



Five Practices

There were 22 people who gathered for the October Church Council meeting to begin the conversation around the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. Each month the church council will be considering one of the five practices (Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity) as we open ourselves to new dreams for how God is calling us to be the church here on the corner of 5th and State, as a part of our neighborhood, and as part of the global community.

This is an amazing congregation filled with people who bring an abundance of gifts and graces. There is an excitement and an energy when we get our hearts and minds focused on a ministry that we collectively feel called to engage in, a need we want to meet, a people we want to serve. Think about social justice issues like Fair Trade Coffee or Reconciling Ministries or efforts to “green the building” or addressing accessibility issues. Think about study opportunities like Living the Questions, Saving Jesus, Countering Pharaoh, and all those ah-ha moments from the last few years. Think about the celebrations like the 200th Anniversary and the Block Parties. Think about our mission and service like Inn from the Cold and the Spaghetti Supper. Think about extravagant generosity like the Heifer Ark and contributions to Habitat for Humanity. Think about the worship service that most touched your heart or deepened your understanding over the past several years. Often there was a core group guiding the work or the conversations, but these things came to be because we all shared a vision... for justice or compassion or understanding or welcome or meaningful worship.

The church council will continue to attend to the administration of the church, but our time and energy will be directed to discerning where God is leading us now. The first chapter left us with plans to **“RETHINK: Welcome” and a challenge to look again at the work of our ushers and greeters. Our coordinators Donna Pryor and Marje Feiden are taking the lead on this and invite all who will be serving in these extremely vital roles to stay after church on Sunday, November 15th for a brief but important orientation.** Each month we will address ideas like these that are ways of being church now that are reasonable and expected when folks walk through our doors. But we are also taking a moment each month to capture some dreams on paper, ideas that we are calling “seriously scary”. From the chapter on Radical Hospitality: gallery space for artists, working with the newly unemployed, becoming an inner city refuge for the poor, and more. We will see how these dreams begin to take shape and what excites us at a Spring retreat.

In the meantime, join us November 19th at 7pm for Church Council where we will be discussing the chapter on Passionate Worship. Watch the fence outside and see what our neighbors are thinking about. Come to Church Conference on Sunday, November 22nd at 3:30 and hear from a couple of community leaders about where they see need and opportunity in Troy.

I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-4. What a privilege to be your pastor; what a wonderful time to be the church!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

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THANK YOU Generous Christian Stewards

We must remember the words of the Lord Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "Acts 20:35 NIRV

Rethinking economy, leadership, family, and commitment. Throughout the month of October, these were the ideas we focused on. However, without you, generous stewards, they would just be ideas - words with no actions to back them up. This past Commitment Sunday, we were blessed to receive 27 pledges totaling \$66,810.00. Although we do not have the final numbers yet, it appears pledges are ahead of last year at this time. Those numbers will continue to grow as we receive commitments from members who were unable to attend Sunday or needed some more time before making their commitment. If you do not have a pledge card and would like to complete one, they will be available in the Sanctuary during worship or contact the church office. For those who requested envelopes, they will be distributed later this month.

The Finance Committee will be meeting over the next month to work on our 2010 church budget. Your generous pledges enable us to continue our programs of hospitality, worship, education, and outreach. We will do our best to see that the funds you have entrusted to Christ Church are put to God's work in our community and the world.

On behalf of the Stewardship and Finance Committees, thank you.
Lee Kemp

From the Music Coordinator

As the season continues, I'm sure you have noticed many changes in the music we are experiencing in worship. The bell choir continues to practice on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm. The Victorian Stroll is on December 6th, and the bell choir will be performing.

During November, the iGen vocal choir will be practicing from 6-7pm. Please feel free to come and lend your voice to that group. They will be performing on November 22nd.

The festival choir (formerly known as the vocal choir) will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, November 18. They will sing "Be Born in Us" on December 6th and "Creation Will be at Peace" on Christmas Eve. We would love to have you join for this holiday season. Please sign up on the office window if you plan to join us for one or both songs.

