, at a 45-degree angle.

All of this went into the more than 150 fashion shows she and her students staged over the years at the Plaza Hotel, featuring clothes borrowed from designers like Ann Klein, Valentino, and Oscar de la Renta. She also advised employees at a variety of companies, including NBC, on how to present themselves. Her business cards read: "Mrs. Betty Hoover – Social Skills and Etiquette." Betty loved her working life. Even after she left LIM in the 1980s, she taught etiquette classes through The Charm Workshop in New Rochelle, and in her apartment, where she kept her dining room set with fine china, silver and crystal for her students.

Out for a stroll one day in 1965, Herbert stepped into Pelham's Christ Church on a whim. The two eventually became members. "I loved it for its beauty and its pageantry," Betty once told Soundings magazine. When Herbert died in the 1980s, she became

Obituaries

a greeter at church events and on Sunday mornings. She did this with such flair and devotion for so many years, that the minister named her “Chief Greeter for Life.”

Betty also joined the boards of the Colburn Nursing Home in New Rochelle and the historic Bartow Pell Mansion, in the Bronx. But most of all, she cherished her membership in The Manor Club. She loved decorating the club’s annual Christmas tree and helping to orchestrate its afternoon teas. Some swore Betty’s two favorite words were “tea sandwich.” At her passing, a Manor Club friend circulated an email

lamenting the loss of “our own Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and Jackie Kennedy.”

Betty had a strong faith in God, and a strong sense of fun. She adored men, flowers, dogs, clothes, and jewelry. She absolutely could not get by without vanilla ice cream or Prosecco. She had a gift for working all the angles, and she truly got the most out of her life.

Now, Heaven has a new greeter.



Robert Locke Nelson

November 11, 1942 – March 11, 2021



Born in Evanston, Illinois in 1942, Robert Locke Brown was the first of the two children born to William Robert Brown and Elizabeth (Martin) Brown. His younger brother, Richard

(“Rick”) arrived two years later.

When Bob Brown’s parents divorced and his mother remarried, her two boys were adopted by her second husband, Edgar Nelson. They lived in the Chicago area until Bob was twelve, and the Nelson family moved to Bedford Village in New York’s Westchester County. Bob loved animals and, as a boy, he had a job at a dog kennel that raised Corgis.

As a teenager, Bob got his first glimpse of Barbara Reynolds, who lived nearby in Mt. Kisco. When a mutual friend urged Bob to ask Barbara out on a double date, he resisted. He thought she was too

“bookish.” But by the time he left high school to join the Marine Corps, they had become close. When Barbara went to college, they continued writing to each other during his service. In the USMC he became a lance corporal and, later, was an active member of the VFW.

After he left the Marines, Bob and Barbara picked up where they had left off. They were married in Mt. Kisco in 1966, and settled in Jamaica, Queens. That same year, Bob began working for United Airlines. He worked at JFK and LaGuardia airports as everything from a passenger agent to a Sky Cap. During those years, Bob and Barbara traveled to Scandinavia, Rome and Athens.

In 1978, the Nelsons welcomed a son, Christopher. Bob adored and grew to admire Chris, and must have saved every card and letter his son ever gave him. If Chris scribbled his signature on something,

Bob cut it out and saved it. He also wrote odes to his boy, tucking them away in his desk.

They moved to Pelham Manor in 1980, and Bob retired from United in 1998. In retirement, he appeared as an extra or a driver in several Hollywood movies shot in New York, including "Catch Me If You Can." Bob was also a volunteer firefighter for five years with the Pelham Manor FD.

Bob was MAD about cars and rarely met a motor he didn't love. He collected dozens of real and model cars over the years, and until recently could be seen rumbling around Pelham in his WW II Jeep, his Mercedes Kompressor sports car or his aging Chevy Caprice. And then there was his orange VW Thing. Most striking was the sight of Bob zipping by on his Italian Vespa scooter.

His childhood love of Corgis never left him. The

Nelsons had a succession of them over the years. And despite his extreme allergy to cats, he supported Barbara in her volunteer work of fostering rescue cats for the New Rochelle animal shelter.

Like everybody, Bob Nelson was multi-faceted. Social and outgoing, he enjoyed making people laugh and was a somewhat compulsive practical joker. He will also be remembered as a man of integrity, and someone who was kind and generous to his many friends.

Bob is survived by Barbara, his wife of 54 years, and his son, Christopher of Grand Junction, Colorado. He also leaves a half-sister, Terry Brown Woods, of Reno, Nevada; and a half-sister, Elizabeth Suzan Nelson Heithaus, of Jupiter, Florida. He was pre-deceased by his brother, Rick. Bob will rest in a family plot in Arlington, Vermont.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Quan (January 10) – Sister in law of Missy Kisob

Betty Hoover (February 14)

Thomas Arthur Helm (Feb 22) - Long time parishioner

Frederick Blue (February 22) - Younger brother of Ed Blue

Thomas Calder (February 25) - Father of parishioner JD Calder

Janet Thomas (February 26) - Aunt of Jeffrey Hoffman

Bob Nelson (March 11) -Husband of Barbara Nelson

Tom Hoxsie (May 9) - Uncle of Fr. Matt

*O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered:
Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servants,
and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy,
in the fellowship of thy saints;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

- BCP

PARISH NOTES

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 8 a.m. the Eucharist will be celebrated in the Church. Coffee Hour follows in the Garden.
Every Sunday at 10a.m. the Eucharist will be celebrated in the Church. Coffee Hour follows in the Garden.
The 10 a.m. service will be live-streamed and can be accessed through our [church website](#).

Sunday Readings, Music Info, Prayer List, and Announcements can be found at this link: <https://christchurchpelham.org/worship/>

Please review these Guidelines before coming to in-person worship: <https://christchurchpelham.org/before-attending-any-in-person-events-worship-at-christ-church/>

NOTE: Limited congregational singing (with masks on) will resume Sunday June 27, 2021.
We will add more congregational singing at the 10 a.m. in the coming weeks.

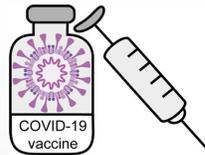


Coffee Hour is Back

If you are interested in hosting coffee hour, please use the sign-up sheets (which will be available every Sunday).

Until further notice please, bring donut holes or the equivalent!!! “Finger Food” – food that no one else touches – no dips or spreads.

Unfortunately, if it rains, there will be no coffee hour.



Every Person over age 12 is eligible to get a COVID- 19 vaccine. Every clergy member and staff member at

Christ Church is fully vaccinated.

We encourage you to seek and find an appointment to get a vaccine dose as soon as possible.



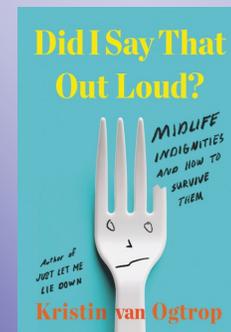
UPDATE: [Itinerary for 2022 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land](#)

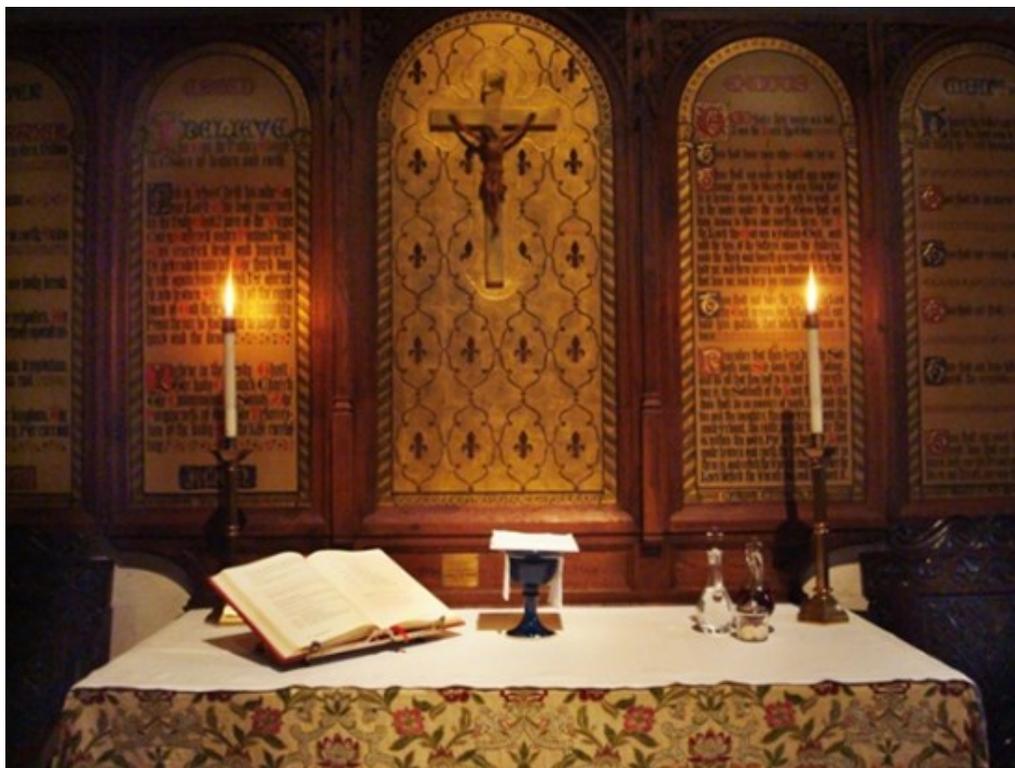
Father Matt is leading Parishioners from Christ Church to the Holy Land in 2022 (March 21 - April 3 - including travel days). We will celebrate the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary in Nazareth (March 25), visit Bethlehem, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, the Dead Sea, and spend nearly a week in Jerusalem visiting the holiest Christian and Jewish sites on earth.

Space is limited to 30 people TOTAL. At this time we are ONLY opening spaces to parishioners. If you are interested, please contact Marie in the Parish Office. You may also reserve a spot now by sending in a \$100. We have 17 pilgrims already signed up so there aren't tons of spaces left - call the Parish Office soon!

Parishioner Kristin van Ogtrop has written a new book, *Did I Say that Out Loud? Midlife Indignities and How to Survive Them*.

<https://www.littlebrown.com/titles/kristin-van-ogtrop/did-i-say-that-out-loud/9781549156137/>





All are welcome at the Lord's table

Christ Church

Parish of Christ the Redeemer

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