

ILLUMINARE

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GROWING A VIBRANT YOUTH MINISTRY AT CHRIST CHURCH

The Word of God in Galatians 6:7, 9 says that “A man reaps what he sows. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” More than 10 years ago, the Christ Church Community made the decision to sow a seed in the support and development of a consistent youth ministry. This blessed decision has and will continue to reap a bountiful harvest of mature, engaged youth and young adults. I began my youth ministry at Christ Church a little more than three years ago with a group of very engaged youth, primarily in 8th grade plus few seniors. Upon my arrival, I was blown away by the level of support from Vestry members, parishioners, and staff. This support has remained consistent over the years, a true testament to the caliber of people that make up our parish community. As I became accustomed to the techniques of youth ministry, it also became very clear that some things work and others do not. It is futile to put effort into a message or event in which no one is actively engaged and it is of paramount importance for our focus to be effective ministry. Therefore, our goal is to create as many effective youth ministry opportunities as possible such as mission trips, retreats, Wednesday evenings, Sunday afternoons, and social events and activities that encourage and build strong community cohesiveness.

There are many components to consider in the process of truly engaging youth and families. Families and youth in this community have many demands upon them. Thus, in my first year with Christ Church, the focus was to begin engaging youth in their everyday lives at school, in athletics, social events, and other extracurricular activities. In 2008, we introduced a Wednesday bus shuttle from the school to the church to make youth group more available to the junior high youth. Overall, the idea was to focus heavily on relational ministry. We strive to make Christ and God’s Word relevant in the everyday lives of our youth and to build their faith in such a way that they gravitate to God, family, and friends in times of life’s hardships. Over the last several years, our Christ Church youth have been blessed with a strong group of high school leaders who have grown in their walk with God to the point in which they feel led to disciple our junior high youth. Our aspiration is for all the youth in our church community to feel comfortable in becoming active in building their faith and in their everyday walk with God, in and out of our youth ministry opportunities.

Over the course of each school year, our youth attendance has steadily increased on youth Wednesdays and special events. However as this growth in participation has continued, our adult volunteers numbers have not been able to keep up, causing us to be spread too thin. In order to maintain safety, faithfulness and effectiveness with the increase in youth participation, we now need additional volunteers, more parent participation and leadership, and an additional staff member. By God’s grace, a surprise gift was given this spring to add a half time Assistant Youth Minister who will begin on June 15. With the proper support and leadership, we hope to make room for additional youth ministry weekly meetings to engage more youth within the parish community. By adding those events, we will create more opportunities for our youth to be active and engaged members of Christ Church. In the course of the next year, we also aim to bolster our ministry by engaging youth in community, liturgical, retreat, and leadership opportunities. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to bear the light of Christ into the hearts and minds of the Christ Church youth.

Thankfully,
Daniel Ciufi
Youth Minister



WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK? CELEBRATING THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Something very dramatic happened to a group of unlikely people in Jerusalem fifty days after Easter. The atmosphere, as St. Luke describes it, was extraordinary and probably very unlike most Episcopal church Sunday services today. A group of believers gathered anxiously and expectantly- perhaps after days of fasting and prayer- waiting for Jesus' promise of a divine companion to visit them. When it came, it turned out to be a power which would transform their lives as builders of His kingdom. One theologian has called it the "Big Bang" event of the Christian movement, a massive overflow of spiritual and moral energy which made the pagan Mediterranean into a Christian lake within three centuries. But here is the \$64 question: does that explosion of disciple energy still reverberate among us today or has the Christian experience become more quiet plop than loud bang?

It seems to me that the unmistakable message of the Pentecost story is that there is and always has been an urgency, an extravagance, and a universality in Christian discipleship; it is about *power* before it's about piety, the power of God setting all of us on fire. And whenever and wherever that energy is missing, what is left becomes thin, dull and lifeless.

This can happen in any church, including this one if we settle for our own spiritual mediocrity rather than trusting the power of God to propel us out of our comfort and hesitancy. We don't expect great things to be done to us, with us or through us. Yet here is our Jesus promising us- *you and me*- that if we would only trust in him, *we* would be set on fire with his love and do greater works than he did.

Since Pentecost of last year, some wonderful things have been accomplished by this parish and its people, corporately and individually: loving things, courageous things, generous things, sacrificial things. This Pentecost, Sunday morning June 12, join us at 7:30 and 10:00 to celebrate those acts of service and caring. Look your reddest, sing with gusto, dance together into our new "living room" and share a feast of food and fellowship.

At the same time, let the Spirit push your mind, heart and hands ahead. How can this church, how can you burn more brightly with the power of God's Spirit? Where can you rumble? Who needs your kindness, your skills, your companionship, your imagination? How can you offer them to others? To help us with this last and hardest part- the case to make more, better, Christian "love noise" this coming year- we've invited a wonderful guest preacher to help stir us up. The Rev. Canon Debra Shew is a friend of Anne's and mine and a splendid communicator of the Gospel. She comes to us from Atlanta where she serves its Bishop as Canon for Community Ministries. She is fiery and fun. She's a wife and a mother. She's passionate, curious and stubborn. We've asked her to celebrate with us and to challenge us, and she will do both. *You want to be here:* 7:30 and 10:00 on June 12, followed by Second Line and pot luck lunch in the "living room" neé the Commons. If you want to eat, bring something to share for the feast!

Fr. Tom



SUMMER BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

We would like to continue the tradition of having breakfast together after the 7:30 a.m. service and before the 10:00 a.m. summer Sunday Eucharist, but we need your help. We need volunteers to provide a simple breakfast and serve it in the Commons at 8:15 a.m. starting on June 19. If you would like to volunteer for one or two Sunday mornings, please sign up on the poster in the back of the church or call the church office at 892-3177.

SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Because our attendance at the noon Holy Eucharist has been so spotty on Thursday and Friday, we are suspending the service on those days.

MISSION BEYOND 2011 CARE PACKAGES



Please consider supporting the mission trip by sending a Care Package for one of the youth with a non-melting snack, meditation/prayer book, games (such as crossword puzzle, deck of cards, etc.) toiletries, or sunscreen. Notes of encouragement are also appreciated. Packages will be distributed to the youth during the Mission Trip. Care packages can be delivered to the office or the church on Sunday. Talk to Daniel Ciufi for more information—892-3177.

VESTRY GOINGS-ON

The new Vestry met for the first time on May 16, welcoming Patterson Conner, Michelle Prather, Judy Shopf, and Mary Thomas Coady. We re-elected Bobby Coxe and Darci Senner as our Treasurers, Mark Mercante as our Chancellor, Lucie Thornton as our Secretary, Jim Valliant as our Junior Warden, and Michelle Gallagher as our Senior Warden. The Vestry also voted to conduct an external audit for 2010 as required by diocesan canons, approved a new investment policy for an endowment and other restricted funds, heard a strong report on our community outreach ministries, and began to organize ourselves into programmatic committees. Our annual retreat was held at the Solomon Center June 3-4.



The United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the many blessings in our everyday lives. Pause, think back over your day, thank God for your blessings and take action by putting money in the *Blue Box*. Twice a year, you are asked to bring the amount of your daily thanksgiving for the ingathering service where it is combined with the offerings of other Episcopalians. The United Thank Offering Ingathering is Sunday June 12 at all services. Count your blessings every day. "Every good and perfect gift comes from above from the Father of lights." (James 1:17). We have so much for which to be thankful. Please prayerfully consider participating and giving to this special offering.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

All in the Family....

Meeting children from around the world

When: Mon., 8/1 –Thurs. 8/4

Time: 8:45-noon

Ages: 4-7.

Cost: \$30 for one child

\$40 for two

\$50 for three



Free child care for VBS week volunteers.

Led by E.C.C. Faculty member Shannon Hessemer and volunteers. Closing cookout/pot luck dinner with moms, kids & dads on Thursday evening. Maximum of 40 children. Look for registration forms at church and on the web.

BREAKFAST (AND LUNCH) FOR CHAMPIONS



Please support our June Food Drive as we seek to provide nutritional food items for hungry children during the summer. The Covington Food Bank needs breakfast bars, dried beans and rice, peanut butter, cereals, canned juices, mac and cheese, mixed canned vegetables and canned fruit as well as other suitable breakfast and lunch items. As usual, checks are welcome and should be payable to Christ Church with Food Bank listed on the memo line. Your contributions are most welcome!



Congratulations Class of 2011

Congratulations and best wishes for success go out to all those of our Christ Church family who graduated from high school, college, and graduate school:

Andrew Meyers, grandson of Bill & Lorraine Meyers, graduate from LSU with a degree in Business.

Matthew Meyers, grandson of Bill & Lorraine Meyers graduated from Lafayette High School and will attend LSU.

Anna Meyers, granddaughter of Bill & Lorraine Meyers graduated from Houston Christian High School and will attend LSU.

Mimi Howard, granddaughter of Bill & Lorraine Meyers graduated from St Anne's School, Brooklyn, NY and will attend Reid College in Portland, Or. She will deliver a valedictory at Monday night graduation. Former Christ Church member *Brent Meyers*, a 2010 graduate from Washington & Lee Univ., has entered Redeemer Seminary in Dallas, TX.

Jenny Replogle, daughter of Rosemary Replogle, earned a diploma in Anglican Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary, will be ordained to the Diaconate on June 18, and has accepted a position as Curate at Trinity Church in Princeton, N.J.

Christ Church, Covington

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 Benjie Branson *Assisting Organist*
 Max Welch, *Pianist*
 Buddy Anderson *Nursery Coordinator*
 Chuck Aversa, *Facilities Coordinator*

VESTRY

2009-2012—Jeff Bell, Mark Berry,
Michelle Gallagher, Lucie Thornton
 2010-2013—Bill Batson, Mel Elliott,
Jim Valliant, Paul Vining
 2011-2014 — Mary Thomas Coady, Pattercon Conner,
Michelle Prather, Judy Shopf

Scheduled to Serve Sunday, June 12, 2011		
	7:30	10:00
MC		Lorraine Meyers
EM	Anne Butts	Melinda Jones Gray Mitchell
Acolytes		Philip James Emma Mitchell William James
Lectors		Michael Monette Bill Rhodes
Ushers	Don Kieffer Charlie Stahr	Jon Henderson, Kirk Michel, Don Duggan Jeff Bell, Steve Canter, Buddy Anderson, Bailey Pullen
Greeters		Melissa Elliott, Georgie Myrtle
Altar Guild Team III		
Caring Ministry Leader Kim Scoggin 674-1000		
Lessons For Sunday, June 19, 2011 Genesis 1:1—2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20		