



Rethink...

Dave MacDonald came into the church office several weeks ago and announced that there was a big sign at the car dealership that said: RETHINK. He wanted to know if they had stolen our denomination's media strategy. Probably not. But I do believe that we are living in a time when people are rethinking everything.

There could not be a better time for our congregation to rethink what it means to be the church today... it is hard to get the emphasis right in print. It is a great time to rethink what it means to BE the church: to live out our mission of loving our neighbor, of serving one another, of welcoming the stranger, of following Jesus and inviting others to do the same for the transformation of the world.

For the transformation of the world... I am convinced that we, as followers of Jesus, have a unique contribution to conversations about rethinking everything else. These ideas may be different than you expect; they probably are different than what many inside the church and outside the church have assumed. By the time you receive your October Spire, worship will have challenged us to RETHINK CHURCH, RETHINK GREEN, and RETHINK HEALTH CARE. In the month ahead we will RETHINK THE ECONOMY (10/4), RETHINK LEADERSHIP (10/11), RETHINK FAMILY (10/18), and RETHINK COMMITMENT (10/25). These are things we are all struggling with as individuals, communities, and a nation. The questions that are being raised are not just political, or financial, or social ones, they are faith questions and relevant to who we are and will be as a faith community. Jesus and the early church spoke to these issues in some powerful and surprising ways.

Do you know anyone who might be asking, seeking, knocking; looking for a place to struggle with real questions? What would happen if you started a conversation at work or the coffee shop or at school or the gym with: "Guess what we are talking about at my church this week..." And, depending on the way the conversation goes from there, "Would you like to come?"

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Reconciling Congregation Conversation Over Lunch:

On Sunday, October 18th, there will be a special lunch following worship and coffee hour. Guests from Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church in Schenectady will be joining us to talk about the process they went through in becoming a Reconciling Congregation, adopting a statement of welcome to all persons regardless of sexual orientation and preparing to live out that welcome in their context. As we continue our conversation about Christ Church becoming a Reconciling Congregation, this is an opportunity to ask questions and learn from the experience of another church about what worked, what might have gone better, what they would do differently (if anything) if they had the chance to do it over, what were the rewards and where were the frustrations. Bring your questions and your concerns, and bring your appetite for good food and good fellowship. Everyone is welcome. That, of course, is the point!

Bishop Marcus Matthews

Bishop Marcus Matthews is to meet with Troy Annual Conference laity at Christ Church United Methodist (yes, here at our church!) on Monday, October 19th at 7:00 PM. Bishop Matthews will be serving the Upper New York Area when it becomes an Annual Conference in July 2010. Please plan to attend if you are able.

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Rethink Stewardship

On Sunday Sept 20th, Finance sponsored a coffee talk about our Church budget and many people attended. The premise was, the more knowledge you have, the more you will want to support the budget. However, stewardship is not about such a narrow idea as “the budget.” Stewardship is about the Divine budget, to coin a phrase from John Dominic Crossan. Stewardship is about answering questions - questions about our ministry for the coming year, what are we passionate about, how we can reach out to our friends, family, and community with the message of the good news of God’s abundant love and care for us.

During October, we will try to answer these questions.

We will rethink economy: How do we demonstrate our belief in a God of abundance during these trying economic times? Where are we now and where do we want to be? Giving is a spiritual journey of growth and gratitude for God’s abundance.

We will rethink leadership: Our pastoral and lay leadership is so inspiring to us all. Our pastors motivate us to grow and change. They provide guidance and direction. What journeys will they lead us on next year? How will we follow? What inspires our lay leadership to step up and how do we support them?

We will rethink family: Who is our family? Our community? How is God calling us to reach out to them? What programs will we support as we live out our vision of growing and serving in downtown Troy and beyond?

We will rethink commitment. Especially during this month, we will ask for God’s guidance as we prayerfully consider what portion of our income God is asking us to give so that God’s kingdom will be realized here on earth.

“Tell the people that the kingdom is here, it’s at hand, now! Get busy! Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.” Matthew 10.7 (The Message)

Devotional Nancy Burgin

Ron and I heard the fireworks before we saw them. It was the last night of Tugboat Festive in Waterford, so we rushed out to watch from 112 Street Bridge. It should have been clear viewing, but the air was so still that the smoke from the first few firecrackers still hung in the air. As more and more bursts of color were set off, more and more smoke built up, until we could only see glimpses of the highest ones.

I was reminded of the time Moses asked to see God’s glory. “No one can see My face and live,” God responded. But hide in a crack in the rock, and I will “cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take my hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen...” (Ex 33:18-23)

We too, get little peeks at God’s glory and His working in our everyday lives – if we bother to look. God doesn’t mind showing us glimpses of His Glory, but sometimes it can be as obscure as fireworks behind smoke.

Harvest Sale

We are celebrating Halloween with our annual Harvest Sale. Helpers are needed. Sign up sheets will be up on the office windows. We need people to help set up on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Chef Paul will also be conducting cooking lessons on those two nights. Friday for the sale we are looking for eight people each for three 4-hour shifts (half in the kitchen and half working the sale). On Saturday we will need people for two shifts. If you bake or make candy, please plan to make a few things to have on hand at the church by opening at 10 am on Friday.