Mitten Tree

My Mom called this week to tell me it was snowing at her house. Here, too, we're starting to feel the first real cold of the season. So I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of The Mitten Tree. We will have a mitten tree displayed to receive your donations of mittens (obviously) as well as hats, socks and scarves. These can be either handmade or purchased. (The Dollars Stores usually have some.) We will need all sizes: men, women and children.

Realizing that cold weather doesn't wait until Christmas time to descend on Troy, we have decided to make two donations this year. Several tubs of hand-knitted and hand-sewn fleece hats and scarves, as well as a few pairs of mittens and gloves, have been taken to Unity House in readiness for the first cold snap.
Nancy Burgin.

Devotional Nancy Burgin

It was raining and cold and miserable. There was no way I wanted to add an extra stop to my ride home. However, Janet was the one asking. First of all, it is very hard for me to say no to Janet. And secondly, if I didn't go, I knew Janet would be the one who would be out in the cold rain, delivering the baby blankets. She would have to walk, and I did have the car. So I said yes, I'd take the blankets to Alight on my way home. I think I was gracious to her. I know I wasn't to God. "It's raining and miserable down here, in case You didn't notice. And, as you might remember, Lord, the one way streets of Troy make getting there a pain. Could you at least get me a parking place close?" (Sometimes my prayers can be awfully snotty.) Lo, and behold, there was a parking place close to the church which runs Alight. (I did remember to say "Thank you.") I gathered up the bundle, slogged across the street, and rang the bell.

Imagine my surprise when someone I knew opened the door. It was Jess, whom I used to see all the time at Curves. We hadn't seen each other in years. She dragged me in out of the cold, and introduced me to her mom, who was also there. I got to see pictures of her kids, and we talked and laughed for a good long time. I left in a totally different frame of mind.

The Bible says, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. (Galatians 6:9) I like that this verse acknowledges that doing good isn't always easy; sometimes it can even be a chore. But the benefits are there – if we don't give up.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints'	2	3 7pm Study	4 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	5 7pm Finance	6	7
8	9	10 7pm Study	11 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	12 7pm Trustees	13	14
15 Usher, greeter orientation	16	17 7pm Study	18 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	19 7pm Church Council	20	21 11:30 Country View Diner
22 Spire Deadline Greening Ornaments Conference	23	24	25 10:30 Bible Study	26	27	28
29	30	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) Choirs: Each Wednesday:6-8pm 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship				

November Birthdays.

3 rd	Mac Cook	5 th	Claire Pitts	5 th	Alice Rose
5 th	Moses Torres	6 th	Jessica MacDonald	7 th	Joey Farrell
10 th	John Haldin	11 th	Andrew Torres	12 th	Heather Packard
13 th	Cindy Ashline	14 th	Ben Northrup	15 th	Mary Farrell
18 th	Paul Marano	18 th	Sheryl Martucci (Blom)	19 th	Sam Cook
25 th	Joseph Farrell III	27 th	Nicole Suscietto	30 th	Eric Kemp

October Flowers

4 th	Given by the Family in loving memory of Dorothy R. Large.
11 th	Given in memory of Mildred & Herbert Kennedy.
18 th	Given by the Pryor-Douttiel Family in loving memory of Marge & Jack
25 th	Given by Marta Andersen in memory of Loved Ones.

November Anniversaries

30 th	Roger and Lee Kemp
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November flowers

There are a few openings for Sunday altar flowers in the coming month. If you are interested in giving flowers, please see Marilyn Blom, the pastors or contact the church office.

Person in the Pew - John Husson



A familiar face at worship for the past year or so, John Husson is a member of nearby First United Presbyterian Church and has been for fourteen or fifteen years, many of them spent as a trustee or elder. But then, it's a member of Sacred Heart Church writing this!

John, who describes himself as having grown up in "West Crescent, the rural slums of Clifton Park," has an interesting backstory. After graduating from Roberts Wesleyan College in 1968 with a B.A. degree in English Literature, he enlisted in the Army and intentionally flunked out of Officer Candidate School. Having trained as a surveyor for the artillery, he spent a year in Viet Nam, mostly at a desk job, ordering parts for trucks. Now, he often does peace vigils with a U.S. Flag and a sign stating "Peace Is Patriotic."

Back home, he earned a permanent teaching certificate from Russell Sage College Evening Division (though, as it happens, he has never taught). Having started a business "on a lark" not long after getting back stateside, and after a couple of "stupid, short-lived jobs," John discovered that he liked being his own boss, and has been ever since. He's an independent contractor, and turned his job skills to great use at home, building a tree house for his daughters.

John and his wife Jane, who works in the Admissions Office at SUNY Albany, are the parents of Emily, 24, an Ithaca College grad with a degree in therapeutic recreation, now working for AmeriCorps in California; and Tracy, 22, an artist who graduated from Marlboro College in Vermont last spring. (Tracy is currently using the tree house as a studio.)

John's leisure time includes a lot of outdoor activities. A lifelong environmentalist, he's a past chair of the local Sierra Club group, has served on the Town Conservation Advisory Council for Pittstown, and spent time as the liaison to the state legislature for a local Fish and Game Club. A cross-country skier and kayaker, John is also a "45'er;" having injured a foot last spring, he will have to climb his last High Peak, Haystack, in another season.

Even when indoors, he enjoys reading authors one might associate with the out-of-doors: Ernest Hemingway, Jack London, James Fenimore Cooper. A man who enjoys eclectic taste in music, from Bruce Springsteen to Simon and Garfunkel, Neil Diamond to the Beatles, he usually plays classical music while on a job site, to challenge people's stereotype of the "redneck roofer." He also enjoys sailing, and has also spent a lot of time with Clearwater, enjoying the history and scenery of the Hudson River and the camaraderie of the crew.

John is also a man who thinks about his faith, saying, "I'd be honored to be called a Christian, but I may not deserve the definition." When I asked him to elaborate, he said something that has me thinking about my faith: "I feel I probably don't have the strength to love everybody, and that's what Christ is all about." That's also, I think, part of the growing and questioning we're about, here at Christ Church.

—Mary Beth Blackmon

Acolyte Recognition - Opportunity to Help

On Sunday, October 25th the congregation celebrated and recognized the following young people as acolytes:

Tim Burgin; Isaac Campbell Eglash; Mary Greagan; Sean Greagan; Emily Holcomb; Ashley Horton; Brittany Horton; Chrystal Horton; Jessica MacDonald; Timothy MacDonald; Micah Torres. We celebrate them all and are grateful to the adults who help them get to worship to fulfil their duties. Special thanks to Christine MacDonald for her years of running the Acolyte Program.

Christine is getting ready to step down from this post. Is this a job you might like to do? If you would like to know more, please speak to Christine or Pastor Nina. probably the most important requisite- other than the desire to get to know these great young people even better- is that you are usually in worship and can arrive early enough to help the acolytes be ready to walk in and light the candles at the beginning of worship. Everything else can be explained to you.

23 enjoy a meal out at Lo Porto's

Next time it's the diner!

We have already made plans for our next Fellowship Meal out - the idea for which came from those Interest Surveys Shirley Greagan asked you to fill out! The aim is to give people the chance to come together at local eateries making sure that we choose different days and times, types of food and establishment, price points and having as many as possible (at least alternative ones) handicapped friendly. Participants simply pay for their choices.

So, on Saturday November 21st, we will gather at the Country View Diner on Hoosick Rd at 11:30a.m. where one area, with a number of small tables will be set aside for us. The first 35 people who want to come can be included. The full menu will be available: breakfast, lunch, dinner and specials - a menu is on the office window along with the sign up sheet.

As Dorcas Rose reported for this newsletter "The food was good and the conversation was lively at a very long table in their dining room. Next time, we will be looking for a place with smaller tables!" And we did.

Marge Feiden is organizing this event.

Thanks to Ken Rose and Shirley Greagan for making the arrangements our first "meal out" and thank you to all who attended.

Christmas Poinsettias

Mixed news and good news--With many leaves on the trees, grass still needing to be mowed, and the Harvest Sale (Italian dinner & Halloween) just coming up, it seems definitely too early to be writing about Christmas activities, but the deadline for ordering poinsettias will be Sunday, December 6. If you would like to have 1 or more included in the Christmas arrangement to remember, honor or celebrate a person or occasion special to you, see Marilyn Blom, contact the church office, or use a pew envelope. The good news is that the price remains \$9.00 for red and \$10 for white poinsettias. We would prefer to start taking requests Sunday, November 15, but anytime before the deadline is fine.

Resignation of Eleanor Van Pelt

Last June, our former Music Director, Eleanor Van Pelt, graciously agreed to be our musician on Sunday mornings as we began to re-evaluate our music program in the church. As most of you know, Ellie then needed to have major surgery early in the Summer.

She feels she cannot recover quickly enough to be able to continue in her temporary music position with the church and asked to be released from that task. It is with sadness but complete understanding that we accept her resignation and I am sure you all want to hold her in prayer and wish her a speedy recovery.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee are looking at filling the vacancy, aware that such searches take time. We will be calling on a variety of musically-gifted people to help enliven our Sunday worship with their varied gifts until a permanent solution can be found.

Trustee elections Sunday, November 22nd

Trustee elections will be one part of our annual Church Conference (earlier this year as they all have to happen before the end of this calendar year, in readiness for the creation of our new New York conference next year.) The meeting will begin at 3:30pm with a visit from one or two community leaders and will continue with a summary of 2009 in pictures and in words and the business agenda.

Conference Reports Due November 15th

I know it's early but you won't have to think about them over Christmas this year! If you usually make out a report for the Conference booklet or have moved into a position where such is required of you, please email or bring in your report to the Office by Sunday, November 15th. Lay Speakers should return their completed forms to Nancy Burgin by this date.

Stay after church, Sunday November 22nd for:

Greening of the sanctuary

Food

An all-age craft session as we make Jesse tree ornaments

Our Church Conference

Congratulations to

Andrew Torres who won an award for having more than 20 patents filed at GE.

Mary Greagan for continued success individually and with her Cross Country team.

Jacob Becker on landing such a great job in the current climate.

Marge Feiden on being given a Gold Card & Life Membership at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Rev Nina Nichols on her election as Chair of the Interfaith Power and Light organization and on being accepted the Board of Directors for habitat for Humanity of Rensselaer County.

New Member

In October we welcomed into the congregation of Christ Church, Ruth Morant, who joins us from the Catholic Church. She attends with her husband, David Greenfield

Baptism

On October 25th, Richard DeFoe was baptized in our sanctuary surrounded by friends and housemates and the children of the church. Rich is anxious to serve the congregation by helping make coffee and prepare Wesley Hall for fellowship coffee hour every Sunday along with Bryan, who has been doing this job for over a year.

Please Remember

On the first Sunday of every month, (Communion Sunday) we will be collecting donations of nonperishable food to go to a local Food Pantry.

Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday November 22nd

Christ Church United Methodist
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In Memoriam

Norman Fletcher & Marjorie Genthner

Over the Summer, we lost one of our most faithful worshippers, Norman Fletcher. and towards the end of October, the person we believe was our oldest living member, Marjorie Genthner.

It was a rare Sunday when Norm was not to be found sitting alongside wife, Dolores and his brothers-in-law. Norm would notice who had not been around for a Sunday or two and, at coffee hour, track down the Pastors and ask if anyone knew why: were they sick? Upset? A unbelievable crowd of people showed up at the calling hours in North Troy: a testament to a quiet man who made friends and more friends in his neighborhood, his community and his church.

Marjorie, who turned 100 just a week or so before her death, has been home-bound and then in a nursing home for many, many years. Even so, people remember her wonderful spirit and generous, faithful living, whether they first met her at Trinity (before it merged with the then "State Street Methodist Church") or after that at the newly formed Christ Church where she taught Sunday School, served in the women's group. worked on innumerable church dinners and made candy and served at the annual bazaar.

Our sincere condolences go the families and friends of both these "saints of the church." And to the families of 2 other people whose lives we had the honor of commemorating in our sanctuary: James Meyer, father of Sharen Holcomb, and Marie Durant, mother of Ruth Morant.

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

The Rev. Nina Nichols Senior Pastor email pastornina@christchurchtroy.org Urgent phone: 588-6405

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

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus