



970 State Street
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The Christ Life

The Newsletter of Christ Church, Schenectady

Easter

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April 2010

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In The Blood

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*There is power, power, wonder working power
In the blood of the Lamb;*

*There is power, power, wonder working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.*

Lewis Jones wrote this song at a camp meeting at Mountain Lake Park, Maryland in 1899. The message wrings as true today as it did then. The blood of Jesus shed for us on the cross was and is an eternal flow for each of us to receive God's healing, forgiveness, restoration and renewal. Our own blood that flows through each of us is necessary for life itself. The blood that was poured out for us from Jesus' veins meant death for him, but eternal life for us. There is **power** in the blood!

Some of you may be thinking, "I know, I know. What's the point?"

Here's the point: The difference between *lifeless living* and a *life worth living* is how we avail ourselves of this wonder working power. Are you aware of the power of God at work in you on a daily basis? Do you live each day with thanksgiving in your heart for the sacrifice of Jesus for your sake? Does the forgiveness that came through Jesus' blood make a difference in how you treat others, forgiving them as you have been forgiven?

Or are you just getting by - living day to day trusting in your own wits and good looks to make it through another day?

*Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful power in the blood.*

When the truth of these words and the promises of God grab hold of us, there is something that wells up from deep within that makes us want to shout out our praise to God. When the precious blood of the Lamb gets in

our veins, we have to join the Psalmist in proclaiming:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy Name!"

May you come to know again and again the wonderful power **in the blood**. And may you live daily this Easter season and beyond *His praises to sing...*

**Alleluia. Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In His blood, *Brad*



Deacons Corner

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Mt 22:37-40)

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (Jn 13:35)

The command to love was central to the ministry of our Lord. We are to love God above all else and secondly to love one another. It is by our love for one another that people will know that we belong to Christ. It is not our church membership, our business cards, our leadership positions, or our bumper stickers that set us out as disciple of Christ. Rather, it all comes down to our ability and willingness to love one another.

This command is not always an easy one to carry out, but one that should always be on our mind. Bishop Love spoke at the parish leadership conference about our need to move beyond the simply emotional side of love toward a conscious decision to love. Our emotions or feelings can come and go, but even if we don't *feel* like we love someone, we have a responsibility to choose to love them.

During my time at Christ Church it has become clear to me that this is a command that this parish takes seriously. Love for neighbor is lived out in this parish. It is lived out in the love we share between members of the parish, but equally important is the love shared with those who are not members.

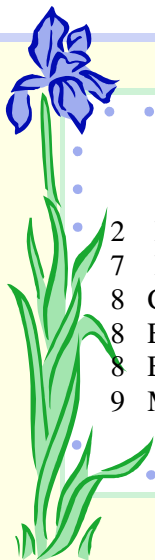
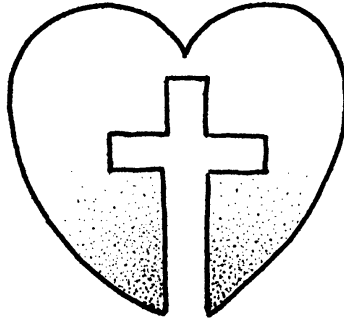
Christ Church welcomes all who come through the door and strives to bring that love out into the surrounding community.

It is important that you all realize that people take notice of the way we treat each other. I have spoken to people after their first time in the parish who comment on how much people care about one another. They notice that people are truly praying for one another and supporting one another on the journey. It is evident on Sunday as well as the rest of the week; it is evident within the walls of the parish as well as outside these walls.

I want to share with you an experience that I had while visiting Lorraine in the ICU at Ellis. One of the employee's who was stationed at the visitor's desk commented to me and to Fr. Brad about how meaningful it was to her to see the parish in action. She could not believe the number of people that came to visit Lorraine, and the number of people present to be with the John and the family in the waiting room. The woman at the desk said she doesn't see this kind of out-pouring from many other Churches.

So, I encourage you to keep up the good work. I pray that we continue to Love God above all else and in turn love one another. Christ made it clear that people would know we are his disciples by our love. Continue in your choice to love. The world needs the Love of Christ in a desperate way, and we are the ones called to bring it to the world.