Handcraft items for the sale can be brought to the church at any time. Tell all your friends – we have unique and special items for gifts, and good food to eat in or take out.

Inn From the Cold Refresher Training

The Inn from the Cold emergency shelter will run from November through April as last winter. Once again, Christ Church will host in December. Anyone who volunteered last year is requested to attend one of the refresher training sessions (below.)

We will also be recruiting new volunteers and training sessions for them will be announced as organized. Choose from one of these (held at Christ Church).

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Saturday October 3rd | 2 - 4pm |
| Monday October 5th | 6 - 8pm |
| Saturday October 17th | 2 - 4pm |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Regular Sunday Schedule 9:30am: Church School (All ages) Choirs: Each Wednesday:6-8pm 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship | | | | 1 7pm Finance | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Blessing of Animals | 5 | 6 6pm Wshp planning 7pm Study | 7 10:30 Bible Study | 8 7pm Trustees | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 6pm Wshp planning 7pm Study | 14 10:30 Bible Study | 15 7pm Church Council | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Reconciling lunch | 19 Bishop Matthews visit | 20 6pm Wshp planning 7pm Study | 21 10:30 Bible Study | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Spire deadline | 26 | 27 6pm Wshp planning 7pm Study | 28 10:30 Bible Study | 29 | 30 Harvest Sale Italian buffet | 31 Harvest Sale Habitat work day |

October Birthdays.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Rebecca Pollock | 2 nd | Vivian Johnston | 8 th | Janice Urzan |
| 9 th | Dolores Fletcher | 10 th | Betty Sopchak | 11 th | Roberta Fath |
| 15 th | James Christian | 20 th | David Rose | 20 th | Mark Campbell |
| 21 st | Timothy Farrell | 21 st | Marjorie Genthner | 22 nd | Diane Kelly |
| 24 th | Wyn Braun | 25 th | Micah Torres | 27 th | Sue Blom |
| 30 th | Ryan Kemp | 31 st | Brian Pryor | | |

Wedding Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 5 th | George and Mary Baker | 5 th | Betty & Nick Sopchak |
| 7 th | Helen and Bruce Bassett | 13 th | Alison and Edmund Cape |
| 14 th | Harry and Thila Bell | | |

September Flowers

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 13 th | Given by Marilyn & Lowell Blom in loving memory of their brothers, Doug Ellett & Bill Blom and in celebration of Homecoming Sunday. |
| 20 th | In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Dennie B. Riggs, Thelma J. Riggs and Bruce J. Riggs, given by Anne Riggs McNaughton, Carol Riggs Purdy and Gail Riggs Kelley. |
| 27 th | Given by the Cooper-Smith Memorial in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cooper. |

Church Directory Photographs

We will be assembling a new Church Directory and would like to have photographs of you. If you haven't had a photograph, or would like to have a new one, please see one of our photographers who will be carrying cameras on Sunday mornings.

Habitat For Humanity Church Build

A team of volunteers from Christ Church will be gathering at 99 Ingalls to work from 8:30-Noon, Saturday, October 31st. The group will celebrate a morning spent in mission and service with a great Harvest Sale lunch at the church.

Blessing Of The Animals

Sunday, October 4th is Saint Francis Day and we will celebrate at Christ Church with a Blessing of the Animals service at 9:30am in the courtyard. You are encouraged to bring the special creatures that complete your family for this 30 minute service.

If travel is an especially challenging activity for your four legged (or more, or less) friend, then consider bringing an item special to your pet for a blessing. Please invite your neighbors and friends who have pets to come; offer to join them. This is one of those thousand doors to the church that we might hold open for someone. In the event of a rainy day, service will be held in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Nina or Pastor Janet in the church office.

Christ Church Logo Windbreakers

There are just 4 remaining windbreakers with our embroidered logo: part of a one time order we got at a great sale price. The remaining sizes are M,XL and 2XL. We also have a few golf shorts, long and short- sleeved, and printed T-shirts in adult and child sizes. Talk to Janet about if you are interested in any of these.

Christ Church United Methodist
35 State Street, Troy, New York 12180
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H1N1 flu virus

After a discussion at Church Council on the H1N1 flu virus situation:

We are encouraging anyone who is unwell not to attend church -- we can get you a DVD of the service if you cannot bear to not know what we did (and people request them all the time!)

We want to make sure that anyone who does not/ should not shake hands at the Passing of the Peace knows that, as always, that is your choice. Simply fold your hands in front of you or hold them behind you as many of you already do when you have a cold. Before Communion there will be sanitizer available to congregants.

Thirdly - and this was the main concern of the people at the council meeting - if you are sick and need someone to pick up your medication or groceries please do not hesitate to call the Church Office. People have already volunteered to be on a "shop and drop off" call list.

The bulletin insert on September 27th will feature a list of symptoms (the difference between this particular flu and a regular cold); the correct use of hand sanitizer (it takes at least a a tablespoon and must dry naturally to be effective) as well as the information above.

Stay well

Dutch Treat Dinner

One of the most popular activities in the Interest Survey conducted by the Nurture Team was to go out for a meal. In response, we have arranged for a room at Lo Porto's restaurant on Friday, October 16, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Lo Porto's is located at 85 Fourth St. in Troy, across from the Proctor's marquee. Everyone will be ordering individually from the menu.

Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday September 20th

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The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus