



Summer Arts

In 2007 we brought you Christ Church Summer at the Movies and in 2008 it was the Summer Book Club. For 2009 we are proud to announce that our worship services from June 21st-September 6th will combine the best of both of those worlds and more. Unless you are vacationing out of town you won't want to miss what's happening here each week as our worship is enhanced by the Christ Church Summer Arts Festival. Worship will be built around the way the holy is experienced in movies, books, music, poetry, and the visual arts. There are plans in the works for an interactive art project outside the church to which you and the community can contribute. If there was something on that list that you want to be sure to get in on or if there was something NOT on that list that you have a passion for that could be, now is the time to talk to me or Pastor Janet so we can work it into the program.

Most activities related to the upcoming worship service will happen on Monday evenings. There are plans for movie nights with discussions for those who want to stay. There will be an evening when we will gather to share paintings, drawings, photos in which we have experienced the sacred in some way. There will be a couple of book discussions and plans are in the works for a Poetry Slam. One night will be something of a party and you are invited to bring along "Music that Moves You"! We are in conversation with Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius and friends about a special service featuring their musical talent. The Summer should be fun and filled with ways to experience the Divine through the creative gifts with which so many have been blessed and in such a variety of ways.

Plans are also in the works for an ecumenical Vacation Bible School. Several churches will combine resources to offer a VBS on Wednesday evenings in July and August at Oakwood Presbyterian on Hoosick. Please contact the church office if you want to get in early on the opportunity to volunteer your time or talent to this effort. The Intergenerational Music Group complete with guitars and conga drums, bongos and other instruments will be gathering on Tuesday evenings this summer to sing and play and fellowship together. Softball practices and games will be arranged. We need a team of people at the Altamont County Fair (August 11th-16th) to volunteer at the Churro stand as our major fundraiser for 2009.

As always, these are opportunities to gather with your family and friends from Christ Church while relaxing over the summer. Everyone is invited to come to those things that you find are recreation and part of being re-created in the image of God during the summer months. Most things are not for everyone, but we hope you will find something that is for you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Children's Sunday Celebration

Please join us on June 7th for the Children's Sunday Celebration. The children and youth of Christ Church will help bring the good news to us during worship. Communion will be served. Following the worship, everyone is invited to Frear Park for a picnic lunch and softball game (bring a glove if you have one). We will meet at the picnic tables between the softball field and the tennis courts. There is a playground nearby.

Please plan to come eat, play or cheer.

Membership Conversation

Have you been wondering about making your connection to Christ Church official? Do you have questions about Christ Church or the United Methodist Church or the Christian Church? If so, you are invited to come share in dessert and conversation with Pastor Nina on Monday, May 11th at 7:00 PM in the parlor. Everyone is welcome and there is no obligation to join.

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The Person in the Next Pew:

Ron Drummond, in his own words

I appear to be full-blood Scots; both sides of my family made their way from Scotland to North America during the nineteenth century.

My mother's father was in the Canadian Air Force during the First World War; he was shot down by the Red Baron behind enemy lines, and in order to get back to the Allied side he had to walk across a battlefield with his wounded partner slung over his shoulder. Got Jesus something fierce as a result, went into the ministry, became a missionary and spent a decade in Oaxaca witnessing to the native Americans there and to soldiers in the Mexican Army. My mother, Joy, was born in Oaxaca in 1925. During her girlhood, D.H. Lawrence lived down the street. Her father warned her and her siblings to stay away from "that awful Englishman." Two of my mother's brothers grew up to be preachers like their father.

My father, James, was born in Portland, Oregon in 1924; he and his younger brother Bill both became prominent physicists when they grew up. My father and mother met at Princeton; they married in 1950. My Dad wound up at Boeing in the late '50s, where he founded and for fifteen years headed their plasma physics research laboratory.

I was born in Seattle in 1959, the fifth child but the third and last to survive childhood. In the '60s, at the height of the cold war, more than once Russian scientists came to our house for dinner, together with their NSA escorts.

Science and religion were never considered to be incompatible or contradictory in my home as I grew up; both my parents are Christians and my father is a scientist. I learned to revere the scientific method, and developed a pronounced sense of the sacred in creation; I continue to swoon over beautiful sunsets to this day.

I was a writer from the beginning; I started my first novel at eight. For a few years in my mid-teens, my life's ambition was to become President. I coauthored technical articles on solar power satellites with my father. When I accepted Jesus Christ as my lord and savior in the summer of 1979, I discovered he was already there, in my heart, and always had been. Meanwhile I put 100,000 miles on my thumb, criss-crossing North America. I almost got arrested for playing "If I Were a Rich Man" on my flute in the capitol dome of the United States. I spent time in a Taoist monastery in the Colorado Rockies.



In the mid-80s, an editor at Bantam Books enthusiastically solicited a novel from me based on a single chapter; I lost my nerve and never finished it. I became an editor and occasional writer. I drifted from job to job, interspersed with strange adventures, including a year caretaking the land of a traditional Native American Medicine Man in the high California desert.

I worked as a contract proofreader for Microsoft in the early- to mid-'90s. During these same years I started a small press and published three books by two of the greatest living prose stylists in the English language, John Crowley and Samuel R. Delany, both of whom I've worked with extensively as an editor.

I became a classical music historian and advocate of forgotten Czech composers from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, later co-editing the only modern edition of the eight Vienna string quartets of Anton Reicha (1770-1836). After 9/11, I devoted nine months of my life designing and promoting a World Trade Center Memorial; an independent filmmaker in Seattle made a documentary about it.

After a quarter-century of skipping church, I started going again regularly in early 2004, inspired in part by the atrocity of Mel Gibson's *Passion*, and immersed myself in Biblical scholarship. I moved to the capitol region of New York State in the summer of 2005, for complex reasons, and found myself living on a riverbank. After two and a half years of work, I'm nearing completion of a museum-quality edition of one of the great novels of the late twentieth century, *Little, Big*, by John Crowley; I am the publisher, editor, and art director. At 800 pages, with a quarter million words of text, the book will also include close to 300 art reproductions from the work

Ron Drummond -contd. of Peter Milton, plus a 10,000-word afterword by Harold Bloom. Lord willing, we will finish work in May and send this lovely monster off to the printer. After that, who knows? I've been thinking about moving to the Czech Republic; but also about returning to an old passion of mine, advocating for the human push into space. All destinations invite words to roost.

During my years in the capitol region, I have read scripture at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albany and at Christ Church in Troy. Some seem to enjoy my readings. I hope to do more, here and elsewhere. I dream of one day editing A Re-Formed New Testament, with a slightly different mix of sacred books.

Pastor Nina away

Pastor Nina will be away at a preaching conference from Sunday May 17th through Friday May 22nd.

Coffee Hour

Please sign up for coffee hour as we have so many people staying (a pleasant problem). How about signing up as a team of 2 or 3 to provide snacks on Sunday.

Signup and instructions are outside Wesley hall.

Announcement from Staff Parish Relations Committee:

It is with some sadness that we announce that Bob Acosta is resigning his position as organist and choir director at Christ Church. Bob has enjoyed his time with us this past year and we have been truly blessed by his incredible musical gifts, particularly his talent at the organ. Bob's last Sunday will be May 24th. We hope that as many as are able will be present on Sunday, May 17th for a special coffee hour following worship to celebrate the time that Bob has served here.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Eleanor Van Pelt is willing to serve as the interim musician and choir director as we start the conversation and search process to fill our music program staffing needs.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office or a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (Tom Feiden, Sr., chair, Nancy Campbell, Nancy Burgin, Mary Beth Blackmon, Bernice Burke, David Duncan, Karen Greene, or Debbie Byers).

Finance Committee Aims to Help the Women of Darfur on Mother's Day

Through your generosity, Christ Church was able to send \$3671 to the 5 local agencies spotlighted by March Mission Madness. And through a 50/50 split of our Easter offering, we sent an additional \$884 to TAUM for the Damien Center, as well as raising \$884 towards our Current Expenses budget.

Now, for Mother's Day, the Finance Committee has targeted the Solar Cooker Project as our 50/50 split recipient. This project of Jewish World Watch gives solar cookers to refugee women in Darfur. 250,000 refugees live just across the border of Sudan in Chad; 80% of these refugees are

women and children, who must leave the camps daily to search for firewood. While outside the relative safety of the camps, these women and girls are often beaten, raped, or branded by bandits or the Sudanese-supported Janjaweed militia.

So how can a simple solar cooker stop these heinous crimes? By

eliminating the need to gather firewood- these cookers convert sunlight into heat, which is then used to cook food without the need for fuel. The cookers are lightweight and easy to move, but also easy to manufacture- women who receive the cookers are also taught how to manufacture them; this allows women, often the head of a household because so many of the men have been killed, with a source of income to support their families. In addition, the cookers are inexpensive- \$30 will buy 2 solar cookers for 1 family, 1 for cooking and 1 for boiling water.

On Mother's Day, in honor of your mother and/or the other special women in your lives, please consider using your special offering envelopes to support these women in Darfur. A few dollars will create a huge impact to women and children in need, as well as help support the Current Expense budget so that Christ Church can continue its work in the local community.

For more information about the Solar Cooker Project, please visit www.solarcookerproject.org.



Parish House Renovation Plans in the Works

As our congregation continues to grow so do our facility needs. Two years ago the Trustees and Church Council started working on a "Wish List" of improvements to our facilities that were needed to better serve our growing Christ Church Family, the many organizations that use our facilities over the week such as (AA, Habitat for Humanity, Northeast Aids Council...), the Troy downtown community and the many special events held at Christ Church such as concerts, benefit dinners and other social functions.

Some of the items include building brand new bathrooms for both men and women; creating a unisex handicap accessible bathroom; installing an elevator or wheel chair lift capable of accessing all three floors of the parish house (Sunday School Rooms, 1st Floor, and Fellowship Hall); new small working kitchen for coffee hour; and adding a small meeting room/Nursery on the 1st floor of the parish house.

In June of 2008 the Trustees hired a local not-for-profit architectural firm, TAP, to help us figure out if all of this was possible to do within the confines of our current building. After a few meetings and several months, TAP came up with a preliminary design for the parish house that incorporated all of our "Wish List" items. The Trustees presented the plans at the March 2009 Church Council meeting and received positive feedback. As a result, we now have a starting point or "blue print" to help make these improvements a reality. The plans will be presented during several coffee talks next month as well as be on display in the parish house.

Many more questions and much more planning will be required before any of the improvements mentioned above will be implemented. To help with this effort, over the next 2 months, the Trustees will be forming a special "Building Renovation Team" to help oversee the planning, cost estimates, funding, and implementation of the project. Anyone interested in being on this team please speak to a Trustee or the church office. What started out as a simple question 2 years ago has now evolved into a vision for the future of better serving the people of our ever growing community.

Nuts About Mom Ron Burgin

Lots of melted chocolate, lots of kids with energy and piles of peanuts to mix in. Normal insanity for our Sunday school as we tackle another messy project, this time to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

So buy some chocolate for your mom on Mothers day (or buy two and eat one yourself; just remember to wipe your hands and mouth so she doesn't think you were munching on hers).

Worship Dvds

Dvds of each Sunday worship service are available in the office.

If you are unable to attend on any Sunday, or if you know somebody who cannot attend, consider borrowing a copy.

If you've never seen the wonderful camera work of our tech team we recommend you give one a try.

Make Money for Christ Church While Surfing the Internet?

Did you know that you can help raise funds for Christ Church from the comfort of your own home while surfing the internet? Its both easy and fun to do. All you need to do is simply go to www.goodsearch.com, select Christ Church United Methodist Troy NY as your charity of giving and perform your search.

Goodsearch.com uses the Yahoo Search engine. As a result you are guaranteed to get good search results. For every internet search you do, the church gets a penny. A penny may not sound like much, however, it adds up fast. If you do 2 searches a day, 5 times a week, 50 weeks a year that adds up to \$5. Multiply that out by 100 people and we would have raised \$500! The money raised by your internet browsing will go directly into the Church's operating budget to support our programs and mission and help close our budget gap for 2009.

Lights, Action, Cameras!

The Christ Church Tech Team is looking for responsible individuals who are interested in joining a tech team to help run our technology systems during Sunday Services. Folks will learn how to run the computer, audio and video systems installed the Sanctuary. The training performed will be mostly "hands-on". Interested individuals will sit up in the loft during a Service and get to operate the equipment under the instruction of a current Tech Team member. Once trained on the systems you will be asked to join a team and help run the "show". Please contact the church office, Paul Marano, or Dave MacDonald if you are interested in joining a team.

Becoming a Reconciling Congregation

Perhaps you have heard Pastor Nina or members of the Social Awareness and Action Team (SAAT) talk about the possibility of Christ Church becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Indeed, for several months now SAAT has been discussing this issue in some depth. And now we would like to begin to involve the congregation in that discussion.

We hope that receiving the official Reconciling Congregation designation is simply a process of affirming what, and who, we already are. Every Sunday we are all warmly welcomed to the service. At communion the pastors make it very clear that all people are invited to come to the table. During the passing of the peace we greet each other with big smiles on our faces. So it appears that we are already “reconciled,” and we believe that we’d all be comfortable with ANYONE being an active part of our parish.

However, the process of pursuing reconciling status provides us with the opportunity to grow even further in our understanding that ALL Means ALL, and inclusiveness truly includes ALL people, regardless of ethnic background, religious persuasion, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and whatever additional differences we can think of. The larger United Methodist Church has a very accepting position on all of the above, except the matter of sexual orientation. SAAT’s position is that ALL people, regardless of sexual orientation/gender identity are under the umbrella of God’s love and should be welcomed into our church as active members. I am happy to say that the members of SAAT believe that most, if not all members of our congregation feel the same way. If we’re right about that, becoming a Reconciling Congregation will be simply a formality. Even so, we think the discussion and the outcome will be very meaningful and important to our church.

So, what is the next step? Coffee Talks have become an effective means of communication, and we are planning one for Pentecost, May 31st. At the Coffee Talk, everyone will have the opportunity to participate in this important conversation. We will convene in the parlor adjacent to Wesley Hall a few minutes into Coffee Hour. Please bring your coffee and treats and enjoy them with the group. My hope is that the turnout will be such that we will have to move to the larger space of the sanctuary.

Please do join us for the Coffee Talk on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit may send us forth to bring the good news of God’s love to ALL people.

After the Coffee Talk, we are thinking of having small discussion groups meet in homes over the summer, much as we did a couple of years ago, as we became acquainted with our then-new pastor.

Finally, please pray that God will guide us through this process and help us to do the right thing.

Bob Blackmon, SAAT Chair

Progressive Christians in Troy Quarterly Meeting

Our second dinner meeting of the year will be on Thursday, May 28th @ 6pm if you wish to eat with us or come at 7pm for our discussion. The meetings are open to all and are particularly of interest to those who have taken part in our Living the Questions type study groups. Let Janet know if you want to eat with us. You can also access the group via Yahoo Groups, which we use primarily to set those meeting dates with our members who do not attend Christ Church.

Picnic

Picnic at the home of Pastor Nina and Andrew and family

We are telling you this really early because we have something for you to work on before it happens...The picnic will be a chance for fun and relaxation after our Altamont Fair fundraiser- the date will be August 17th and your part is this:

Do you have photographs of you wearing something from a different decade or an outfit we might not expect? Maybe you even have a piece of clothing from the past? We are going to have a competition so only share that picture with Pastor Janet! Rather like when we did the baby pictures at homecoming a few years ago people will have to guess who is wearing the clothes (faces will be obscured.) We will get some our youth to be our models if you have clothing - so don’t worry if there is no way you would, or could, wear it now! Bring in your photo whenever you find it, the more who do the more fun it will be, and plan to join us on something of a trip down memory lane! (Hint : formal photos for weddings and parties are a great source of old attire....)

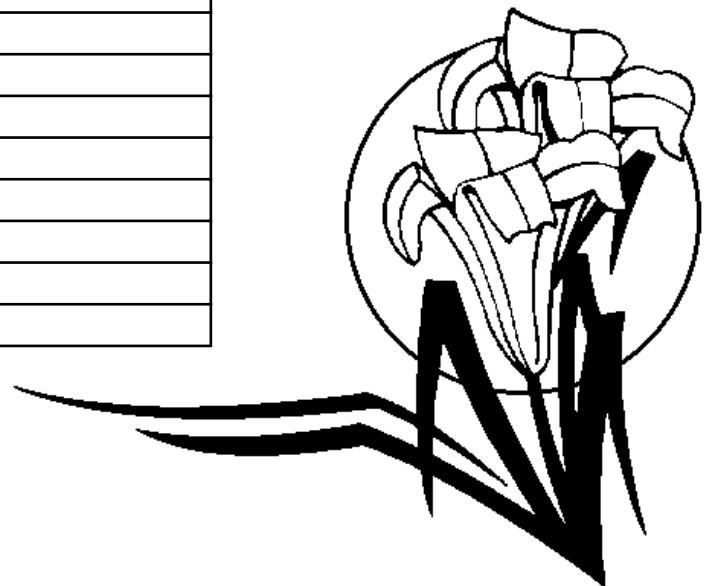
Easter Flowers

Given By	In Memory or Honor Of
Thila & Harry Bell	Their parents
“	Her brother, Carl Schulze
Sue Blom & Family	Bill Blom & Loved ones
His Daughters & Grandchildren	Bill Blom
Lowell & Marilyn Blom	Loved ones
Linda & Mark Campbell	Her mother, Bette Keyes
Curtis & Esther Dunagan	Her mother, Ellen Mohl Wheland
A Friend	Warren Christian & daughter, Barbara Truax
The Cooper-Smith Memorial	Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cooper
Judy Feiden	Henry, Harry C. & Harry C. Feiden Jr
Margie Feiden	Fred, Mary, Catherine & Rita Besaw
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Fletcher	Our families
Mr. W. Warren Gibson	His parents
The Guile Family	Marjorie & Marilyn James
Lee & Roger Kemp	In joyous celebration of our meshed family
The Family	George & Dorothy Large
Shirley Large	Her parents, Marge & John E. Wattendorf
The Lovegrove Family	George Lovegrove
“	Loved ones
Alice Rose & Paul Marano	Brenda Joy Marano
“	Dorothy Rose Taylor
“	The Joy of Easter
The Mattoon-Holland Family	Loved ones
Mrs. Thomas Q. McNaughton	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Riggs
“	Miss Thelma J. Riggs
“	Mr. & Mrs. Dennie B. Riggs
“	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kreiss
“	Miss Helen M. Holmes
“	Mr. I. Hite Riggs
Doris & Ed Mooradian	Loved ones
The Pryor Family	Jack & Marge Douttiel
“	Thelma & Ed Pryor
The Rose Family	Dorothy Rose Taylor
Betty & Nick Sopchak	Loved ones
Jim & Jamie Thompson	Gayle Thompson
Bennett Turk	Karen A. Carpenter
Loretta Turner	Mary Turner

Devotional Nancy Burgin

Ron and I were in the kitchen, preparing a meal. (Yes, I do find myself in that strange room every now and then.) Ben, our cat, was winding his way around our feet, crying, and occasionally standing up on his hind legs. “What is he doing?” Ron asked. “He’s telling us he’s prepared for manna, if any should happen to fall on the floor,” I replied. Ben was actually getting ready to eat food, none of which had fallen yet.

In Exodus 16, God tells the tells the grumbling children of Israel, “In the morning you shall be filled with bread...you shall take an omer (about two thirds of a gallon) apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.” (Verses 12, 16) He actually prepares them with specific instructions for the miracle that had yet to occur. I found myself wondering, “Do we prepare ourselves for the miracles God has promised? Do we believe God is truthful enough to be believed? Hopefully, we are like Ben, so ready that we are already on the move as God prepares to make Himself known in our world.



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	2
3	4 7pm Helping hands	5 6pm Wshp planning 7.30pm Study	6 10:30 Bible Study	7 7pm Finance	8	9
10	11 7pm Member-ship discussion	12 6pm Wshp planning 7.30pm Study	13 10:30 Bible Study	14 7pm Trustees Inn from the Cold reception Rourke	15	16
17	18 7pm Helping hands	19 6pm Wshp planning 7.30pm Study	20 10:30 Bible Study	21 7pm Church Council	22	23
24 Coffee talk Spire Deadline	25	26 6pm Wshp planning 7.30pm Study	27 10:30 Bible Study	28 6pm Progressive Christians	29	30
31 Pente-cost Coffee Talk						

May Birthdays.

1 st	Nancy Burgin	2 nd	Roger Kemp	2 nd	Ron Burgin	3 rd	Grace Horr
5 th	Ina Neitzel-Richards	5 th	Betty Mattoon	8 th	Jennifer Berben	13 th	Dorcas Rose
17 th	Bob Blackmon	18 th	Sophia Ellis	19 th	Lauren Valentine	23 rd	Timothy MacDonald
25 th	Kevin Facticeau	27 th	Marje Feiden	29 th	Diane Hedley		

Anniversaries.

11 th	Deb and Nick Sopchak
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April Flowers

Palm Sunday 5th	Given by Roberta Fath TeBordo & Family in loving memory of Elsie Manchester
Easter - 12th	Memorial Flower listing.
19th and 26th	Flowers from Easter.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We know we continue to miss some of your important events and hope that now we have the new membership program in use we can correct that. Please watch out for opportunities to fill out new information sheets which are geared to our program. Among others I am sure, we did omit Brian Aldrich's birthday on April 12th.

Talent Auction 2009

What does it mean to be qualified? This question was posed during the April 26th service. If you enjoy doing something well, then you are qualified to participate in this year's talent auction. Yes, folks, it's that time of year when our creativity awakens from hibernation (how's that for a metaphor?) and we put it on display to benefit the Christ Church budget. Past participants will (hopefully) tell you that it's fun to show off your skills and raise money for the church at the same time.

Donations have included everything from paintings by professional artists, dance lessons, hair scrungies, car washes, hand-crafted items, and potted plants to trips to the dump with a good-sized truck, to name just a few. Call Shirley Greagan at 439-2063 or e-mail at cgreagan@aol.com to add your special gift to the mix. Bid sheets will be posted Sunday, May 31st and bidding will close Sunday, June 28th.

Bulletin Board Sale

Current items on the board include:

Signed Giants Photographs, Fully authenticated with certificates: Eli Manning and Tikki Barber.

Twin Pack of new outdoor wall lanterns, new.

Men's shirt-sleeved shirts, new.

Stop by the office to check them out! These items will sell with between 25 and 100% of the proceeds going to church funds.

Books! We'd love your books!

Changes to state tax law make it more complicated to have an online bookstore these days but we do have

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

Janet Neitzel

We report with sadness the death of Janet Neitzel who has been a resident of Rensselaer Manor for several years. Along with her late husband Bob she was a member, first, of Trinity and then, of Christ Church when the two merged. She was active in the women's group and in programming for children and youth. She and Bob made a number of scrapbooks about the history of Trinity and Bob helped 2 of their children, Oakley and Ina, draw the church drawings that were rematted for our 200th celebration last fall and rehung in Wesley Hall. They depict the congregations which grew out of, and in some cases merged back into, the congregation at State St: those drawings are lasting reminders of Janet and her family's contributions among us. Our sympathy goes to all their children and their families.

volunteers who will list books for the church and donate the revenue. We can take books with - and this is new - or without an ISBN. All money raised goes directly to church funds.

Adult Forum - Christianity 101

As requested! On Sunday, May 3rd the adult class will begin a series entitled Christianity 101. Something here for those fairly new to the life of faith as well as seasoned followers. Loosely based on "Remedial Christianity" by Paul Alan Laughlin, the book's subtitle is: "What every

believer should know about the faith but probably doesn't."

First quarter giving statements

First quarter giving statements have been prepared by our Finance Secretary, Ron Burgin. Please pick yours up at church and help us save postage. If you do not expect to be in church and would like yours mailed, call the Church Office: 272-8392.

Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday May 24th

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