

The Communicant

Fall Volume 60, Number 3



Life Together

Our Life Together



Dear friends,

As we begin a new year in worship, formation and fellowship, your clergy and staff have been considering new and exciting ways to stimulate and strengthen our Christian life together. One of the great challenges in a Church with so many worship and formational offerings is trying to maintain a sense of community, a sense that we are all

in this together and that we will benefit from finding more common ground on which to stand.

It is important to me (but sometimes really tough) to have more than a passing relationship with so many of you. “Our Life Together” theme for the new formation year expresses the importance of relationships – our relationships with God and with each other.

While Christ Church will always give you many choices for worship and formation, your clergy team really wants you to be with us as we gather on Sunday mornings to consider how the richness of our faith can enhance the quality of our spiritual lives. While the weekday mornings and evenings will continue to hold a variety of significant companion courses, several core classes on Sundays will serve as the foundation of our year in formation together. During the Christian formation hour, we encourage you to attend one of these core classes: the Rector’s Forum, the

“Faith Seeking Understanding” program, led by a clergy and a layperson, or the Newcomer’s Class – “Welcome to Christ Church: Becoming a Part of the Family.”

In an attempt to find even more common ground together, our Wednesday evenings of worship, fellowship and formation will find a new face. This midweek experience will begin with a 5:30 p.m. service in the church featuring different styles of worship throughout the year, followed by dinner, formation classes, and closing the day with a brief and spiritually-moving Compline service at 8 p.m.

In the pages that follow, you’ll find personal reflections on how our life together intertwines through worship, formation, fellowship and outreach. Leila Quinlan, our new Parish Life Coordinator, weaves an inspiring account of our journey in ministry together. Luke Jernagan and Kammy Young beautifully illustrate our focus on worship and the significance of Christ’s call to fellowship. Our life together, within the parish and beyond, is further captured by articles on pastoral care and outreach efforts such as the grief program, “Walking the Mourner’s Path,” our pilgrimage to Bolivia and the new Justice Ministry Listening Sessions.

As we journey forward together, we will discover new ways to connect with each other in faith and fellowship. Now and in the years to come, I look forward to growing in relationship with you and celebrating our life together as Christ Church.

Faithfully,

PRIESTS OF CHRIST CHURCH

904-285-7390



The Rev. Richard S. Westbury, Jr., M.Div.
Rector - Ext. 241

The Rev. Robert L. Morris, M. Div.
Associate Rector - Ext. 236

The Rev. Luke R. Jernagan, III, M. Div., STM
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Centering on Core of our Faith, Formation Springs New Focus

As we ready ourselves to launch into a new season of thoughtful reflection, stimulating conversation and exciting discoveries, our clergy at Christ Church embraced the intentional aspect of what we are teaching and studying in our Christian Formation programs. Along those lines they have created a formation discipline that draws us to the center of our faith and focuses our studies on Core classes and Companion classes to assist us with our spiritual journey.

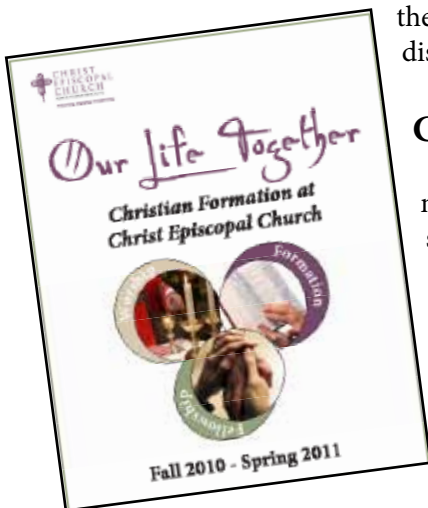
Core Formation Classes

Core classes are specific classes taught by clergy on Sunday mornings that maximize our time together and draw us to the core of our faith life, establishing the foundation on which our spiritual lives can flourish.

These classes include the Rector's Forum, which will be held in the more spacious setting of the Contemporary Worship Hall; "Welcome to Christ Church: Becoming a Part of the Family" – the Newcomers' class; and the "Faith Seeking Understanding" series. "Faith Seeking Understanding" is a theme-based class that will explore topics central to Christian faith.

In addition to this new focus on adult formation, parents and children will be delighted to learn of the new focus in Youth formation. This year, all our youth and children will be meeting in the Christian Family Center to help promote a community of fellowship among our young people and illustrate the progression of faith formation from our youngest formation participant to the oldest youth member. The children will continue to enjoy lively classroom engagement. Our Middle School students will experience an educational taste of "The Spice Rack" curriculum, which offers a sample of many wonderful topics. Our High School students will be delving into the world of "Film School," as they watch several films such as "Back to the Future" and "Wall-E" and engage in thoughtful discussion of the films seen through the Christian perspective.

Members of our San Pablo campus will also be centering on foundations of faith as they embrace a variety of topics in their formation discussions.



Companion Formation Classes

Throughout the week, numerous other classes, mostly small-group offerings such as book and Bible studies, will explore other topics that will complement and enhance the Core class offerings.

Read more about all the Formation offerings at Christ Church in the Our Life Together brochure available in the church office.

Christian Formation launches on Sun., Sept. 5 with classes at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Weekday formation begins on Wed., Sept. 8.

Check the website and courtyard posters for times and location of classes.

Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

by *The Reverend Luke Jernagan*

If you've ever heard two priests in a conversation about worship, you would notice that they often refer to it as liturgy. Liturgy is the original word for worship. It means "the work of the people." Since the first days of our faith, worship, the praise of God and celebration of what God has done in the world through Jesus Christ, was a communal act. Worship is not performed by the clergy, or the choir, or the acolytes. Worship is something we all do together. As a bishop I know once wrote, "Worship is more about the people than the priest." The Episcopal Church, as part of the Anglican Communion, has always taught that we are not united by shared theology or beliefs ... we are united in the way we worship God.



Worship, in its truest form, is not just a service on Sunday morning with familiar music, prayers, a sermon, and communion. It is more than that. When all the people come together to participate in praising God, the gathering becomes holy. True worship elevates us out of the rut of daily life into the presence of God himself. The saints believed this. That is why they insisted on singing the Sanctus every time the Eucharist was celebrated. Isaiah tells us the song, "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might" is sung in heaven by the angels surrounding the throne of God. The saints believed that when we sing the Sanctus during the Eucharist, heaven and earth are united, worshippers below and angels above. I believe this too. As I celebrate the Eucharist each week, whether with hundreds of people in the church or contemporary service on Sunday mornings with great music, or with a dozen people in the chapel on a quiet Wednesday morning, I believe we are closer to God on those occasions than any other.

When I take part in the Morning Prayer service in the *Book of Common Prayer*, I usually recite a verse from Psalm 96, "Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." When we gather together to worship God in any one of nine Sunday services on three campuses, I pray that the work of our people, our worship, opens your eyes and hearts to the "beauty of holiness" and brings us closer than ever to the holy presence of God.

Wonderful Wednesdays with Christ Episcopal Church!

by The Reverend Kammy Young and Rachel Root, director of Music

As we dedicate this coming year to the theme of “Our Life Together” we recognize that we all have different ministries and activities, programs and classes, many of which meet on Wednesday evenings. This year we are celebrating that amidst all that wonderful diversity, we are one family in prayer and praise, in celebration and sharing. Just as the early church is described in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, we, too, want the world to see Christ Episcopal Church as people of all ages and walks of life who have, “... committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal and the prayers.” So beginning, September 8, we’re moving into a new adventure of worshipping together on Wednesday evenings!

We will frame Wednesday evenings with two opportunities for us to meet in the church sanctuary for special experiences of worship – Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. and Compline at 8 p.m.

Every Wednesday evening before you enjoy a delicious Christ Church supper in the Parish Center, we will have a celebration of Holy Eucharist that features different styles of music. After dinner one may go to choir practice, another to book club or bible study, and yet another to youth leadership team, but we can kick-off each evening with some enlivening worship – together! September features Gospel music and spirituals; October will be a musical renewal of Cursillo and Discovery; November will be a return to the Celtic roots of our Anglican tradition; in December we’ll prepare our hearts in the spirit of Taizé; then contemporary Christian music will liven up our worship in January, and end with a huge U2charist celebration; February will be Jazz vespers; and we’ll return to the reflective music of Taizé for Lent in March; then the Celtic style worship in April will usher us into Jazz for Easter season in May!

Both musically and spiritually, these special Eucharistic celebrations offer us a variety of music and introduce new songs for worship that we can later use during our regular worship services together. Each style provides a window for healing through the music and the worshipping experience, as well as preparing us for the classes that follow.

We will close our Wednesdays together with the Compline (pronounced komplin). Compline is the final church service or “office” of the day in the Christian tradition, celebrating the end of work and study for the day with prayers, singing and a chance to simply be still. Our sung Compline service at 8 p.m. each Wednesday will be alternately led by the Men’s and Women’s Compline Choirs. This is sung music and chant without instrumentation, which makes it pure, simple, and peaceful. It provides a time to unwind from the cares of this world and to focus upon the love and peace of Christ and the bond that we share with one another, through worship and prayer together. After Compline is finished, some people may choose to sit in silence or prayer before leaving the sanctuary, as we go our separate ways but leave refreshed and renewed in spirit to greet the dawn of a new day.

We hope to find our life together is formed in ways through these wonderful Wednesdays such that we continue to grow as those first disciples did described in the Acts of the Apostles, printed on the right:

“Everyone around was in awe ... and all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, ... every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, and they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.”

Living a life of significance centered in Christ

by Stacy Nash

We are all truly blessed! This statement might seem a bit unusual in a time of financial insecurity, job losses, healthcare concerns, and a suffering housing market ... but incredibly, it still remains true. One might wonder how this is possible in such a dark time, and yet even amidst our daily challenges we are loved unconditionally by God and are able to find comfort and support through our Church, its ministries, and each other. For this is our life together at Christ Church; we are a family who shares our gifts, so that others might be nourished spiritually, so that no one walks alone, and so that all might feel the love of God in their lives.

Throughout the past many months we have all been encouraged to believe in the important work of our church and our commitment to its ministries and each other. This is a journey by which we all are invited to participate, for it is a call to action to live a life of significance centered in Christ. This journey does not begin or end as a date on a calendar, but rather an ongoing mission each and every day of our lives.

Recently Nate Huddleston, our youth director, shared in our staff meeting a sermon he had given at our San Pablo campus. His words spoke to me so much so that I received his permission to share part of his talk with you. He described the following as three levels of living: survival, success and significance.

- Survival is living from test to test, from vacation to vacation, from Friday night to Friday night. In the end, it is merely existing.
- Success is living by other people's standards, letting others decide what it means to be who you are. In the end, it merely turns out to be empty of any meaning.
- Significance is to see one's life as having a purpose, a meaning, a direction, for that is a life worth living.

I will share with you that during many different times in my life, including now, I have lived by way of survival or success. So, my challenge like so many others is to move forward on a path to living a life of significance. This may take on many different forms depending on where one is in their life. But, perhaps it lies in what and how we give of ourselves to further God's work, in essence our time, talent and treasure.

So let us continue our journey to believe as we rise together in strength and support of our common life together ... BELIEVE!



Important Dates!

Sun., Sept. 26
2011 Believe
Annual Giving
Campaign officially
kicks off.

Sun., Oct. 17
Bishop Greg Rickel,
from the Diocese of
Olympia, Washington
State, visits the San
Juan campus.

Sun., Oct. 24
Celebration Sunday

The Bridge Institute Welcomes Author Ron Hall to Christ Church

by Steve Harrison

Serving meals in a homeless shelter from behind a counter, safely separated from the customers and minimizing contact with those who are probably going to hit us for money, seems like a good way to minister without touching the homeless or letting them touch us.

Ron Hall, co-author of *same kind of different as me*, had this experience, trying to meet his obligations to his church and make his wife happy by helping out in this ministry. He did not expect to strike up a relationship with one of the homeless men in the Texas shelter and he especially did not plan on a journey that would teach him lessons about life and faith, and ultimately develop a life-long love and respect for a man who was literally worlds apart from himself.

Ron Hall, equipped with an MBA, became a municipal bond trader and ultimately a very successful art dealer. One day, in an effort to please his wife, he agreed to work with her serving meals in a homeless shelter. Denver Moore lived on the streets for 22 years and his life was changed as well, when Ron and his wife, Debbie, decided to serve meals to the homeless that day. Denver, who co-wrote *same kind of different as me*, is now an artist, public speaker, and volunteer for homeless causes.

Ron will share his story and his inspiration for showing kindness to those less fortunate than ourselves and for feeding the homeless. The Bridge Institute of Christ Episcopal Church is proud to present an evening with Ron Hall on Wednesday, November 3 at 7 p.m. in the church. From the Bible, the Book of Micah 6:8 tells us: "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Ron's story is a real-life example of this message from the Bible.

The Bridge Institute was established to increase awareness and understanding of major issues and questions facing individuals, the Church, and society through dialogue and free inquiry among religious and secular scholars and to increase awareness of God's presence in the world. The Institute hosts speakers and holds forums on a wide variety of topics that interest, concern, and challenge us all. The Bridge Institute is pleased to offer this opportunity to celebrate our life together at Christ Church and seek the inspiration of this fascinating story. Look for registration information and additional event details in the coming months.



Ron Hall, on the right, shares a moment with Denver Moore, co-authors of the book, *same kind of different as me*.

Celebrating the Tapestry

by Leila Quinlan, Pa

Our Life Together As the new Parish Life Coordinator I've been thinking about our life together a lot lately! I've been at Christ Church for over 10 years but continue to see things going on that I was never aware of previously. I am blown away by the breadth and depth of the ministry within this church and the ministry going forth from this special place. I have considered the many faceted gem that is Christ Church and am more thankful than ever to call it my church home. I'd like to share some thoughts and observations about our worship life, our formational life, and our fellowship and I hope to hear your thoughts as well over the coming months as we get to know one another better.

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God is primary and is the font from which our worship flows. He loves us with a great and merciful love and we respond in our worship, both publicly and privately. I grew up in a church near Atlanta that started

out quite small with only one service needed. Today this same church has multiple services and a multitude of ministries. I know what it's like to know EVERYBODY in the service and I know what it's like to come back from college and due to the growth of the church see only a few people that I recognized.

There are beautiful things about small and large congregations. One challenge at Christ Church is to participate in corporate worship and still find the intimacy and connectedness present in a smaller parish. It can be done! It takes a willingness to reach out to each other and an intentional desire to dwell together in worship in more than a casual manner. To dwell together, to be more connected, to share in our worship of the Lord God Almighty takes stepping out into the family of God and having faith that there is a significant place for you. It takes acknowledging that every person, in each worship service at Christ Church in some way impacts that worship and changes our life together. Our worship is a natural response in gratitude to God and strengthens the fabric of our lives. There is real, significant connection between us and God and between each other as we meet and regularly worship together.

FORMATION

We are continually being formed, whether we are aware of it or not! We are journeying together, hopefully with the goal of becoming more and more like Christ. More than ever we are bombarded by many influences which seek to form us in one way or another. Take a moment to think about the people and things that form or influence your thoughts and actions on any given day. I maintain that we can find some of the very best ways to be formed at Christ Church on Sundays and throughout the week. I think about our vibrant and engaging formational offerings at Christ Church and replay in my mind the many classes I've been involved in here. I am so thankful for the chance to learn and grow together and am grateful for the chance to engage in lively discussion about a variety of topics pertaining to Scripture and the Christian faith.

This fall we will offer many great ways to learn and grow



y of Our Life Together

Parish Life Coordinator

together through formational classes. I promise you will not want to miss the chance to connect further with God and fellow parishioners by attending one of these classes. There is something for all ages, from nursery to Godly Play to Club 45 to youth classes. There are the adult Core classes on Sundays and wonderful Companion classes throughout the week.

FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship we share as believers can be miraculous and transformative. When we interact with each other in the ways God intended amazing things happen! I like to think of our fellowship as a rich tapestry (yes, I'm a Carol King fan) and each one of us like the threads of that tapestry woven together. Some fabrics are woven loosely and fray easily, falling apart with minimal use. Other fabrics are woven with quality threads and tend to be strong and able to withstand rigorous use. Christ's love weaves us together for a purpose. It is this closeness and interconnectedness which makes us so strong. In our life together at Christ Church I see a tapestry which is beautiful and diverse, lovely to behold. On the underside of this tapestry I see hundreds of people like you and me who perform many tasks behind the scenes to make sure that our life together reaches fullest potential.

Every time I have participated in different opportunities at Christ Church I have truly given AND received. I have seen close up the great care and prayer that our fellowship is bathed in and have been enriched by the relationships that have resulted. It is in fellowship that we are refined, the rough edges get rubbed off and we are more useful to each other. Needs are met in formal ministry settings and in more

informal ways when we are willing to simply give of ourselves when someone needs help. First Peter 4:8-10 says "Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another.

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." There is no limit to what can happen as we share Our life Together in worship, formation and fellowship. I look forward to journeying along with you to see where God will lead!



From the Parish Administrator:

After reading Leila's thoughts about worship, formation, and fellowship at Christ Church, you can understand why we are so excited to have her in this new role as Parish Life Coordinator. Her daily duties will include our newcomer programs, growing and strengthening our volunteer program, and creating and overseeing parish-wide, intergenerational events at Christ Church. After several months of deliberation during these challenging budgetary times, God opened our hearts and minds, and we found the opportunity to promote Leila from our Nursery and Early Learning programs. Three factors enabled us to embrace this opportunity: Christ Church Preschool incorporated the Early Learning Program into their domain, freeing up Leila for the new position; our budget retained a built-in consideration for a Membership staff person; and we restructured the Nursery Manager position. All of this enabled us to promote Leila to her new position with no additional impact on our budget; but a very positive impact on our life together! ~ Steve Harrison

Who is My Neighbor? Listening as a First Step

by The Reverend Kammy Young

Who is my neighbor?

Even with those closest to us, we don't always take time to ask the questions and listen to the stories that help us discover what is good and important to each other, to share one another's concern for our priorities, our health and safety, as well as those of people that are connected to us (friends, family, neighbors). How can I even begin to be a good neighbor and friend without stopping to listen to what it is that you are worried about when you wake up at 3 a.m.?

Lately we've been studying Nehemiah in the Rector's Wednesday morning Bible study class. Nehemiah's story is a powerful one of how godly people can transform the life of a city and a nation. Four and a half centuries before Jesus, Jerusalem was a defeated and ruined city. At this critical time, Nehemiah was a leader who showed the people of Jerusalem how to live what they had learned from Scripture. Like so many of the Church today, he was a good person who listened to the needs of his community and, with God's help, stepped up to do what was right as an act of faithfulness and love.

But it all started with listening first.

As the first step toward being a good neighbor and learning how to "love my neighbor as myself," Nehemiah began asking his brother and others, "How is it going for you [the Jews that survived the Babylonian captivity], and how is it in Jerusalem these days?" (Nehemiah 1:2) What Nehemiah heard, in response, was an earful!

The rest is history, as they say ... a great story of restoration and renewal! They started with their immediate concern, the broken-down walls. Finally after 141 years of putting up with the loss of protection against marching armies, the looting and pillaging by marauding bands, the raping of their wives and daughters, the burning and destruction of their homes and public buildings, the burning and destruction of their temple, these neighbors, families and friends came together. Nehemiah helped them ask questions, listen to their pain, learn from each other, building and deepening relationships, pray to God, and come together to say, "You see the trouble we're in ... Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem!"

As Christ Episcopal Church comes together in nearly 20 house-meetings this fall, gathering in one another's homes to follow in the steps of Nehemiah, we come closer and closer to the spiritual renewal, the "shalom" community of God's people and the kingdom for which Jesus came. And that kingdom comes as we discern more and more fully the deepest problems that we and our neighbors are facing, and bring them before God, responding in word and deed, in prayer and action. That's what the listening process of our Christ Episcopal Church's Justice Ministry Network is all about ... don't

miss it!



Walking the Mourner's Path

One man's grief turns to help others through the process

by Carol Childers

Nick Nicholson understands what it means to be washed away with the overwhelming tidal wave of grief. When his wife died after 47 years of marriage, he felt broken. But he also knows the healing power of God's grace and love found in the program, "Walking the Mourner's Path."

Now, he's preparing to walk that path again, but this time as a facilitator in the 8-week grief processing program, scheduled to begin Thursday, Sept. 16 at Christ Episcopal Church San Juan campus in the Christian Family Center library.

Nicholson, a Christ Church parishioner who works in a commercial real estate company full time, admitted that going through this program did indeed help him in his grief process.

"When you go through with an open mind and open heart, it will help you at any level you're on," he said. And although the catalyst for going into the program was the death of his wife, he actually resolved some issues resulting from the loss of his mother over 15 years ago. "This program opens your heart and helps you consider all aspects of the loss," he adds.

The Christian program centers on a group of people sharing a common experience in a comfortable setting. "A sharing of grief, sharing of friendships," Nick explains.

With each 90 minute session focusing on a different topic that builds on the preceding topic, the program helps you to come to a better understanding of your loss on a faith-based relationship. "It shows how to live with yourself moving forward," he says.

The title refers to the path in Jerusalem during King Solomon's time that circled around the Jewish Temple on which mourners walked.

According to the "Walking the Mourner's Path" website, each participant receives a workbook that offers questions for reflection, as well as many exercises that help you define a new relationship with your loved one and will help you find God's direction for your life. Participants are not required to share, but are given the opportunity in a safe environment to express as little or as much as they need.

Some of the topics of discussion include "Sharing Your Love in a Safe Place," "Remembering Your Loved One," "The Stages of Grief," "How Men & Women Express Grief Differently," "Examining Change," "Victories - How You Have Grown" and "Integrating Change Into Your Life."

Nick wholeheartedly recommends that anyone who has lost a loved one should attend this class. "This was a positive, cleansing experience," he says, "cleansing yourself of doubt and hurt."



Want to know more about this special program? Check out the website for "Walking the Mourner's Path" at www.mournerspath.com.

FISH: Netting Opportunities for Fellowship

by Pam and Tem Fitch

We had been members of Christ Episcopal Church less than a year when we were asked to help with one of the church's in-reach ministries - FISH (Fellowship in Shared Homes). We were not familiar with FISH but, understanding the importance of being involved in the life of the church, agreed to the request. We soon discovered how fortuitous our decision was.

We only knew a handful of people at Christ Church when we joined, but met a few others through ushering and service on altar guild. However, getting involved with FISH significantly increased the number of parishioners we came to know and become friends with. It made our transition into the life of the church so much easier!

FISH is an acronym for Fellowship In Shared Homes; other Episcopal churches have similar ministries known as "small groups" and "foyer groups." The purpose, however, is the same no matter what the name - to gather parishioners together in a social, relaxed setting so they can get to know one another.

There are currently eight FISH groups at Christ Church comprised of over 200 parishioners. Each group generally gathers together every month or two at one of the parishioner's homes; most groups take the summer off. The format varies among the groups- from appetizers and drinks to dinner, a tour of the Cummer Museum with dinner afterwards in Avondale or to an evening at The Alhambra.

Historically, the FISH groups have been assembled based on where parishioners live, such as Sawgrass or Marsh Landing, but there is no "hard and fast rule" - parishioners may join any FISH group they wish.

This past year several groups held "joint" gatherings so members of the groups could meet and get to know each other; for example, this spring the TPC and Old Ponte Vedra groups had an oyster roast one Sunday afternoon. For this coming year, we plan to expand on this idea by "mixing up" those of the groups who wish to do so. The other groups will continue unchanged and, as always, we will continue to add new members during the year.

For anyone interested in joining a FISH group or learning more about FISH, please join us in the Parish Hall on September 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 as all current FISH members gather to "kick off" the new year for the FISH ministry. It's a great way to meet your fellow parishioners and make new friends in the process - it certainly worked for us!

Want to know more about Fellowship in Shared Homes?

Join other FISH members at the Multi-FISH Group Event in the Parish Center on Sun., Sept. 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Embracing the Future in Growing Our Life Together

by Mike Ammiano, senior warden

I became a member of Christ Church at the time when Jim Cooper and parish leadership had begun to envision our life together for the next generation. The church was about to be remodeled and services were held in the old Parish Hall. A committed vestry then embarked on a capital campaign to fund the church remodeling. Shortly after that, the plans for the new Parish Center and Parking Deck were developed and a capital campaign was planned.

We now enjoy the culmination of that vision and commitment to creating a quality life together in Christ. More importantly, it was the way everyone at Christ Church worked together to make these visions a reality that told me the Spirit was at work here. It didn't take long for Debra and me to know that Christ Church would be our church family for decades to come.

I was elected to the vestry in 2007 during a time when that vision came to fruition. A new Parish Center and Parking Deck were being built to house the consistent growth in membership and provide for the vast ministries of our congregation. Enriching our life together was at the center of this project.

Today, the construction is complete. A vision that started over a decade ago is now a reality. Many of our Christ Church family participated in this project with time, talent, and treasure. As I observed the church leadership managing the completion of this project, it became apparent how truly blessed we are with so many parishioners willing to jump in and work toward a better life together.

As Senior Warden, I am following in the footsteps of many leaders who set a high standard of selfless giving and servant leadership. Continuing that tradition energizes your vestry and me as we face other challenges to enhance our life in Christ together.

So, what is the vestry working on? The various committees of the vestry have been engaged in a number of critical areas. For example, the Building and Grounds Committee is evaluating the infrastructure to ensure the quality of our life together and provide a safe, clean environment. This means we will need to replace the roof over the Chapel and classrooms; air conditioners will be replaced; dry wall in the church Sacristy repaired from leaks that have been sealed; and bathrooms near the Choir room upgraded. These and other capital projects require our attention over the next few years and we are in the process of prioritizing in order to determine how best to fund them.

Through the leadership of Wendy Billingslea, Vicar at our San Pablo campus, vestry members and other lay leaders from San Juan campus are working with the leaders at San Pablo to explore new ways in utilizing our multiple campuses. The energy of the San Pablo Committee is amazing as they begin to envision what our life together will be. The Human Resources and Communications committees are also hard at work helping ensure the work environment is well managed and that all parishioners have access to information they need to be engaged in our sizeable list of



Have a question for a Vestry member?

Find a vestry representative at the church office front desk each Sunday from 8:30-9 a.m. and 10-11 a.m.

(Continued on page 14)

Bolivia Reverse Pilgrimage Sets Plans for January

Early Bird Registration Available until October 1

Christ Church's Pilgrimage to Bolivia, January 3 - 10, 2011, will include another opportunity to share with the children of Amistad Orphanage.

Different from a "mission trip," this Bolivia pilgrimage of "reverse mission" to areas of extreme poverty enables participants to give and receive the gift of presence, and to experience direct involvement with people who are materially poor and marginalized in Bolivia. Our pilgrimages are about building relationships and an opportunity for God to speak to our hearts through the people that we meet and to experience the tremendous gift of transformation.

In preparation for this pilgrimage, Christ Church will be offering a book study on "The Hole in Our Gospel," the Christian bestseller by Richard Stearns, and winner of the "2010 Christian Book of the Year" award. Copies are avail-



able in the Christ Episcopal Church bookstore. Whether or not you are able to physically travel on this pilgrimage, all are invited to join in this "journey of the soul" discussion on Sunday, Sept. 19 from 12:30 - 3 p.m. in CFC 208.

You can experience an extra blessing of this pilgrimage to Bolivia by registering for the "early-bird" price, including round-trip airfare, ground transportation and room & board - \$1,600 per person, plus visa and immunizations if paid in full before October 1. After October 1, the total cost is \$1,800, plus visa and immunizations. Registrations are limited; a \$500 non-refundable deposit will secure your spot. Do not let the cost be an obstacle - simply speak to Kammy Young. For complete details, or to register, contact Dedra Torelli at 285-7390, ext. 228 or dtorelli@christepiscopalchurch.org.

"God"casts Bring Morning Prayer to Everyone

Once again this year we are preparing a special offering for Advent - a daily recording of the Office of Morning Prayer, we call "God"casts, available on the church website.

For many Episcopalians, Morning Prayer was the service they grew up with, two or three Sundays out of the month. Holy Eucharist was a celebration offered only once every three-four weeks, with Morning Prayer read on the other Sundays. But in fact, it is a service intended for every day of the year as a part of the Daily Office of the church (Evening Prayer is offered each weekday in the chapel at 6 p.m.)

"God"casts grew out of a simple wish by The Reverend Kammy Young to have a quiet worship service to begin her day, driving in from home. She and her husband, George, were in the habit of doing Morning Prayer together at home each morning. Searching the web, seeking an alternative Morning Prayer offering, she asked "Why couldn't we do it

at Christ Church?"

First presented in Fall 2009 and continued during Lent in 2010, we intend to continue and expand the offering to include other seasons of the church year.

Affectionately dubbed, "Prayers-by-the-Sea," we encourage everyone to listen to the Godcasts, as well as joining us for morning prayer in the production of this worship.

To access the Christ Church Godcasts, visit the church website at www.christepiscopalchurch.org. Visitors to the website should click on the individual day's service for immediate listening or download to listen at a later time. Those with iPods or iPhones can do the same through their iTunes account for free. Follow this wonderful, simple and complete service in your prayer book, or just listen. It only takes about 15 minutes.

For more information about the Godcasts, please contact Jeff Bell, (904)635-2447 or jeffbell@bellsouth.net.

Thoughts from the Senior Warden *(continued from page 13)*

ministries, participate in numerous formation classes, or attend worship services.

As one might imagine, Christ Church is a large organization and managing resources is critical to our ability to meet God's call for worship, formation, and fellowship. Our goal as the Vestry is to ensure the clergy and staff have the resources

they need to achieve our mission.

Most importantly, each Vestry member is engaged in the spiritual community of Christ Church. Whether it is fellowship, prayer, study, worship, or formation, you can find a Vestry member available to receive your input on how we can improve our life together and meet God's call.

Looking Ahead

Oscar Night - Sept. 25

Join in the fun at "A Night Out on the Red Carpet with your Parish," as we celebrate the Youth Ministry's annual fundraising event, Oscar Night. Everyone in the parish is invited to attend, whether you have a child in the group or not. This is great way to support all the wonderful things the Youth Ministry does. After the Oscar Night festivities, the youth will continue the fun at a "lock-in" in the Contemporary Worship Space. For tickets, contact Nate Huddleston.

Blessing of the Animals - Oct. 3

In celebration of St. Francis of Assisi Day, we invite you to bring your animals - live or stuffed - to our Blessing of the Animals worship service at 9 a.m., held in the cobblestone traffic circle next to the Parking Deck.

Christ Church Women Retreat - Oct. 15-17 at Camp Weed - This weekend is designed for women to renew spirits and connect in fellow-

ship. Claudia Milligan leads the discussion and conversation. Pick up a brochure about the retreat from the church tract racks in the narthex or the Parish Center. Deadline is Sept. 8.

Christ Church Cares University

- **Oct. 23** - Everyone is invited to attend this fascinating exploration of different topics of caregiving. Check the website for more info or contact Terry Totman at terrytotman@christepiscopalchurch.org for info.

Celebration Sunday - Oct. 24 - On this day, everyone is invited to bring their gifts of pledge offerings to church.

The new Parish Directories are also expected to make their debut!

Discovery Weekend - Nov. 19-21

Embrace the opportunity to be a part of this amazing weekend of spiritual enrichment and personal discovery that brings you to a closer relationship with God. Sign ups are coming soon.

Christ Church Arts Program Creates Art Gallery

Christ Church, in celebration of the fine arts, is moving forward with developing a place and space in our life of faith for the arts with the creation of a permanent art gallery on the San Juan Campus. While distinctly different in scope from our annual three-day Fall Arts Festival, the spirit will be much the same, to beautify and adorn the sacred spaces of Christ Church with its members' God given artistic talent.

It is our intent to include not only the works of adult artists but also those of children and young adults

and to encourage them in artful expression.

It is our goal to have this permanent gallery in place by this year's Fall Arts Festival. After establishing the initial setup of our gallery, we expect the gallery art to be rotated every six months. You are invited to help make this vision a reality.

For more information, please contact Susan Dehlinger at 997-6104, Alice Kirkpatrick at 285-6127 or email Jerry Hallan, Susan, or Alice at arts@christepiscopalchurch.org.

Worship

Sunday

7:45 a.m. Eucharist - Church
9:00 a.m. Eucharist - Church
9:00 a.m. Eucharist - Chapel
11:15 a.m. Eucharist - Church
11:15 a.m. Eucharist - Parish Center,
2nd floor
5:30 p.m. Eucharist - Church

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer - Chapel

Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Eucharist - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Vicars Landing
5:30 p.m. Eucharist - Church
8:00 p.m. Compline - Church

Thursday

11:00 a.m. Cypress Village

Christ Church at San Pablo

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Eucharist

Christ Church at Serenata Beach

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Eucharist

Christian Formation & Fellowship

Sunday Christian Formation Classes
at Christ Church Ponte Vedra
9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Formation Class at
Christ Church San Pablo ~ 9 a.m.

Weekday Christian Formation Classes
See more info
at www.christepiscopalchurch.org

Quarter Life

Quarter Life is a ministry group for young adults. We gather for a bible study and fellowship every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. We have a lot of great events scheduled for the fall, and the calendar can be viewed on the website. For more info, email Father Luke at ljernagan@christepiscopalchurch.org.

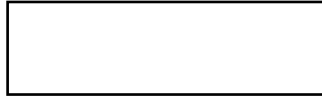
Family Connections

Family Connections is a ministry that seeks to strengthen the bond among families within the Church. We hold monthly events, alternating between events for "parents only" and events that include children. Check the website for information on exciting events this fall, including a progressive dinner, kayaking trip, and BBQ cookoff. Contact Father Luke for more information.



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They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe ... all those wonders and signs done through the apostles!

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Acts 2:43-47 - The Message