



Easter

I have just repositioned myself several times as I try and sit outside to work on this SPIRE article. It is Friday, March 27th. My children are off from school for a teacher training day and we have spent most of the morning visiting members and friends of Christ Church living in some of the area nursing homes. I love to do this. I am thankful to be able to bring a bit of our vibrant church life into the smaller worlds that some folks inhabit. I enjoy my children getting to share their energy and enthusiasm about life with these folks and for these folks to be able to stand in for a short time as grandparents or great grandparents while ours are so far away. I apologize repeatedly for my kids' rowdiness or because they keep touching things or because in their eagerness to tell some bit of their story they are either loud or interrupting me or each other. Our friends smile and laugh and assure me that it is OK and how glad they are that we all came. When I say that I will be back in several weeks and likely without the kids in tow, my children register their displeasure at the idea of being excluded from this fellowship. There is no doubt in my mind that we are ministering to each other during these sacred visits. Sometimes, before we leave we all join hands and say the Lord's Prayer. This life in Christ is so good.

I am trying to work outside because it is at least 60 degrees. I keep repositioning because the sun is so bright it is blinding me and the glare is too much for the computer screen. But I am not going to give up. I could not feel more alive and grateful and blessed than I do right now. It is a perfect kind of day for inviting you to our Easter celebration on Sunday, April 12th at 10:30. Our worship will include Communion and Bell Choir and Vocal Choir and the good news of God's triumphant "Yes" to life. It is a great moment to be writing to you about the Commencement Party the following Saturday, April 18th. We will share a meal and fellowship and then enjoy the concert in the sanctuary with Jonathan Story. Having undertaken the travel adventure through various religious traditions throughout Lent, we know that the next phase of our Christian journey is commencing.



For the moment I am in denial that the weather patterns of the Northeast make too many days like this one unlikely until sometime in June. I don't want to think about the rain that is in the forecast and how an actual snowstorm can't be ruled out between now and when we can finally put our coats away. My church calendar does make me remember that between now and April 12th, we will all pass through Holy Thursday and Good Friday and those days will be rough ones whatever the weather... and the truth of Easter is worth living for even if it rains on that most glorious day.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Holy Week

Sunday April 4th, 10:30 a.m. Palm /Passion Sunday worship

Tuesday, April 6th 7p.m. Jesus Christ Superstar followed by discussion

Thursday, April 8th. 6pm Simple meal followed by a Taize worship service. If you intend to eat with us, please sign up on office window or call the office.

Friday, April 10th - Good Friday. Noon - Stations of the Cross. The sanctuary will remain open until 3pm for silent reflection.

Easter Sunday, April 12th 10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration: Commencement! (please note: no Sunday School)

Contents	CROP walk	3	April Calendar.....	5
Annee Borthwick	Music Notes	4	Flowers.....	5
Fundraising Opportunity	Devotional.....	4	Easter party	6
Spaghetti Dinner	April Birthdays.....	5	Spire Deadline.....	6

Annee Borthwick

Annee Borthwick's parents gave her the middle name Victoria, since she was born in 1945 between VE and VJ Day. Her father was a British sailor who jumped ship in New York harbor. Her mother had a career as the production editor of a trade journal and earned enough to put her four siblings through college. They lived mainly in Greenwich Village (NYC), had fun during the Great Depression, married late, and had six children. Annee was the fourth.

During the McCarthy anti-radical hysteria of the 1950's, these rationalist, anti-religious parents sent their children to Sunday School at the nearest church (American Baptist, Summit, NJ). "They warned us", Annee says, "not to believe what was taught, but to receive it as social and literary information." Much to the parents' dismay, all six children chose to be baptized. During the summer after high school (1963), Annee spent five weeks in California as part of a four student team organizing youth fellowships and inciting conversion experiences. The crescendo of the first week-long event resulted in Annee claiming her own "born-again in The Spirit" commitment to Christ!



Attending Syracuse University on a full-tuition scholarship, Annee also received a church scholarship which required her to be active within organized Christians and to remain single for the duration of education. Fortunately, the S.U. Campus Christians were active in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam war struggles of 1963--1967. Annee Barr and David Borthwick met on her third day as a freshman, but delayed marriage until a year after Annee completed her B.F.A. [Fine Arts]. They parted 27 years later in 1997.

After two years in Manhattan while David got a theological masters degree, Annee moved to David's home town of Troy in 1969. She has lived here 40 years. Early on, she was a youth fellowship leader at First United Presbyterian Church, where the pastor was her father-in-law George Borthwick (himself the son of missionaries, raised in India). From 1970-73 Annee was part of a feminist consciousness-raising group that included women aged 16 to 46, black and white, from RPI students and Troy's welfare-rights activists. Annee first became friends with Márta Andersen as members of the Thursday Morning Club [now celebrating its 104th year of continuous meeting for study].

Anne and David spent a decade of weekends in Grafton, NY, where they owned 75 acres of forest and built a curious "cabin" from architectural delights discarded during the Troy "urban removal" and major beams and planks from a vast barn they disassembled in Greenwich, NY. They raised two children: Sara, 33, who works for C-net.com in San Francisco; and Matthew, 29, who works as a "top tech guy" for Time Warner in Rotterdam.

After her in-laws moved to Tokyo, Japan in 1977, Annee and her toddlers were twice able to spend months with them, the first time as part of an "around the world in 90 days" promotion by PanAm Airlines. The four have traveled on Canadian and American cross-continental trains, once spent a chilly February week in London because the price was right, and twice spent three weeks touring from Finland to Italy by Eur-Rail Pass. They have also lived in Cambridge, NY.

Annee manages Cherry Hall guesthouse which provides housing for RPI grad students and researchers at her 15 room townhouse built in the Aesthetic style of 1890. The self-described magpie finds it hard to resist second-hand books and finds far too many items to collect. She manages the community garden at Vanderheyden&Fifth, is a charter member of the Pioneer Food Coop, and continues her 40 year involvement in Troy's neighborhood revival. Annee has a keen interest in providing International and American students with an understanding of liberal Christianity.

New Fundraising

Opportunity (for you too!)

An enquiry from one of our youth about selling a large quantity of lego bricks has led to an idea for a fundraiser, which helps you as well as the church current account. New rules on state sales tax made it no longer attractive for us to have a continuous online Ebay store: occasional sales are still possible. Meanwhile we have members with larger, used but usable or new items which they would like to sell as we did Ebay items...partially for them and partially for the church. The right hand side of the bulletin board will now be home for a list of items for sale, with at least 25% going to the church and the rest to the seller. Please see Janet Douglass if you wish to take part in this program - she has all rules and details of how this will operate. In order to safely house items for sale there will be a limited number of things on offer at any one time and items will be on sale for no longer than 4 weeks; the seller will be anonymous until the time of payment. Sorry - we are not able to contact you electronically (email, website or phone) about what is on sale as this would cause the same situation as an Ebay store -- so don't forget to look when you are in the building!

Spaghetti Dinner – April 4th

Our big event to wrap up March Mission Madness and raise funds for agencies which help those in need in our community. Once again, the Robert C. Parker School is co-sponsoring this event. Their 7th graders have adopted it and will be on hand to help serve and clean-up. We still need some volunteers and dessert bakers. Please talk with Debbie Byers, 273-6005, or sign-up on the sheets posted on the office window.

The meal is Saturday, April 4th from 5 – 8:00pm. Ticket prices are \$8 adult, \$4 children, 6 and younger. The meal includes spaghetti, meatballs, sauce, garlic bread, salad, dessert and beverage. Take home sauce or meatballs available for \$5 per quart. Bring your appetite, your family and your friends!

Italian Cooking Class

(Spaghetti dinner prep)

Join Chef Paul Marano to learn the secrets of great Italian meatballs and homemade sauce. Thursday, April 2nd, 6.30pm in the Church kitchen and Saturday, April 4th, from noon onwards.

CROP Walk

Warm up your hiking shoes! CROP Walk will be Sunday afternoon, May 3rd. It's a great time to enjoy Spring, good company, and walking for a good cause. CROP Walk is a program of Church World Service, run locally by TAUM, to raise funds to meet hunger needs. If you are interested in walking or sponsoring a walker, please talk with Nancy Burgin.

Tuesday evening study

“Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace?” - a DVD series with John Dominic Crossan

An 8 week study starting Tuesday, April 14th 7:30 -9pm

Crossan asks these questions of us:

Justice & the world: What is the character of your God?
History & Jesus: What is the content of your faith?
Worship & violence: What is the purpose of your prayer?
Resurrection & community: What is the function of your church?

MoveOn.Org PowerUp Campaign Kickoff Energy Economy Campaign Forum

Sunday, April 5th - 3:00pm in the sanctuary.

Our country faces daunting challenges: An economic crisis, millions losing jobs and homes, an addiction to dirty and unsustainable energy and the climate crisis. There's a clear path forward to solve and make a massive switch to a clean-energy economy. But the oil and coal lobbies will fight tooth and nail to preserve the status quo. So we're launching a massive grassroots campaign to build the huge groundswell of public pressure that it will take to defeat Big Oil and Coal.

View A Video On The Goals Of The Campaign

Break Out Into Small Groups

Together Plan For The Next Steps Of The Campaign

Please register to attend at <http://pol.moveon.org/event/poweruplaunch/92521>

Opportunity available for Clean Energy & Conservation Organizations and Agencies to set up information tables. For information contact: Joe Seeman at 583-4326, Karla Guerri at 368-8961

Music Notes

A casual examination of the choir music stored in the church in various locations would indicate a long and varied tradition of choral singing over the years. This span of time extends from the beginning of the 20th century and extends to present times.



Of interest is the cost of the earlier music when compared to current prices. Some older pieces are listed for 12 cents a copy!

The vocal choir has explored both older and newer music present in this varied library. Not only does this present challenges to the group, it also affords a sense of historical context in which the musical offerings are made.

One very large project remains to organize and preserve those selections which remain useful to the present day congregation. This will require a not insignificant effort. Newer selections recently purchased will serve to enhance this library. The outcome will insure a varied library which should continue to serve the congregation for years to come.

Anyone interested in more detail on this collection please contact me at RAcosta224@AOL.com or see me in church.

Bob Acosta

Former Pastor gets that Ph.D!

On March 24th Rev Jim Fenimore, the previous Senior Pastor of Christ Church and now Albany District Superintendent, successfully defended his thesis at RPI and has now fulfilled all requirements for his doctorate. Those of you with us during Jim's time at Christ Church (1997- 2006) will know that the congregation benefited from, as well as supported him in, his studies. His research informed our experimentation with digital worship, particularly through the 6 years of Soul Cafe, and led to our decision to install the sanctuary plasma screens back in 2005.

Pastor Nina and several members were able to be at his defense.

The thesis can be accessed through his website:

<http://dissertation.hightechworship.com/>

Devotional

Nancy Burgin

Big mistake. Lying down on my bed to read my Bible study book, in the late afternoon. Though the book itself (The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan) is well written and informative, I felt my eyes drooping. I'd read a paragraph, then fall back to sleep. Which may be why, when I came across this particular phrase, I had to go back and reread the bit before. It was quoting Isaiah 1:11-17 and said, "I desire justice, not worship." Huh? I thought. That is not what it says. It talks about burnt offerings incense and appointed festivals and other Jewish traditions. God was obviously talking to the Jews specifically, because the church today doesn't do those things.

As long as I was able to put this verse in its historic context, it wasn't something I had to deal with. It wasn't speaking to us. But once the word "worship" was put in there, I couldn't deny it was something that does have meaning for the present day church. God is still speaking to us about the importance of justice in our world. While I'm not recommending my method of reading this book, maybe it wasn't such a big mistake after all.

Grateful Stewardship: News from the Finance Committee

The budget this year is a little scary. We are operating with a large deficit and the trustees have pledged a sizable percentage from the endowment. Still, the first quarter of 2009 is complete and we have much to be grateful for. We have ended the quarter with pledges up to date and all bills paid in full.

Festival offerings are one of the ways we express grateful stewardship in this congregation. This year, fifty percent of our Easter offering will go to Damien Center here in Troy. The Damien Center is a drop-in center which provides meals and hospitality, peer support, education and referral to people affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. To give to this offering, write "Easter" on the memo line of your check and/or use the special Easter envelopes.

We are blessed and grateful for everyone's support of our church, our community, and our world.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

The world and all its people belong to him. Psalm 24:1 (NLT)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship	Choirs: Each Wednesday 7pm Handbells 8pm Adult voice	1 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	2 6:30pm Food prep 7pm Finance	3 7pm Synagogue visit	4 Noon Food Prep	
5 Palm/ Passion Sunday	6 7pm Helping hands	7 7pm Movie	8 9am Wshp planning 10: 30 Bible Study	9 6pm Meal 7pm Taize Worship	10 Good Friday Noon: Stations of the Cross	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14 6pm Wshp planning 7.30pm Study	15 10:30 Bible Study	16 7pm Church Council	17 7:30pm Concert	18 5:30pm Potluck, party 7:30pm Concert
19 Coffee talk	20 7pm Helping hands	21 6pm TAUM Spring assembly	22 10:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
26 Spire Deadline	27	28 6pm Wshp planning 7.30pm Study	29 10:30 Bible Study	30		

April Anniversaries.

9th David and Christine MacDonald	23rd Carrie and Chris LaMere
---	--

April Birthdays.

4th Matthew Feiden	5th Vito Greco	6th Eliot Cape
13th Annelise Pitts	14th Jason Matot	19th Virginia Christian
19th Janet Neitzel	20th Marta Andersen	21st Kenneth Rose
22nd David Weiner	26th David Bassett	29th Mary Wolfe-Baker

March Flowers

1st	Given by Linda & Mark Campbell in memory of her grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. John K. Keyes
8th	Given by the Ide Memorial in memory of Mr. & Mrs. George H. Ide.
15th	The flowers are given by Roberta Fath & Family in loving memory of Elsie Manchester.
22nd	Given by the MacDonald Family in loving memory of Ann & Larry MacDonald

Sunday, February 22--Given by their families in loving memory of George W. Large & John Wattendorf for their February 21st & 22nd birthdays.

Do you do Facebook?

Christ Church has a page for current and former Christ Church people - check us out and join us if you want to! Thanks to Jacob Becker for setting it up and for George Garin for running the page, with Jacob, on our behalf.

No Sunday School on Easter

To give our teachers a chance to have a more leisurely Easter Morning, we will not have Sunday School that day. We will resume the next week, April 19th.

Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday April 26th

Christ Church United Methodist

35 State Street, Troy, New York 12180

Return Service Requested

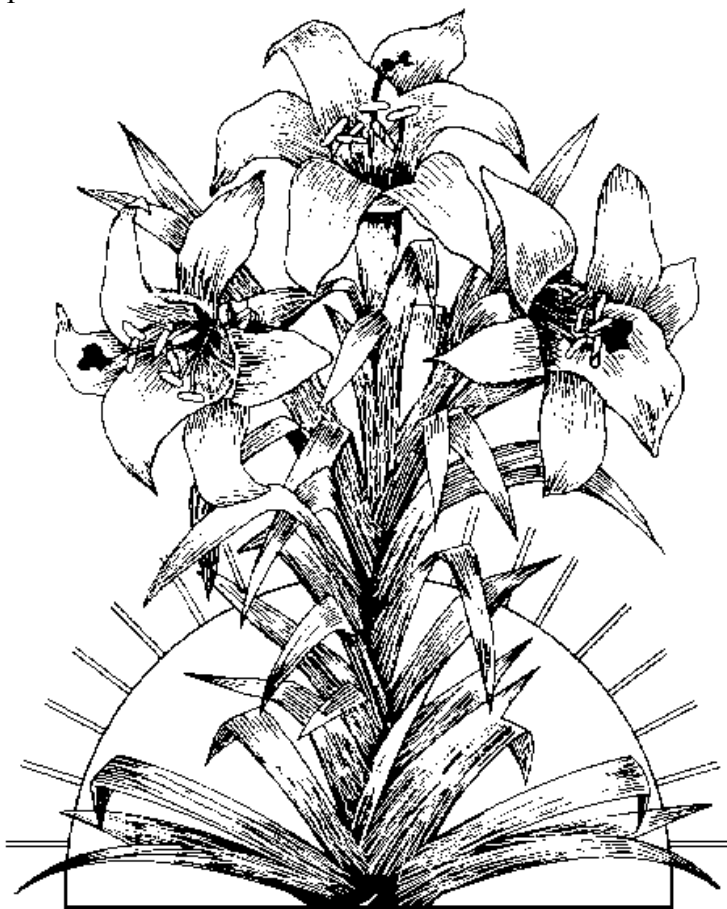
Non-profit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Troy, NY 12180

Permit #496



Easter

Easter Commencement Party

With Easter Sunday you will receive your final stamp in your passports, and whether you collected stamps or not, you are invited to our Commencement Party on Saturday, April 18th. Join us at 5:30pm for a potluck meal, followed by games with a travel theme -- and/ or head down to the concert in the sanctuary. There will be chance to get any stamp you should have received but did not. Come and close out Lenten Travels with a time of fun, celebration and fellowship.

Two Free Concerts in the Sanctuary

Spirituals with Jonathan Story and the Black Catholic Apostolate Choir - Friday April 17th, 7:30pm

Russian Concert - arias and folk, Saturday, April 18th 7:30 pm, Jonathan Story with Polina di Carlo on piano.

Freewill offering at both.

If these dates do not work for you, the choir and Jonathan will reprise the program of spirituals at Troy Night Out, Friday, April 24th at 7:30pm in the Frear Atrium, Troy and again at the choir's own church, Sunday 26th April at 6pm, The address is 76 Menands Rd, Menands.

Office phone 272-8392, Fax 273-8042, URL <http://www.ChristChurchTroy.org>

The Rev. Nina Nichols Senior Pastor email pastornina@christchurchtroy.org Urgent phone: 203-0973

Janet Douglass, Assistant Pastor email janetd@nycap.rr.com Urgent phone: 273-3713

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus