



970 State St.
12307

The Christ Life

The Newsletter of Christ Church, Schenectady
Easter/Pentecost
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May/June 2010
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Transformed lives, transforming our community.

Free To Serve

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A woman comes into our church, homeless and with little but the clothes on her back, but she is ready to start a new chapter in her life. A young man comes into our midst with a past of violence and rage, but God entered his world and gave him a hope and a future like he has for so many others. Another man joins us with a shameful past etched in his memory, but he is ready to begin again. I could go on and on with similar stories of so many who have come into our midst. Where they've come from is not nearly as important as what they found when they got here.

Again and again, I have watched you, the members of this part of the Body of Christ located on the corner of State and Swan Streets; receive these broken and wounded people into your arms of love as you extend the mercy and grace of God to them. I have watched you feed them, house them, clothe them, pray for them and listen to their stories. I have heard you crying out to God on their behalf with a burden for their trials and a willingness to walk with them in their suffering. I have seen you welcome the stranger that others would likely turn away.

WELL DONE CHRIST CHURCH!

Jesus tells us that *"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* As you have reached out in Jesus' name, you have ministered to him. To serve others is to serve Him.

There is a collect for peace in the Book of Common Prayer which begins:

"O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom..."

There are many areas in our church and in our individual lives that still require plenty of God's redeeming work. He's not finished with any of us yet! But when you spend yourselves for the sake of those who have nothing to give, you are doing the work of God. As a matter of fact, I can hear the words of Jesus, *"Well done good and faithful servants."*

Once again, this year, we will take our service out to the community. On May 16, we will celebrate another **"Faith in Action Sunday."** You will have the opportunity to seek and serve Jesus throughout Hamilton Hill. The following Saturday, you will have the opportunity to take part in "Project Skip," a community outreach to rebuild the playground at Jerry Burrell Park. And in the weeks that follow, I am certain we will be presented with countless opportunities to serve God in perfect freedom.

So carry on brothers and sisters. You are free to serve.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Brad +

More blessed...

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

"Christ's words were direct and profound: 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (Matthew 6:21). What we do with our possessions is a sure indicator of what's in our hearts... What we do with our money doesn't lie. It is a bold statement to God of what we truly value.

But what we do with our money doesn't simply indicate where our heart is. According to Jesus, it determines where our heart goes. This is an amazing and exciting truth. If I want my heart to be in one particular place and not in another, then I need to put my money in that place and not in the other...

Do you wish you had a greater heart for the poor and lost? Then give your money to help the poor and reach the lost. Do you want your heart to be in your church? Put your money there. Your heart will always be where your money is and not where your money isn't."

(Money, Possessions, and Eternity, by Randy Alcorn, p. 101)

Out of God's *unlimited* supply, he has entrusted us for a *limited* time with *limited* resources to invest in his *eternal* kingdom. The natural thing to do is to spend our limited resources on limited security and pleasures. But God has not called us to live according to our sinful human nature, that is, according to what is "natural." He has called us to live according to the principles of his kingdom by the leading of his Spirit.

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God... You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you." (Romans 8:5-7,9)

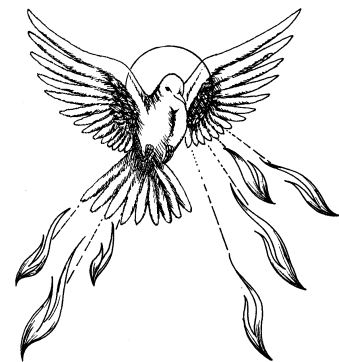
So, where is your heart? Our hearts are easily divided and persuaded by many earthly treasures. According to God's word, Jesus Christ is the greatest treasure of all and the eternal rewards we find in him far surpass everything this world has to offer. So take out your checkbook, and invest in the U.S. (Unlimited Savior's) Treasury. It will make your heart glad.

Until next time, be more blessed.

In Christ,
Fr. Brad

May Birthdays

2	Kristi Falace	15	Andrew Kaminsky
3	Tom Gibbons	17	Steve Evans
4	Noah Longe	17	Nancy Kelly
5	Cindy Launder	20	Jeanette Ballard
5	Frank Upshur Jr.	20	Susan Rudolphsen
7	Thomas Lennon	23	Carol Baum
9	Ayanna Taylor	24	Caitlin Henges
9	Jessica Zeleznowa	26	Crystal Holland
12	Peter Rankin	26	Ryan Dussault
14	Devon LaPlante	28	Leona Miller



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.

May Anniversaries

- 1 Marilyn and Bud Wessels
- 4 Mary-Lou and Shawn Harrington
- 16 Sylvia and Fr. Peter Schofield
- 21 Jean and Torre Bissell
- 22 Dcn. Mary Carol and Dcn. Alan Hart
- 26 Myra and Peter Andresen

June Anniversaries

- 2 Tonya and Kyle Rudolphsen
- 18 Gloria and James Ballard
- 21 Nancy and Michael Chesney
- 21 Linda and Ray Davis

June Birthdays

1	Justin Farone	14	Louis Falace
2	Judy Koch	15	Bud Wessels
2	Lisa Longe	18	Marilyn Wessels
4	Elijah Smith	21	Emilie Carlson
5	Chris Hardy	21	Nathaniel Lee
9	Daniel Smith	26	Nancy Chesney
12	Aaliuz Mack	28	Donna Rost
13	Jarod Yost	29	Elsie Rankin



Health Ministry

Local and Diocesan Happenings

This month, we will focus on the **Health of our Aging Parents**. Many people are living as a 'sandwich generation', responding to the needs and interests of our children who live at home as well as the needs of our parents, who may or may not live near us. As we age, the concerns and anxieties can mount in terms of our health, finances, living arrangements, and our mortality. But, thanks be to God, who comforts us with these words, "...Cast all of your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." (1 Pet.5:7).

What should I Consider when Planning for my Aging Parents?

- Their *physical health and mental capabilities* currently and any recent changes
- *Physical problems* that are not currently well managed (like chronic pain, weight loss, poor symptom control, frequent medication errors)
- *Depression and levels of social interaction* now, and as they would like them to be
- *Ability to care for themselves*, manage their medications/medical care, and manage their living situation
- *Financial ability* to remain independent or pay for other levels of care
- *Levels of stress* among their caregivers
- Development of *Advanced Directives/Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions*
- *Willingness to change* their living situation

What Levels of Care are Available?

Multiple levels of care are now available, and it may be a burden to decide which level is best, and how to make the necessary arrangements. The most common care arrangements include ...

- *Staying independent at home* (with or without assistance such as meals on wheels, home health/public health nursing)
- *Independent Living Centers* (Living in a retirement community)
- *Assisted Living/Residential Care* (as above with 24-hour on-call emergency services, assistance with medications and managing medical care, meals, assistance with daily activities, housekeeping/laundry)
- *Nursing Homes/Long Term Care* (as above and 24-hour nursing services, access to therapy and additional personal care and medical services)
- *Respite* (volunteer or paid staff that replace the usual caregiver for a time, so they can have a break and/or leave the home for a time)

May we all be blessed by Christian families, "...Children's children are a crown to the aged, **and** parents are the pride of their children." (Prov. 17:6).

Sheila Smith
Jay Loveless

Chris Dussault
Vivette Ram

- 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:

- 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:

- 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.



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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