Blessings,
Dcn. Neal



April Birthdays

2	Mia Petersen	9	Rev. Peter Schofield
7	Flo Duheme	14	Lillian Oddy
8	Cathie Gibbons	18	Rita Michalec
8	Erich Kaminsky	25	Jessica Hardy
8	Evan Santiago	29	Joshua Kaminsky
9	Michelle Diaz	30	Hugh Vandeyar



April Anniversaries

17	Janet and Ken Johnson
20	Donna and Chuck Baumgartner
24	Hilda and Chris Hardy
29	Linda and Nason Richmond

More blessed...

*"Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, 'It is **more blessed** to give than to receive.'"* (Acts 20:35)

"The central problem with the health-and-wealth gospel is that it's man-centered, not God-centered. When approached from a 'prosperity' posture, prayer degenerates into coercion, by which we 'name it and claim it,' pulling God's leash until he follows our whims. We attempt to arm-twist the Almighty into increasing our comforts and underwriting lifestyles about which we've never bothered to consult him in the first place...

We treat God as an object, a tool, a means to an end. God's blessing on financial giving is turned into a money-back-guarantee whereby he is obligated to do precisely what we want...

God's reason for existing, apparently is to give us what we want. If we had no needs, God would probably just disappear. After all, what purpose would he serve? This feeble theology reduces prayer to an endless 'wish list' that we take before our Santa God...

The Bible shows us a very different picture of God, in which he is central, his glory is the focal point of the universe, and his sovereign purpose entitles him to do what he wills, even when it violates what we want and expect."

Money, Possessions and Eternity, pp. 87, 88

The blend of Christianity with our modern, western, materialistic culture leads easily down a path to false religion with the idolatry of possessions and the lure of wanting more than what God has already provided. Lest you think you are immune to such idolatry, when was the last time you bought something that you didn't need, simply because the advertisement or the packaging enticed you? When was the last time you coveted the impressive high-cost, techno-savvy, programs and accoutrements that you saw at a church across town? (Sorry, that would be me.) When was the last time you withdrew from God because you felt like he wasn't delivering the goods that you requested, well intentioned as they were?

Anytime you are tempted to think that you deserve more and God should give it to you, take a look at Jesus – on the cross. Then give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Until next time, be more blessed.

In Christ,

Fr. Brad

SMALL GROUPS

Monday

Small Group at the Andresens' meets at 1204 Rugby Road from 7:00 - 9:00 pm for Bible study. For more information contact Myra at 372-0935.

Small Group at the Bissells' meets at 830 Bedford Road at 7 pm for Bible study. For more information contact Torre at 374-5305 or torre.bissell@verizon.net.

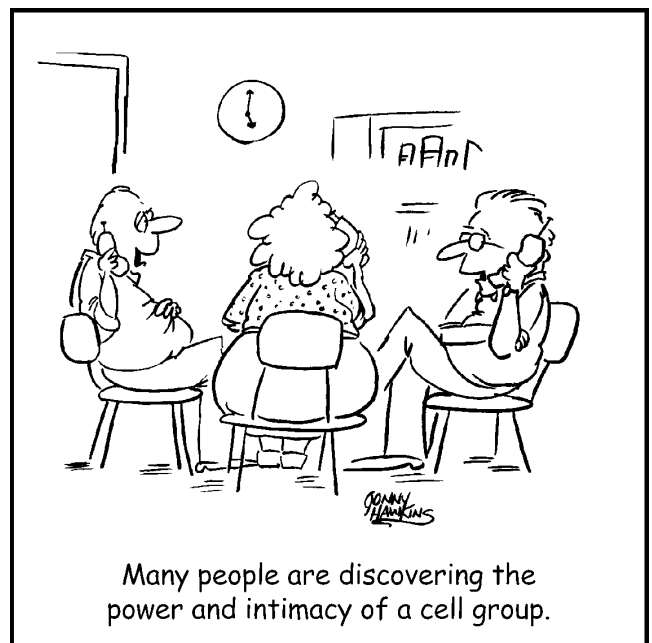
Woman's Group

Women's Bible Study and Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 9:30 am. For more information and location of the meetings, contact Jean Bissell at 374-5305 or torre.bissell@verizon.net.

CURSILLO

There will be a **Diocesan Ultrea** on Saturday, April 17 from 9:30-2:00 pm at the Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls. For more information visit the new Cursillo web site:

www.albanepiscopalcursillo.org



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Health Ministry

Local and Diocesan Happenings

April is recognized as National Cancer Control month, and I would like to talk about Digestive Cancers. Digestive cancers are now the most common type of cancer, and take the lives of more people than any other form of cancer. Of these cancers, colorectal and stomach have the highest number of new cases.

In Genesis 1:30, we read that originally, God gave us every green plant for food. As your nurse, it seems very interesting to me that a plant-based diet is what the experts are now recommending to reduce the risk of heart disease and many forms of cancer, including digestive cancers. Plant-based doesn't mean vegetarian, but rather a diet in which most of the calories are associated with plant-based sources (fruits, vegetables and whole grains). Today, our diet is quite different, and this is reflected in our increased disease and death rates.

What do I need to Know about Digestive Cancers?

Colorectal cancer refers to any cancer in the lower digestive tract, and is the most common site of new cancer among Americans. When colorectal cancer is discovered before it spreads to the lymph nodes, the survival rate is quite good. Experts don't know the exact cause, but most cases can be traced to the growth of polyps (which can easily be removed during a colonoscopy). Symptoms of colorectal cancer include a change in bowel habits, blood in the stool, and /or abdominal discomfort. 75% of these cancers occur in people over the age of 50. All adults over 50 should have regular colorectal screenings (a physical, blood work, occult blood test and/or a colonoscopy).

Besides, colorectal cancer, other serious types includes cancer of the stomach, pancreas and liver. If it is found early, stomach cancer can be treated with surgery and/or chemotherapy. Pancreatic cancer can be difficult to diagnose early, but symptoms can include mid-abdominal pain, jaundice, and unexplained weight loss. Risk factors include smoking, poorly controlled diabetes and chronic pancreatitis. If discovered before it has spread, it can be treated with surgery. Risk factors for liver cancer include chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis, and symptoms can include a hard lump below the right ribs, right sided abdominal discomfort, and jaundice. For all of these cancers, risk factors can include smoking, exposure to environmental toxins and a diet high in animal fats. The type of treatment depends on when the cancer is found, and if it is localized or has spread to other areas.

May you and your loved ones be blessed in all of your health and eating, "... He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God... and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God... So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

(Rom.14:6-8).

Sheila Smith
Jay Loveless

Chris Dussault
Vivette Ram

Taken by permission from Seasons for Wholeness

- 4/17 Diocesan Ultreya
- 4/23-25 Clergy Wives Conference
- 4/27-30 Priests Retreat
- 5/6 National Day of Prayer
- 5/13 Joint Ascension Day Service
- 5/16 Faith in Action
- 6/11-13 Diocesan Convention
- July Schenectady Wow Jam
- 8/7 Schenectady March for Jesus
- 9/10-12 Postulants and Candidates Retreat
- 9/23-26 Men's Cursillo Weekend #59
- 9/29-10/1 Clergy Conference
- 10/29-31 Deacons Retreat
- 11/4-7 Women's Cursillo Weekend #60
- 11/20 Cursillo Follow-up Reunion



ALTAR FLOWERS

The following dates are available for Altar flowers:

- April 18, 25
- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- June 6, 20, 27
- July 4, 11, 18, 25
- August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- September 5, 12, 19, 26
- October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- November 7, 14, 21, 28
- December 5, 12, 19

The cost of the flowers is \$30.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The following dates are available for the Sanctuary

Candle:

- April 4, 11, 18, 25
- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- June 6, 20, 27
- July 4, 11, 18, 25
- August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- September 5, 12, 19, 26
- October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- November 7, 14, 21, 28
- December 5, 12, 19

The cost of the sanctuary candle is \$10.

If you are interested in altar flowers and/or a sanctuary candle, please call the church office at 374-3064.



Christ Church
970 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12307



Transformed lives, transforming our community.

The Rev. N. Bradley Jones, Rector
The Rev. Peter Schofield, Priest Associate
The Rev. Howard Smith, Deacon
The Rev. Larry Hubert, Deacon
The Rev. Neal Longe, Deacon
Ms. Carol Yezzo, Treasurer
Dr. Peter Andresen, Banner
Dr. Chris Hardy, Banner
Mr. Fernando Gomes, Banner
Mrs. Louise Popa, Banner
Mrs. Hilda Hardy, Organist
Mrs. Barbara Stott Ayers, Organist

Vestry:

Dave Carlson, Senior Warden
Dick Peters, Junior Warden
Robert Ballard
Doris Carlson
Linda Davis
Chris Hardy
Dave Hart
Jerusha Hubert
Dan Popa
Sheila Smith
Carol Yezzo

